

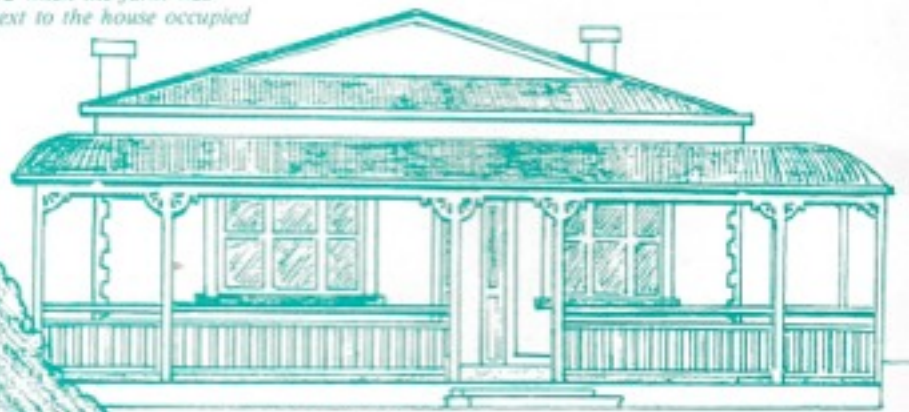
A tribute to our pioneering families

FOREWORD



SMITH HOMESTEAD

This four bedroomed kauri homestead was built about the turn of the century. The first known owner was Tom Clarkin who came here in 1904. Son Cyril sold to the Manson family in 1932 (for 28 pounds an acre). Daughter Edna Manson married Albert Smith in 1942 and they farmed there until 1972 when the farm was sold. Presently unoccupied is next to the house occupied by the Lewis family.



DUNCAN HOMESTEAD

This homestead was built by the Duncan Brothers in 1918. It consisted of four bedrooms, one sitting room and one big living room plus other service rooms. Later, 1930, two more sunporches were added. This lovely home is still lived in on the Duncan farm.



HINTON HOMESTEAD

The original house was built by the Gordon family in 1903. Mr Carl Hinton's family moved to the property in 1907. The house was extended in 1915 to its present dimensions. Carl and Dot Hinton are still in residence there.

SOME four years ago the cover of our monthly newsletter, the Eureka Express, depicted the first of a series of sketches of some of the district's oldest homes which are still standing. From the research required to background these sketches the idea grew that it was time a more complete history of Eureka was recorded. However, the task proved far too time-consuming for our committee of busy wives and mothers.

We needed a full-time journalist and, fortunately, two years ago one became available for nearly six months through a Labour Department scheme. We gained the services of Meena David, a qualified and experienced journalist just back from an overseas trip, whose sterling efforts saw our book take shape before she returned to Auckland to resume her career in journalism.

Since then there has been a prolonged effort by part-time volunteers to complete the detail and prepare the text for publication. A debt of gratitude is owed Chris Irvine for his countless hours of research into Eureka's titleholders and for his preparation of the accompanying maps to this section of the book.

Our sincere thanks for financial assistance must go to the Waikato Savings Bank, the Waikato County Council, the N.Z. Lottery Board and the Eureka Cull Cow Committee.

The assembling of this history has involved interesting research and renewal of past contacts. We thank all those people who unstintingly gave Meena, and others, so much of their time. We apologise for any errors, omissions or discrepancies, and offer you this book in the hope that it will give you as much pleasure in the reading as we gained in the compilation.

Denise Irvine

Gail Mayall

Eureka Express

MEENA DAVID

MEENA DAVID was born in Madras, India, and educated there and in New Zealand. She graduated with a Bachelor of Social Science from Waikato University, Hamilton, and later gained a Diploma in Journalism from Canterbury University, Christchurch.

Meena has worked as a journalist since 1977 in Wellington and Auckland. For two years from 1981 she travelled widely and in 1983 was offered the job of writing Eureka's history by the Eureka Express Committee, under a Labour Department scheme.

Currently Meena is a journalist in Auckland.



CHAPTER 1

THE EUREKA ESTATE

JUST east of Eureka a 35 kilometre straight line of fences and hedges can be seen from vantage points on the hills of the Pakaroa Range. Now more than a century old the Confiscation Line is the boundary of the land confiscated from the Maoris by the Crown at the conclusion of the war in the Waikato in 1865. Today it forms the eastern boundary of the Waikato County and still serves as a reminder of Eureka's past.



The land confiscated from the Waikato and Maniapoto tribes was defined by lines from the coast at Raglan to Pirongia Mountain, to the junction of the Puniu and Waipa Rivers, along the Puniu to a point south of Kihikihi. It continued over Pukekura Mountain to the Maungakawa Hill, Pukemoremore Hill, Te Hoe and then to the Thames Estuary at Miranda. From Miranda the lines went to Port Waikato and then south along the coast back to Raglan.

Eureka was part of that confiscated area. Much of the confiscated territory was immediately thrown open for settlement: the great Piako Swamp, however, made the settlement of Eureka impossible until the land had been drained. Even in 1866 the swamp was likened to an inland sea by the Native Minister, Sir Donald McLean. He said the Maoris had told him that lives had been lost while canoeing across it. The vast peat swamp at that time extended from the edge of Hamilton East to the Piako River and covered most of the southern half of the Waikato County.

The very idea of developing the swampland was regarded in the 1860s as being foolish and hazardous. The originator of the bold scheme to develop the land was a valuer and real estate agent of Hamilton - Captain William Steele.

After several fruitless attempts to attract interest in the venture he finally persuaded a group of prominent businessmen to set up a company with him. Mr Thomas Russell, an Auckland solicitor and Sir Frederick Whitaker, a Member of Parliament, were two of the businessmen. The

company, formed in London, eventually became known as the New Zealand Land Association. It owned many properties in the Waikato and was represented in New Zealand by the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency.

Negotiations for the purchase of the land began in 1873.

Just a year later the Crown agreed to sell the company 86,502 acres (35,033 hectares) of swamp at five shillings an acre. A condition of the sale was that the company had to construct 25 Miles (40 kilometres) of road across the swamp. The Crown would refund two shillings and sixpence an acre out of the purchase money for this work.

Eureka was part of this parcel of land and reclamation work commenced immediately. Captain Steele called for tenders for 10 miles (16 kilometres) of draining in February 1874.



The Gordon homestead showing unclaimed swamp in the foreground.

Mr Isaac Coates's (one of Waikato's pioneers) tender of four pounds and ten shillings per chain was accepted.

The drains were colossal, some of them measuring 3.5 metres at the top, 2 metres at the bottom and 3 metres in depth. The backbreaking work was hard on the immigrants recruited for the job, some of whom were totally unsuited.

Often the men were camped more than two kilometres from the worksite on dry ground. The long walk to work every day on top of the hard labour was exhausting. All drinking water had to be carried to the worksites as the swamp water was not fit to drink.

Slowly Captain Steele's vision of turning a great wilderness into a country suitable for settlement began to take form.

Often the proprietors of the scheme had watched with deep foreboding as they sank thousands of pounds into the swamp development with no return, but their expenditure had provided work for a great number of early settlers who later managed to buy homesteads for themselves out of their earnings. The whole operation was in the long term of the greatest benefit to the Waikato as it attracted many wealthy settlers to the area. It also added 36,500 hectares of land that had been impassable wilderness to the agricultural area of the Waikato.

As the reclamation work progressed, the company began to look around for a suitable site for its headquarters. On July

1, 1875, an interesting ceremony took place on the site of the future homestead.

Captain Steele, his daughter Elizabeth and some of their friends visited the area. In a lighthearted mood, after having had something to eat and drink, they formed themselves into a committee, their task being to pick a name for the place.

With Captain Steele as chairman, a discussion followed. Several names were tossed around. The outcome was a combination of the names of the ladies present in the party....EUREKA. After some political argument regarding the propriety of the Government's actions, ownership of the land was finally granted to The New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company Limited on the 20th July 1876. In 1879 a new Company - The Waikato Land Association - was formed and ownership of the original grant plus further land passed to this company. The Waikato Land Association changed its name to The New Zealand Land Association in 1890.

The homestead at Eureka became the headquarters for a large block of land owned by the company called the Woodlands Estate. It extended from just outside Taupiri, almost to Morrinsville, across to Eureka and Tauwhare and to the outskirts of Hamilton in the Rototuna area. The estate's first manager, Mr Henry Reynolds, lived on Eureka Hill. This was for many years the property of Mr Lester Masters who believes the original homestead was built closer

to the highway than his house which is on the site of that built for John Gordon. When his family moved to Eureka he found bits of old crockery and brick around the former site.

Mr Reynolds pushed ahead with the reclamation work. By March 1878 thousands of acres had been reclaimed through draining, clearing, burning-off and generally preparing the land for ploughing.

A Waikato Times reporter visiting the station that year noted: 'Passing through the entrance to the company's land we come to a canal twenty feet wide and twelve feet deep.

Where once no man could move without sinking up to his armpits in the swamp, a buggy and pair may now be driven for two miles. The soil from the drain digging is being utilized and converted into a first class road.'

Summarising the Eureka property, we find there were then 5000 acres (2025 hectares) under grass, divided and fenced into paddocks; from 50 to 2000 acres (20 to 800 hectares) stocked with sufficient feed for 3000 head.

The expanse of reclaimed land gave the appearance of a majestic circle around Eureka Hill. In the autumn of 1881 the company moved its headquarters to Woodlands when 2000 acres (810 hectares) of the Eureka Estate was sold to an Australian from New South Wales - Mr Albert Bruce Suttor. In March 1881 he acquired the homestead, outbuildings, gardens and plantations and some of the most fertile land in the whole of the province for 18,000 pounds.

The sale was regarded as one of the most important that had ever taken place in the Waikato as it heralded a new era in the history and colonisation of the area. It began the carving up of the company's vast property and it was hoped that before long the reclaimed land would be sold in small lots.

The Eureka Estate flourished under Mr Suttor. One Harry Bullock Webster, who travelled widely around the Waikato in the 1880's and kept several diaries on the progress of the area, visited Eureka in February 1882.

"...We came home by Eureka. Such a pretty station on a hill, good view and well wooded. The place looked thirty years old but it wasn't in existence five years ago: every tree planted since then..."

Back again in the summer of 1883, he noted "...On to Eureka, the adjoining station belonging to a man named Suttor. He'd often asked me to call and see him and this was the first opportunity I'd had of doing so. Pretty place, well laid out and planted. Hospitable man and nice wife and children.

Stayed there for dinner and then drove with him into Hamilton shopping...very hot drive and Hamilton looking miserably dull and deserted - one of the dullest places I think I ever saw."

Eight years later Mr Suttor sold up and returned to Australia. The New Zealand Land Association bought the

estate from him in March 1892 and made it an outstation of the Woodlands Estate.

By this time Mr John Gordon who had come north from Oamaru had taken over the management of the estate. Each outstation had an overseer who reported to the manager and at Eureka a man named Arthur Edmonds was in charge. The company bred stud sheep at Eureka and there were several stockmen who staffed the station.

In 1898, a depression in farm produce prices caused the collapse of the New Zealand Land Association and the Assets Realisation Board was formed to sell the Association's holdings. The Woodlands Estate was first put on the market as a block, at one pound an acre, but no one was interested.

Mr E. de C. Drury, a surveyor of Hamilton, then subdivided the estate into smaller lots.

These various lots sold for a total of about 250,000 pounds.

Mr John Gordon bought the Eureka homestead block, some 900 acres (364 hectares) with 800 acres (324 hectares) of peat thrown in for 4,601 pounds.

The broken down old homestead had to be replaced. Mr Gordon built his house on the site of the present Masters' home. All the outbuildings were still in good condition and the land was fenced. When Mr Gordon moved to Eureka in 1903, Hukanui, where he lived previously was named Gordonton, after him.

PRELIMINARY ADVERTISEMENT
LAND FOR SALE,

THE WELL-KNOWN
Eureka Estate,

COMPRISING 7000 ACRES OF
RICH SWAMP LAND & UNDULAT-
ING COUNTRY,

Situated in the Waikato, seven miles
North-east of the Town of Hamilton
on the main line of railway to
Rotorua,

IS NOW BEING SURVEYED FOR
SUB-DIVISION INTO DAIRY
FARMS,

AND WILL SHORTLY BE
OPEN FOR PRIVATE SALE
On Liberal Terms.

When the Association's land had been sold the other assets were disposed of.

On a beautiful sunny winter's day in June 1902, the Eureka Estate's livestock and implements finally went under the auctioneer's hammer. The estate's clearing sale, held on June 19, attracted 500 to 600 people - a record attendance for the Waikato.

Bidders came from all the Waikato districts, Thames, Whangarei, Waiuku and other places in the Auckland

Province. The sale started at eleven o'clock sharp and the auctioneer was Mr H. O. Nolan, of the Auckland branch of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency.

He skilfully pushed through the heavy catalogue, disposing of the implements before lunch. A short adjournment was made for lunch which was laid in the large barn at the homestead.

Even allowing for the excellent reputation the Association had for the quality of its stock, record prices were offered that day, a Waikato Argus report of the proceedings stated.

Among the buyers recorded were the names of several of Eureka's early settlers: Mr John Gordon, Mr James McClennan, Mr W McHardy, Mr John Roche and Mr Tom Hinton.

"The sale was concluded at five o'clock and everyone was soon homeward bound after seeing perhaps the finest lot of stock ever passed under the hammer in the Waikato in one day."

CHAPTER 2

THE PEOPLE

THE saga of Eureka's pioneers spans nearly eight decades. Even in the late thirties the Waverley Islands still provided a backdrop of marsh and manuka to the Eureka scene. Development of this area started in earnest after World War II.

Many of the early settlers stayed but a few years and then sold their land. As they came and went each contributed through their hard work and adventurous spirit to the breaking in of the farmland and the building of the community.



Daniel and Clara Tribe with some of their family on the porch of their homestead.



Pat Clarkin and Ruby Hinton (Mrs Besoll).



Local identities at the Diamond Jubilee, L to R: Stan Peters, Barry Mayall, Wesley Muir and Alf Drake.

HENRY REYNOLDS

He had many ties with Eureka - firstly as manager of the Woodlands Estate. He also married Captain Steele's daughter, Elizabeth, on April 19 1879. At the age of 25 he ran an estate of 38,475 hectares which was by no means a light undertaking for so young a man.

Born in 1850 in Cornwall, he emigrated to New Zealand with his father in 1868. Reynolds became one of the most well-known colonists in the Waikato and was generally regarded as one who had really advanced the farming interest.

He was a trailblazer in the dairying industry and established the first creamery at Tamahere. Around the turn of the century he bought 1259 hectares at Eureka and 679 hectares in what was then part of the Newstead Estate; it is now considered part of Eureka.

JOHN GORDON

Born in Aberdeen, Scotland in 1846, he was brought up to love the country life. In 1878 he arrived in Lyttelton on the ship Piano. After managing two estates in the South Island he headed north to become the second manager of the Woodlands Estate. Later he became a settler of Eureka and became prominent in the affairs of the thriving little

community. He was a prime mover in seeing that a school was established at Eureka and also sat on the Eureka Drainage Board which held its first meeting in his house. In 1894 he was elected chairman of the Kirikiriroa Road Board and for many years he was actively connected with the Agricultural and

Pastoral Association.

He married in 1882 and had two sons. His wife died ten years later and he remarried in 1898. He finally cut his ties with the district when in 1908 he sold the Eureka homestead block to Mr F F Pemberton.

JOHN LONGFIELD ROCHE

Mr Roche purchased a 333 hectare block from The N.Z. Land Association toward the end of the nineteenth century. On his homestead block he built a house in 1899. That house still stands on the land now owned by Mr Kerry Clarkin. Dorothy and John Roche were first day pupils at Eureka School.

In 1908 the property was sold to a Mr George Howie. Mr Howie later moved to Morrinsville and became the town's second Mayor - from 1923 to 1925.

FREDERICK RICHARD SEDDON

Mr Seddon was born at Howick in 1869 and was brought up by his father in the Waikato. He bought 1074 hectares at the turn of the century from the Land Association. It was an almost triangular shaped piece of land from the west of the Waverley Island block to Puketaha Road. Today Seddon Road runs through the middle of this block.

ISAAC COATES

Mr Coates' 605 hectare triangular property, bounded by Telephone Road and the railway line, was purchased from the Land Association in the early 1900's.

Mr Coates was born in Yorkshire in 1840 and was brought up to farming. In 1867 he arrived in Lyttelton on the ship Lancashire Witch and in the following year shifted to Auckland and from there to the Waikato. During his time in the Waikato he took on large drainage contracts for the Land Association. He also took up flaxmilling and ran mills in Hamilton, Morrinsville, Tauwhare and Maketu on the East Coast. He was prominent in local politics and became one of the first councillors of the Hamilton Borough. He was also Mayor for some years, ending his term in 1882. He sat on the Waikato County Council and for three years was chairman of the Kirikiriroa Roads Board.

Mr Coates married in 1875 and had four sons and four daughters.

JOSEPH BARUGH

Mr Baruch was the first owner of the parcel of land now called Waverley Islands. He owned approximately 1006 hectares and bought the property from the Land Association some time prior to 1902.

MARTIN MURPHY

The Murphy family settled in Eureka in early September 1901. Mr Murphy and his wife came from Ireland, emigrating separately to New Zealand. They worked together at "Malloys", a hotel on the Auckland waterfront for a time.

They married and then moved to Wairongomai, near Te Aroha, where they ran a hotel. They then shifted to Eureka with their three children, Mary, Rita and Timothy. The original Murphy homestead was built of kahikatea and did not last for very long. It was encircled by a veranda and had five bedrooms, a big dining room, kitchen, pantry and bathroom. About thirty-five years ago it was replaced by a brick building. The frames for the new homestead had to stand for twelve months waiting for the bricks to arrive-

there was a shortage of bricks just after World War II. (At present this is the residence of the Savage family, sharemilkers for Miss Patty Stokes).

ROBERT (Bob) and RITA (nee MURPHY) STOKES

Martin Murphy's daughter Rita was the first pupil enrolled at Eureka School. She married Bob Stokes and they lived in the timber house until it was replaced by the brick home.

Their children were Robert and Patty. Robert (Jr) still resides in Eureka with his wife Marien and family. They built what is now Bradding's home and lived there until selling in 1980 when they purchased what had been the John's farm. Marien and Robert built a new home on this land and that is where they now live.

Robert's sister Patty still owns the homestead property on Hunter Road.

MICHAEL MULCAHY

The Mulcahy family arrived in Eureka in September 1901, just two weeks after the Murphy family moved there. Mr Mulcahy bought two farms: one of 54 hectares between what are now Hunter and Tauwhare Roads; the second of 72

hectares fronted the main road and the west side of Friedlander Road. The Mulcahy children were Edith, Jimmy, Dennis and Owen. The eldest three were first day pupils at Eureka School.

THOMAS MORROW

Thomas Morrow was originally a farmer from Rahotu, Taranaki. He bought approximately 80 hectares in Eureka.

His property fronted what is today State Highway 26 and extended from Hooper Road almost to Hunter Road. In 1905 he sold his farm to a Mr James Hethrington.

JAMES MCCLENNAN

In the autumn of 1902 Mr McClennan moved to Eureka. At the time he purchased the farm Mr McClennan was a miner at the Huntly mines. He bought 76 hectares. James and his wife Sarah raised a large family.

When he took up farming he had never been on a farm in his life. The land had to be broken in and a house built. The children often had to help with milking sixty to seventy cows by hand. The milk was taken by dray to Tauwhare and then when they returned the children had to hike six kilometres to school.

James McClennan had turned to farming as he had been prevented from forming a union at the mines. He worked the farm for two years and then paid the mine a visit when he heard it was being run at a loss. The mine owners invited him to work for them but forbade him to form a union. He refused to work under these conditions and in the end a union was formed.

From then on every weekend he would trudge from Huntly to Eureka to see his family. The settlers reckoned he could walk six kilometres in an hour.

James McClennan's family were: Frances, Anne, Liz, Mary, Lena, James (Jimmy), William (Bill), Alex, Ethel, Lorna, Thelma, Norman and Noel. Lena, Jimmy, Bill and Alex were first day pupils at Eureka School. James (Snr) split his farm

into three when his sons Jimmy, Bill and Alex returned from World War One.

Jimmy and his wife, Nell, had three children: Malcolm, James and Mona who stayed on in Eureka for some years with their mother after Jimmy died about 1930. Milkers were employed until the farm was sold in 1970 to Tom McClennan (nephew of Jimmy's.)

Bill McClennan and his wife Dulcie had four children: Tom, Isobel, Miriam and the late Walter. Tom farmed his father's property after his return from World War Two. He and his wife Muriel had three children who were raised and educated in Eureka: Anne, Margaret and Graham. Tom and Muriel played an active part in district and school affairs and Tom also served for many years on the Eureka Drainage Board. In 1980 Tom sold to Rodney and Colleen Nicholson who have since subdivided and two new homes have been built.

Alex McClennan married Frances (Falconer) and they had three sons: Jack, Bruce and Wallace. Bruce married Barbara (nee Webster) and they continued to farm their property until they moved to Tauwhare in 1964 when their farm was sold to Noel Fletcher.

ROBERT GARROWAY

On the right of State Highway 26 just near where Schollum Road meets the State Highway there is the entrance to a long driveway where, until recently, there stood a white picket gate known as Garroway's Gate. Mr Garroway was a South African tea merchant who bought his land from the Land Association.

DANIEL TRIBE

Daniel Tribe settled in the district around 1903 and managed the farm of Mr Robert Garroway. Mr Tribe was a sailor, probably born in Kent. He became an apprentice when he was nine and jumped ship at Lyttelton when he was twenty. He farmed in Akaroa for a while and met Clara Edmonds there. When her family moved to the Waikato, Dan Tribe followed her. They were married in St Andrews Chapel Cambridge-the thirty-second couple to be married there.

From Cambridge he moved to Eureka and produced quite a tribe-eleven children, five of whom were first day pupils at Eureka School. Four more followed in later years. Four of his sons served in the First World War. The Tribes moved away from Eureka many years ago but a small piece of their association with the district has been preserved.

The bricks from the chimney of their home now line the driveway of Graeme Tribe's home in Morrinsville. He is one of Dan Tribe's many grandchildren.



Daniel and Clara Tribe with some of their family on the porch of their homestead.

THE LEASK FAMILY

Mr Leask bought his farm from Robert Garroway in 1915 and farmed it for 25 years. In 1926 Mark Harbottle purchased the northern part which included the old homestead. Mr and Mrs Leask had seven children and all attended Eureka school.

Over the years they all made their mark on the Eureka community in some way. The children were: Helen, Bill, Jean, Sam, Sophie, Margaret and Harry. Over the years they valiantly withstood several tragedies on the farm.

Son Bill is well remembered for his Reo truck, taking many local children to the train for school (a hair-raising ride for some and certainly an experience never to be forgotten!).

Daughter Jean married Doug Hinton, brother of Lec. They returned to the district in 1944 to sharemilk for Mr Bill

Clarkin and their children, Genevieve and Doug, also attended Eureka school.

WILLIAM GEORGE JACKWAYS

Mr Jackways was the first manager of the Eureka Butter Factory when it opened in 1903. He married Thirza May Hart in February 1901 and managed the Tauwhare cheese factory before shifting to Eureka. Although the Jackways

did not own land at Eureka they figure in its early history as Thirza Jackways ran the first Post Office in the Jackways's home.

Her daughter, Mrs A. MacLaren, said the first telephone in the district was installed in their home so that telegrams could be received and sent. The mail was collected from Eureka Station by the manager or his wife and then sorted in their home for collection by the settlers.

When the Jackways left Eureka they bought a farm at Whatawhata.

WILLIAM MCHARDY

Mr McHardy owned approximately 388 hectares between what is now Schollum Road and the railway line in 1906. This land was sold to Mr Arthur Jonas Friedlander in 1916 who subdivided and sold the land in smaller lots in the twenties.

THE CLARKIN BROTHERS

The Clarkins - John (Jack), Tom, Patrick and William (Bill) - bought farms in Eureka from 1902 onwards. Of Irish stock, their father Thomas emigrated from Dublin and settled in Panmure. He married Elizabeth and they had five sons and five daughters. He bought a 20 hectare section in Hamilton and the area around Clarkin Road used to be his farm.

Two of the brothers, Jack and Pat, moved on to Paeroa where they took on carting work. With 135 draught horses they carted materials to the Waihi goldmines. By 1905 the railway had reached Waihi and the brothers sold their business. Prior to settling in Eureka Pat Clarkin worked in the King Country.

He camped there and carted all the materials for the Makatote Viaduct using 35 draught horses. He actually carted the first load from the northern railhead to the southern railhead, thereby joining up the Main Trunk Line.

When the first Clarkins moved to Eureka, Jack and Tom bought land by the Hamilton-Morrinsville highway. That section of the road was called "The Avenue" in earlier days. It forms part of the highway that leads into Eureka from Hamilton today.

Jack and Nell Clarkin built the beautiful Kauri homestead (later Harris's).



The old Harris homestead built by Jack and Nell Clarkin (now replaced by the Broome homestead).

They had seven children: Jack, Elizabeth (Chic), Vera, Tom, Willie, Fred and Trevor and took an active part in establishing the community. Jack was one who signed letters in 1903, asking for a school to be built in Eureka.

Tom and Grace Clarkin built a home on the adjoining property and produced seven children who were educated in Eureka after the school was opened in 1904. Tom had been another of those who pushed for a school to be built. Their family were: Cyril, Thelma, Gavin, Leslie, Irene, Monica and Jessie. Tom and Grace also played an active role in the district until the farm was subdivided in 1932 and sold to the Manson's and Charles Nott.

Brothers Patrick and Bill Clarkin bought land from Mr Howie. Pat bought the original Roche homestead block in

1908. Mr Roche had created a very English atmosphere on the property according to Pat Clarkin's son Harry. There were numerous pines, wattle, Japanese maples and camellias growing in the garden. The house was surrounded by a macrocarpa hedge and was totally covered in Virginia creeper. Consequently the house was rather damp and visibility was poor.

From outside the homestead, the countryside stretched clear to the railway line. All the prominent outcrops of land were covered in gum or pine trees, probably planted by the Land Association.

Pat and Mary Clarkin had two children, Eva and Harry, and were both actively involved in the community. Pat was a fine horseman and judged at many shows around the countryside. Eva and Harry both rode too, Harry winning at shows far and wide.

In 1945 Harry married Muriel (nee Hunter) and they still live in the original homestead with their only son, Kerry. Mr and Mrs Pat Clarkin and Eva moved to Hamilton to live in 1945. Harry is a J.P. He, Muriel and Kerry are very community-minded.

Bill Clarkin bought land from Mr Howie between the main Morrinsville Road and Friedlander Road, adjoining his brother Pat's farm. He moved there with his wife Rebecca in 1916. The house they lived in came from Waihi (it is still standing but is not visible from the highway). Their family-

Terry, Roy, Colleen, Neil and Joan-attended Tauwhare School. Mrs Clarkin was a registered nurse and her services were often called upon by the locals. Mr Clarkin farmed with his sons. Terry built a brick home on the property when he married Alma in 1951. They had five children: Kevin, Graeme, Michael, Brendon and Kathryn.

In 1977 Terry sold to J. Morrison. When Roy returned from the Second World War he farmed with Terry until 1955 when he bought a farm on Schollum Road from Mrs Daisy Brennan (Joshua Mather's widow).



Pat Clarkin and Ruby Hinton (Mrs Insoll).

Roy married Muriel (nee Jury) in 1956 and they have one son, Bernie. In 1966 they built the new home where they are still in residence.

Bernie married in 1984 and he and his wife, Jennifer live in the original homestead and farm the property.

WILLIAM and ANNIE (nee CLARKIN) FIELD

Billy Field moved to Eureka around 1914 from the King Country where he had been a guard on the Railway. He built a house on Friedlander Road prior to his marriage to Annie Clarkin in 1918. Annie was one of Thomas Clarkin's five daughters. They had two children, Ray and Muriel, who lived on in the homestead and ran the farm after their parents' deaths until 1961. Muriel is very musical and she played her piano accordion at all the local dances. She was also a keen badminton player and Ray played indoor bowls. They moved to Clarkin Road, Hamilton when the farm was sold to Les and Nancy Smith.

JAMES HENRY MARSTON

Another of our pioneers was James Marston who arrived in Eureka in 1910.

From Christchurch, he bought a block of land from F.F. Pemberton on Eureka Road. For six months James lived in a tent until the first two rooms of his house were built. Gradually their home took shape, the bow window being very posh in those days. His wife, Mrs Mary Elizabeth Marston, joined him and their two children, May and Keith, both started school in Eureka before the family sold to Ross and Arthur Hinton in 1919. They went to England for seven years before returning to settle in Newstead. May married Harold Baker and still lives at Newstead.

THOMAS HINTON

Thomas Hinton arrived in New Zealand at the age of six. His father, Henry Hinton, came from New South Wales and joined the 4th Waikato Regiment which served in the Waikato Wars.

As soon as he was old enough Hinton set out to make a living for himself.

For a number of years he occupied the position of stockman and shepherd on various Waikato estates. In 1893 he took charge of the Maungateparu Estate, a few miles from Morrinsville. He managed it for the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency for fifteen years. When the estate was subdivided and sold in 1907 he bought a farm at Eureka.

Tom and Nelly Hinton had twelve children and Tom became a prominent figure in local politics. He served for several years on the Waitoa Road Board, Eureka Drainage Board and on the directorship of the Eureka Cooperative Dairy Company. He was primarily responsible for the founding of the Central Waikato Electric Power Board and was its chairman for twenty-four years. Mr Hinton was also a member of the Waikato Hospital Board and a member of the Waikato County Council and served as chairman of the Council from 1929 to 1932.

In his day he was a well-known rugby footballer in the Waikato and captained the first Waikato representative team



Mr and Mrs Thomas Hinton

against Auckland. He was father of the Piako Rugby Union and captained the Piako representatives for many years. His sons were very well-known in the sporting fields of rugby, hockey and riding.

Tom and Nelly's 12 children were Mabel (Mrs Simpson), Frank, Olive (Mrs Lurton), Nelly (Mrs Berry), George, Claude, Ruby (Mrs Insole), Dick, Ross, Arthur, Carl and Seph. The seven youngest children all attended Eureka School.

The Hinton brothers at the Frankton stock sale. L to R: Carl, Dick, George and Ross.



Eldest son Frank was killed on active service in World War 1. Claude, Ross and George also served in World War One, Ross being wounded.

Claude became a school teacher and he taught at Eureka School for a short time.

Olive was a postmistress at Eureka for two years.

George, a Gallipoli veteran, married Ethel (nee Guinness) after the war and they built a home and farmed the part of the Hinton property on the main road and Hinton Road. George was a J.P. They both took a very active part in the school and district. Their two children, June (Mrs Bettley) and Frank, attended the local school. Frank married Shirley (nee Lovelock) and they took over the farm living in the homestead and building a smaller home nearby for Frank's parents. Frank and Shirley were always very active on all local committees and in indoor bowls. Their family, Trevor, Wendy (Mrs McHardie) and Ashley, all went to Eureka School. When their boys married and took over the farm Frank and Shirley built a new home on the property and lived there until retiring to Mount Maunganui in 1984. Trevor and Diane (Tracey) and family have also left the district but Ashley, his wife, Glynis and family still live in the homestead and work the farm.

Their children are third generation Hintons to attend Eureka School.

Dick and Carl farmed and lived on the homestead property. They also both took a keen interest in all district activities and were very keen on horse riding and polo, did show judging all over the country and served on the Waikato A. & P. Show committee, Dick being chairman 1936-37). He married Tui Cucksey and moved away from the district.

Carl married Dot (nee Weston) who was also a fine horse rider. They Still live in the Hinton homestead and farm the property with help from their daughter Caroline and her husband Gary Tims who own the adjoining farm.

Caroline and her children, Diane, Peter and Sheryl, have continued the family tradition of being accomplished riders and this family was also a third generation to attend Eureka School.

Ross and Arthur Hinton purchased land from James Marston after the War and farmed the property on Station Road together until Ross married Florence (nee Hill) in 1925.

Ross and Florence both took a keen interest in the district and raised a family of three-Tom, Bruce and Helen-farming the property until the mid 40s when, because of health problems, they moved to Hamilton. Son Tom returned to take over the farm in 1951 with his wife Claire (nee Seymour).

They lived in the old homestead and produced their family there: Geoffrey, John, Leigh and the late Anne. Tom and Claire took a very active part in all local activities.

They built a new home in 1962 but have since moved to Hamilton. They retain their association with the district with a share in Eureka Blueberries Ltd.

Their son Leigh has an interest in this venture and lives in the old homestead now. Geoff, his wife Diane and family live in the newer home and farm the property. Their children are the fourth generation of Hintons to attend the local school and the fifth generation Hintons to live in Eureka.

Arthur Hinton bought land on the eastern side of Station Road in 1925. He married Margaret (nee Bowers) and they had two daughters, Barbara and Margaret. After they lost their home in a fire, Arthur rebuilt (now van Vugt's). In 1939 Arthur sold that farm and later bought land from Mel Masters, still on Eureka Road, and built the house now owned by John and Jenny Middlemiss. Arthur and Margaret were keen indoor bowlers and lived there until Arthur's death in 1970.

Ruby Hinton married Sefton Insole and they briefly farmed the property and lived in the homestead now owned by the Mayalls. A grandson, Brian Insole, now farms on Hunter Road.

'LEC' HINTON

Leslie Frank (Lec) Hinton's father was Jobe Hinton, brother of Mr Thomas (Poppa) Hinton. Jobe lived in Matangi and Lec came to farm on Schollum Road on 1st August 1919 on his return from World War One. He married Kath Porter, the local postmistress and they had a family of two: Laurence and Alva, who both went to Eureka School. Kath died in 1935 and Lec remarried, continuing to farm until moving to town in 1952.

Laurence took over the farm and he and his wife Pam live on the family farm where their son Paul is at present sharemilking. The original homestead was burnt down some years ago and a new house built on the opposite side of Schollum Road.

JAMES O'HARA

Mr Jimmy O'Hara came to Schollum Road in 1911. His home was little more than a shack. It had a tin roof with sacking around the sides which had to last until a house was brought by rail from Waihi. Mr and Mrs O'Hara had six daughters: Alicia, Kathleen, Eileen, Bessie, Frances and May.

Jimmy drove a buggy and his horse's name was "Rainy Day". Jimmy O'Hara was very involved in district and school activities.

THE ROWES

In 1915 Thomas (Harry) and Adelaide (Addie) Rowe bought land on Hooper Road. Their children were: Charlie, Alfred, Roy, Ivan, Fred, Leslie, Wynn, Vivian and Dorrie.

Mr Rowe died in 1918 in the great influenza epidemic but Mrs Rowe lived to a ripe old age with her son Leslie looking after her here in Eureka and later in Hamilton. Viv and his wife Iris and daughters worked the farm and lived in the other house on the property.

MCGOUGH FAMILY

Mr and Mrs Charles McGough settled in Eureka Avenue in 1915. They had a family of three boys and two girls: Eric, Myrtle, Alice, Cecil and Jim who all attended Eureka school.

Jim lived on in the old house with Alice after their parents died and continued to farm with Eric who lived with his wife Mavis in the second newer house (children Colin and Anne).

In 1962 they sold to Wellesley Dance.

TIMOTHY PATRICK (Ted) HUNTER

Ted Hunter bought land on what was then the main highway (now Hunter Road) in 1915. His block extended to

Hooper Road and is now occupied in the north by Graeme and Eileen Noble and on Hooper Road by Graeme and Diane Barker.

While Ted was away at World War One his brothers, Torn and Bill, farmed his property. Ted returned in 1918 on the hospital ship via South Africa and was admitted to the Waikato Hospital for treatment for gas poisoning. He married his fiancée, Guen, in 1919 in Raurimu and they had three children: Muriel (Mrs Harry Clarkin), Lionel and Nola (Mrs Stan Peters). Ted was a wonderful pianist and played at all the local dances as well as at dances for miles around. He died in 1954. Lionel and his wife Moira farmed the Hunter land on Hooper Road.

They had one son, Paul. Lionel sold the last of the Hunter land in 1979.

STAN and NOLA (nee HUNTER) PETERS

Stan Peters' family came to Eureka to sharemilk for Larsens in the early 40s and it was during this time that Stan first met

Nola Hunter (daughter of Ted Hunter). However it was not until 1951 that Nola and Stan were married.

They moved away from the district returning in 1954, after Ted Hunter died, to run the family farm on Hunter Road.

They had three children: Patricia, Suzanne and Ralph who all attended Eureka School. Stan took a very active part in local activities serving on many committees until 1976 when they moved to Hamilton having sold to Graeme and Eileen Noble.

SCHOLLUM FAMILY

Mr Wenzl Schollum arrived in Eureka in 1915 when he bought a 345 hectare farm from Mr John Knight, the original owner. Mr Schollum came from Puhoi and was a land agent, developer and hotel owner. His sons, Noel and Pat, both bought part of the original property - Noel farmed the area now owned by Charlie Elliot and Pat the area on the county boundary owned now by Brendan Durcan. Noel and Tui Schollum lived in the old Schollum homestead still standing on the Hill. (This house was earlier occupied by the Grigsby family). There were three children: Peter, Barry and Noeline.

Pat and his wife, Joan, were very much district orientated.

They had eleven children: Brian, Michael, David, Mary, Stephen, Paul, Brendan, Joanna, John, Hughie and Theresa, most of whom attended Eureka School.

MUIR FAMILY

After World War I, in 1919, John Wesley (Jack) Muir followed his brother Joe Muir to Eureka from the King Country. Joe had been farming in the area since 1914. He married Violet Hunter and they had four children: Mary, Gilbert, Lewis and Ida.

Jack purchased what was practically virgin peat on what was then the end of the Schollum Road formation. At first he lived in a shanty built with timber from the local mill, then in 1924 he built the house. Jack and his wife Muriel had four children: Tom, Valerie, Wesley and Gladys, all educated in Eureka. In 1946 Jack built a house in Hamilton and retired there leaving sharemilkers on the farm. His son Wesley bought the property in 1957 and farmed it until 1967 when he and his wife Shirley and their three boys moved north.

ROBERT HENRY (Bob) TOWNSEND

The Townsends moved to Eureka in 1917. The farm was then very swampy and full of rushes. Mr Townsend spent much time developing the farm from its unkempt state. The

drains ran full in winter and their children-Lily, Ivy, Grace, Bob and Una-well recall playing among the rushes and the boggy territory. Bob (Snr) was especially involved in horse training, hunting, and polo and was in the Matangi Polo Club team when they won the Savile Cup. He still rode at a great age even though nearly blind and hunted on "All British" who took him safely around the hunting fields. Mrs Townsend was active in local school and women's groups. Her daughter Lily was Postmistress for two years before Mr Shine.

Ivy Townsend (Mrs Wally Gee) schooled many horses at the hunts for her father, most going on to win major hurdle and steeplechase races. Ivy would probably have been one of the first amateur lady riders.

Their son Bob Townsend - also a great polo player - farmed on the property until 1984. Bob (Jr) and his wife Phyllis also took a very active interest in the school, hall and indoor bowls, Bob being made a life member of the Eureka

Bowling Club in 1983. They had four children: Janice, Philip, Barry and Rowena who all grew up and went to school in Eureka. Barry still lives in a cottage on the property. The Bartrum now own the land.

GEORGE and MARIA DALZIEL

Mrs Maria Dalziel of Gordonton bought a farm on Eureka Road in 1917. A Mr McKenzie worked the farm until the end of the War when sons George and Tom and Tom's wife May shifted to Eureka. Tom's parents lived there also. From the early 1920s they worked the land for 28 years. Tom and May had one daughter, Doras, who went to school in Eureka. The Dalziels broke in the farm - hard work but life in the district was fun.

ROBERT ORR DUNCAN

Originally from Northern Ireland, Mr Duncan first lived near the Wanganui River. From there he moved to Cambridge and came to Eureka in 1918. He married around 1919 and his wife Edith gave birth to four children at Eureka-Maurice, Ruth, Robert and Shirley. They were all educated at the local school and Maurice continues to live and farm at Eureka with his family.

Robert Duncan originally bought land with his brother William. Robert bought his brothers share in the farm in 1924. The land was divided between Maurice and his brother Robert (Peter) in the forties, later to be completely taken over by Maurice. In 1947 Maurice married Lila Magon and they raised six children: Heather, John, Lyn, Colin, Raewyn

and Graham, all of whom attended Eureka school. Maurice and Lila have always been actively involved in the school and community.

Eldest son John and his wife Elizabeth now own and farm what was Peters block. Second son, Colin, is now the owner of Eureka Motors.

Children from both families now attend Eureka school being the third generation Duncans to be educated at Eureka. Peter and Margaret Duncan moved to New South Wales in 1974. They had four children: Susan, Robert, Dale and Craig.

*Mr and Mrs Robert Duncan
with their two children,
Shirley and Peter.*



TOM INGLIS

The Inglis family arrived in 1919. (They farmed in Eureka until 1969).

Tom and Katies children were Grace, Toby (J.R.), Percy (Snow), Ken, Vic, Eric, Greta and Hillary. Most of the family attended Eureka School.

The Inglis family are well remembered by many locals as they played a very active role in district affairs. They lived on the hill in the home at present owned by the Fagans. Tom Inglis (Snr) handed over the farm to sons Snowy, Ken, and Toby and helped them all build homes on their respective blocks.

Toby and his wife Elsie lived on Hooper Road until they sold to Kimbers in 1937 and bought land on the main road from Mel Masters. Their children were Joan, Evelyn, Graeme and Diane. Toby built the brick house on the farm in 1939.

They sold to Wes Richards in the 1950s who sold to Frank Hinton in 1961. Frank's son Trevor sold to the present owners David and Nan Ingleby.

Snowy and Tina farmed the homestead block. They had nine children who all attended Eureka School: Colleen, Vina, Torn, Ailsa,

Glennis, Charlie, Rex, Maxine and Danny. Their eldest son Tom, and his wife Marion (nee Pope) built and lived in the other house on the hill (now owned by Chas Middlemiss) and continued to work the family farm until it was sold to Davidson in 1966. It was he who subdivided it into 10 acre blocks.

Ken Inglis built the cottage (which is now owned by Phillips) and-lived there with his wife Noreen and family: Jack, Noeline and twins Robyn and Raewyn. Later Ken built a new home on the property (now Atchleys') and moved there to live. Mr and Mrs Tom Inglis (Snr) and daughter Grace then lived in the cottage and developed the beautiful garden now maintained by the Phillipses. Ken and Noreen farmed



there until the land was sold to Mr Bob Mair in 1951 who built the cottage next to the hall and sold to Mr Atchley in 1954.

Grace Inglis was a postmistress in the early days and was always very active in the district, particularly in Ladies Guild and Social Club.

ARNOLD (Joe) and GRETA (nee INGLIS) POWDRILL

When Greta Inglis married Joe Powdrill her father bought land on the main road from Mel Masters in 1929 and built a home for them on the farm. Joe and Greta both took a very active part in the community. Their children - June, Betty, Owen, Laurie, Max and Rodney - grew up in Eureka and all attended school here. Joe was a Rep hockey player and June followed in her fathers footsteps.

In 1959 the property was sold to John and Barbara Blyth who in the 60's sold to Gary and Caroline (nee Hinton) Tims. The land was subdivided in later years, Gary and Caroline building a new home in 1981. The homestead block is presently owned by Les and Marion White.

ALBERT and KATE JOHNS

The Johns lived in Eureka for 55 years. Albert and Kate Johns arrived in 1918 buying a farm on Hunter Road from Richard Casey. All their children - Ernie, Alton, Norma and Gordon - went to school in Eureka. After Albert died his children farmed the land for their mother. Alton left Eureka in the 1950s and Wattle Farm was run by Ernie and Annette Johns from 1956. They lived in the homestead until it was burnt down in 1970.

The Johns were active in community life, participating in the frequent hunts, the polo club and racing club. Ernie was also a member of the school committee. Their children were Dennis, Helen, Jennifer, Ruth, Susan and Anna.

Ernie and Annette stayed on in the district for some months after the fire before moving to Hamilton and sharemilkers continued farming until the land was sold to Geoff Browne in 1973.

THE JONES BROTHERS

Frederick and William Jones moved to Eureka in 1919 when they bought adjoining farms from Richard Casey.

This was part of land previously owned by Mr Roche.

Frederick and Ada's children, Bill, Monica and Cyril, still farm the land he bought.

William and Blanche's children were Elsie, Blanche, Bill, Muriel, Margaret, Kathleen and Vincent. Vincent farms the land today. Both families attended Eureka School.

For years Frederick also owned land behind Eureka Avenue - now Van Woerden's. He rode his horse down to this runoff every day to water his stock.

The Waitakaruru Stream runs through the William Jones property and there used to be a lot of flax growing in the area when the brothers moved in. The family believe there was a flaxmill on Williams farm in earlier times as traces of a mill were discovered by their parents. This may have been the site of a flaxmill owned by Isaac Coates around 1893. He owned a flaxmill at Tauwhare at that time before running a major concern at Morrinsville which he purchased from John and Sam Fry.

JOHN REUBEN (Jack) HOOPER

In 1919 Jack Hooper bought land on Hooper Road next to Les Rowe and with his wife Jane and family-Ruby, John, Minnie and Wes - moved from Taranaki. Mr Hooper began a carrying business (J . R. Hooper Carriers) in the late 1920's which was to become J. R. Hooper and Sons a few years later.

Mrs Hooper became ill and was nursed by Mrs Cyril and Mrs Bill Clarkin until she died about 1930.

John Hooper was a very keen huntsman. He left Eureka in 1939.

Wes married a widow, Daisy, whose son Bruce Leaf was raised in Eureka and he drove for the Company for several years. In more recent years Bruce will be remembered as the local milk vendor from Morrinsville.

Mr Jack Hooper served on the Waikato County Council and Central Waikato Electric Power Board for a number of years. He died in 1965. The old homestead and cottage on the property were pulled down in the late 1960s and Gordon Edwards and Maurice Duncan built a new house-the presently Heuvel family home.

BILL and MINNIE (nee HOOPER) EDWARDS

Minnie Hooper married Bill Edwards in 1929 and they had three children: Pearl, Gordon and Wesley who all attended Eureka School as had their mother before them.

In 1949 the carrying business began operating as Eureka Transport and the depot was situated on the main road at the end of the Avenue where three houses were sited and occupied by partners Bill Edwards, Wes Hooper and Alf

Drake (Wesley Edwards joined the firm later). Eureka Transport continued to operate until 1980. Bill and Minnie retired to Hamilton in 1975.

Pearl Edwards married Alf Drake and they had two children: Gavin and Helen. In 1975 they moved to Hamilton to live.

Gordon and Maureen Edwards had three children: Robert, Annette and Karen.

Gordon worked for the transport company until 1967. He bought a section from Lester Masters and built the house presently occupied by Chris and Denise Irvine in 1955. All the Edwards grandchildren went to school at Eureka.

LARSEN FAMILY

Sofus Bartelin (Barney) Larsen bought the Mulcahy block from Charles Goosman in 1920. He and his wife, Annie, had three sons: Harold, Stuart (Barney) and Roy. Barney Snr was very fond of fishing and Mrs Larsen was keen and active in local affairs. The land was subdivided and not long after the war Barney Jnr settled on his 75 acres and built a house for his wife Joyce and two young daughters Loryn and Gail. They had lived in Ohakea during the war years where Barney's job as an aircraft engineer had cost him his hearing.

Barney and Joyce played a very active role in the community particularly school and badminton. Within a few years Joyce's parents, Arthur and Grace Cook, retired to Eureka from Wellington and Barney built them a house near his own. In 1981 when Barney died Joyce and her parents sold and moved to Morrinsville.

The rest of the Barney Larsen Snr's land is still owned by members of the family but farmed by sharemilkers.

THOMAS THOMPSON

The Thompson family came to Eureka from Te Teko, Bay of Plenty, after World War One in 1921. They brought their homestead from Waihi, one of the old mining houses. The sons were Ernest, Norman and Harold and they each farmed part of the original land bought from Hugo Friedlander on Eureka Avenue.

Ernest employed sharemilkers before selling to H. E. Vercoe in 1955 who sold to Bob Appleton in 1968.

Harold sold to the Landons in 1954.

Norman Thompson and his wife Mavis adopted four children who all attended Matangi School. However, Mrs Mavis Thompson taught Sunday School in Eureka for more than 30 years.

Norman served on the Eureka Drainage Board for many years. He ceased to be chairman of the board in 1959 when he ended a long association which his father started. In recognition of his services to drainage over many years as chairman of the Eureka board and an executive member of the Land Drainage Association, Norman was made a Life Member of the Association in 1960.

He sold to the Teague family in 1971.



Local identities at the Diamond Jubilee, L to R: Stan Peters, Barry Mayall, Wesley Muir and Alf Drake.

CHARLES HARINGTON

Charlie and Daisy Harington farmed on Schollum Road from 1924, living in the house brought from Waihi by James O'Hara. (This house is no longer standing.) Their children were Richard, Margaret, Phillipa and David. Mrs Harington was the first lady chairman of the Eureka School Committee from 1934 to 1940. The Haringtons farmed there until approximately 1941. For many of those years Charlie was a buyer for the Pig Marketing Association. They then moved to Hamilton and sharernilkers were employed until the return of Richard and his wife Pam in the early 1950s.

The farm was sold to A. G. Lye in 1957

NIXON FAMILY

George Nixon was a ganger at the Matangi Railway Station when he bought 100 acres (40 hectares) from N.

McGarry. George and Florence moved to Eureka in 1925.

Their children were Edna, Stanley, Thelma, Malcolm, Len, Arthur and Iris. (Edna later married Cyril Masters – Ralph's father). They lived on the corner of the Cambridge-Morrinsville Road. The main highway had not then been put through.

Stan Nixon and his wife Mavis sharemilked for his father for one pound a week until buying the farm in 1945. Their children were Roger, Brenda and Philip. Stan and Mavis built the brick home (now Brewer's) during 1947-48 and lived there until 1960 when they moved to town.

Sharemilkers farmed until in 1972 Stan sold to Pat Hogan who subdivided the farm into 10 acre blocks and sold them in 1973.

HARRIS FAMILY

Leslie and Flora Harris bought their farm from Jack Clarkin in 1930. They hailed from the Bay of Plenty. They milked cows and in later years bred a few race horses. With their seven children - Beatty, Bill, Nellie, Phyllis, Dulcie, Peter and Margaret - they played a large part in community affairs. Hunting, cards and social club were their main interests. Mr Harris died in 1947. One son, Peter, with his wife Ethel farmed the property until the death of Mrs Harris in 1973 when the farm was sold to Jack and Jeanette Broome.

ERNEST J. JONES

In 1929 Ernest and Myrtle Jones bought a farm on Schollum Road from H. Bowers. They had two children born during their stay at Eureka, daughter Coral starting school there.

Ernie bred pedigree Tamworth pigs and one day he and Charlie Harington had a visit from the then Governor General, Lord Bledisloe who came to see their pigs. Ernie rebuilt the farm homestead before selling to Mrs Anderton in 1945.

ALBERT and EDNA (nee MANSON) SMITH

In 1931 Anton (Bill) and Maria (May) Manson bought property on Eureka Avenue. Their four bedroomed kauri homestead was built early in the century by Tom Clarkin.

Tom sold to the Mansons for 28 pounds an acre. In 1937 Mr and Mrs Manson moved to Hamilton when their daughter Edna married Albert Smith. Albert and Edna worked the farm, eventually buying it in 1952. They produced four children while living there: Margaret, Ken, Owen and Valerie and were very involved in school and hall committees. Ken and his wife Sylvia continued to farm the land for five years until it was sold in 1972. Albert and Edna Smith moved to Cambridge when the farm was sold.

GEORGE SALEMAN

George and Lillian Saleman bought from Pat Clarkin in 1933 and sold to Bill Clarkin in 1944. They had one daughter, Hilda, who was a Sunday School teacher with Mrs Thompson.

CHARLES NOTT

In 1932 Mr Charles Nott of Newstead bought 29 hectares of land from Tom Clarkin. It was bare land divided into only three paddocks and until a cowshed was built the cows from their Newstead farm were wintered there. When Mr Nott and his son Charlie Jnr built the house and other farm buildings Hooper Road was extended to their property. For some years milkers were employed until Charlie Jnr married Thelma in 1952 and they came to live there.

THE KIMBER FAMILY

Mr and Mrs H. Dennis Kimber moved to Eureka in 1935 to sharemilk for the Duncans on their Hooper Road progeny, now farmed by Barry Townsend. During the Kimbers' second year as sharemilkers they purchased the farm across the road from J. R. (Toby) Inglis. Here Dennis farmed until

his wife, Evelyn, died in 1963. He then moved to Levin. The property is still farmed by son Robert and his wife Beverley.

Three other Kimber children were also raised in Eureka: Iris, Graeme and Denise. Graeme and his wife Delwyn and family lived on a section subdivided from the farm until 1984.

ARCHIBALD PERNOD

Mr Pernod ran the first garage which served the Eureka district at the Platt Road corner. Locals recall the Newstead Garage as a real boon with its able mechanic fixing their vehicles at a reasonable price. Mervyn Woolven took over from him and built a house near the garage. Harold Laurence took over later and it is now owned by Mike McIntyre.

JAMES BARGH

In 1936 James (Jim) and Blanche Bargh along with their young son Russell came to Eureka to sharemilk (with a right of purchase) for Mr Troughton . In 1939 Jim Barth exercised the right of purchase on the Tauwhare Road farm. The old kauri homestead on the property was replaced with a brick home in 1955-56 and the old Waihi miners cottage replaced in 1966. Jim died in 1961 and Blanche died suddenly in 1965 only a month before Russell and Robyn

(nee Campbell) were married. Russell and Robyn are still living on the farm with their family.

SIDNEY WISHART

In 1943 Sidney and May Wishart arrived in Eureka to live on the property once owned by the Leask family. They had no family and hailed from the Chatham Islands. They mixed well in the district, Sid being a strong National Party supporter and Mrs Wishart being remembered as a very keen and generous gardener. They lived in the old house on the main Morrinsville Road until building a new house – now the home of Ron and Win Morrison - to whom they sold in 1960.

HENRY LOVELL WHITE

Henry and Alice White bought land from Mark Harbottle in 1944 on the Morrinsville Road opposite Schollum Road.

They had two daughters, Erith and Alison. Mr White was manager of Morrinsville Motors and employed milkers on the farm which was broken in from swamp on the flats. Erith and her husband Ian Bowman sharemilked before the farm was sold in 1972 to Murray McDonald.

GARTH WILLIAMSON

In 1945 Garth and Jean Williamson bought what had much earlier been Arthur Hinton's property on Station (Eureka) Road. The Williamson children, Lynaire and Owen, went to Eureka School. Mrs Williamson was a fine dressmaker whose work was much in demand in the district.

They sold in 1960. Present owners are Wim and Ria van Vugt.

WALLY POLLOCK

Wally and his parents, Alexander Thomas Pollock and Allene Annie Pollock, came to Schollum Road in 1951-52 from Bruntwood to sharemilk for the Andertons who had bought the farm for forty pounds per acre.

Wally married Val in 1956 and they lived at Te Rapa until returning to the farm in 1960 when his parents retired to Hamilton. He sharemilked for a time then leased before purchasing in 1969 - at ninety-eight pounds an acre. Val taught at Eureka School 1959-61. They have a family of two: Wilson and Sally, who went through primary school at Eureka. Wally has always been very involved in Federated Farmers at all levels and he has looked after Japanese farm trainees for 18-20 years. Val has been actively involved in

school and district affairs also, holding office in social club and hall committee and playing badminton for many years.

Their house was burnt down in August 1972 and they lost everything. After more than a year living next door in Roy and Muriel Clarkin's cottage, Val and Wally moved into their new home at Christmas 1973 where they are still living.

WILLIAM MANDENO SAUNDERS

Bill Saunders bought 718 hectares of the Waverley Islands block in 1951.

He sold 183 hectares of the Piako Road end to K. S. Tapp in 1953. He farmed the rest of the land for 15 years and broke in almost all of the swamp from raw peat and standing tea-tree. The Eureka end of Seddon Road was constructed in 1960. Waverley Road did not exist until later.

To accommodate a second worker a Keith Hay home was built opposite their house. One worker was virtually a full-time fencer. An airstrip, alongside where the Gordon house now stands, was used for fertilized spreading.

The Saunders, Bill, his wife Jean, and children Mary, Bill, Donald and John, lived in the house that is now the Ammann farm cottage until their new home was built in 1954.

LAURIE MABER (MABER LANDS LIMITED)

In 1966 Laurie Maber bought the property from the Saunders. He moved the Keith Hay home to its present site on Waverley Road. It is now the Gordon's second house. During his ownership the last of the manuka was removed from the Waverley Islands block. Waverley Road was constructed and two cowsheds (now Ammanns' and Gordons') were built before the block was subdivided into smaller farms in the 1970s.

The house and 30 hectares was sold to Mark and Judy Ridgway who farmed there from 1973 to 1981. The Raes are the present owners.

FLAVELL FAMILY

Fred and Betty Flavell and daughters, Barbara and Diane, came to Eureka in 1952. They bought their 83 acres on Eureka (Station) Road from H. Davidson after spending one season milking for Mr Jim Barth. Fred was the Farm Labour Scheme Secretary for a number of years and was also involved in Federated Farmers, School Committee and other community activities. Betty took a particular interest in the school through the PTA. The family moved to Hillcrest to

live in 1967 and sharemilkers farmed the property until it was sold in 1971.

MAYALL FAMILY

In 1953 Fred and Beryl Mayall bought what had been Dalziel's farm. The Mayalls came from Puketaha with their four children: Bryan, Graham, Barry and Margaret.

Margaret finished her primary schooling at Eureka.

Graham and Barry helped their father on the farm and a company was formed, F. G. Mayall & Sons.

In 1957 100 adjoining acres on Schollum Road was purchased from W. Field and broken in from standing tea-tree.

Another house was built on the Schollum Road end of the farm in 1962 when Graham married Elizabeth.

Mr and Mrs Fred Mayall moved to Hamilton in 1967 when Barry and Gail were married. Fred served for 19 years on the Eureka Drainage Board and Barry now continues to serve on it.

These days the boys are trading in partnership as Mayall Bros. They play an active part in the community. Graham and Elizabeth have raised a family of four and Barry and Gail have three children. All have been educated locally.

LANDON FAMILY

In 1954 Ron Landon's father bought Harold Thompson's farm. However, they continued to live in Hamilton and employed sharemilkers for the next eight years.

It was in 1962 when Ron married Carol (nee Hughes) that the Landons took up residence in Eureka. Ron and Carol have raised a family of four, all of whom were educated at the local school. Ron served on the school committee and played indoor bowls. Carol and the children have been involved in the local Junior Badminton Club. They built a new home on the farm in 1974. The old house was burnt down in 1981 and a new milker's cottage has replaced it.

One of the most notable changes Ron has noticed in the last 30 years has been the decline in the number of dairy herds between Eureka and Hamilton.

ATCHLEY FAMILY

Trevor and Mollie Atchley arrived in Eureka with their two daughters, Elizabeth and Caroline, in January 1954 after purchasing land from Bob Mair. Mr Ron Murphy was retained as sharemilker on the farm while Mr Atchley continued his employment in Hamilton with Dalgetys.

Elizabeth, the elder daughter, had started her schooling in Hamilton East but completed her primary years at Eureka.

Caroline, being younger, started school at Eureka. Both girls were involved in Sunday School when Mrs Thompson and Mr Wilde were teaching there.

As there were no local groups Elizabeth and Caroline attended Guides and Brownies in Hamilton and Newstead.

Elizabeth and husband Bernard now reside in Hamilton.

Caroline and husband John live in Te Awamutu.

Trevor is best known for his involvement in Scouts, being District Commissioner for a number of years.

BRUCE and SHIRLEY (nee MIERS) BLACKBURN

In 1956 Mr and Mrs Percy Miers bought the Rows' farm on Hooper Road.

They came to Eureka with their daughter Shirley and son-in-law Bruce Blackburn, who ran the farm. Shirley and her mother were very active in Ladies Guild and Ladies Social Club. Bruce and Shirley were both keen bowlers. Their son Gary Blackburn attended the local school.

The farm was sold in 1978 to the Dumbells. Present owners are David and Lyn Wright.

ARNOLD (Noel) VERSTRATEN

Noel and Thea Verstraten came to Eureka in 1961 with their children Anton, Rene, Arnold, Willie and Maria. They bought two-and-a-half hectares on the south side of Schollum Road from Mrs Brennan. They took over and built up the first poultry farm to be established in Eureka.

The family lived in a small cottage until they built their new home in 1967. Anton and Rene both went to school locally. Noel, Thea, and family took an active interest in the district, especially in badminton, indoor bowls and Social Club.

They sold to the Pearsons in 1982 and moved to Matangi.

LESLIE SMITH

Les and Nancy Smith bought the Field farm on Friedlander Road in 1961, moving there from Karaka with their family: Carol, Herbert, Peter, George, Dennis and Robin. The youngest three boys attended school locally. A musical family, Herbert, George and Dennis formed a band and played at Tauwhare and Morrinsville dances.

Herbert married Dee Dee van der Stap in 1967 and they milked on the home farm part of that year while Les and

Nancy were at Norfolk Island. In 1968 Les subdivided and sold part to Ralph Masters. For several years prior to 1978

the farm was in maize. In 1978 Erich Oettli bought all but 15 acres on which Les and Nancy built a new Lockwood home.

Les died in 1982 and Nancy sold to the Ryans in late 1983 when she moved to Norfolk Island. (Barry and Pamela Marsh now own the homestead block - bought from Erich Oettli).

HANS OETTLI

In 1966 Hans and Elise (Lisa) Oettli and their son Erich came to live on Friedlander Road. Hans bought the ex-Harington-Lye farm. They lived in the newer home (built by Alec Lye) and Hans' parents lived in the old Harington homestead (now gone). Lisa's mother lived with Lisa and Hans until her death in 1969.

Hans quickly became involved in district affairs, particularly Federated Farmers and the hall committee.

Erich, a talented musician, married Jenny in 1971 and they spent nearly two years overseas before returning to work the farm; Hans and Lisa retired to town in 1973. Hans died suddenly the following year. Several subdivisions later Jenny and Erich, in 1982, moved to Kaukapakapa with their two children.

J. Morrison now owns the homestead block.

HUGO VAN WOERDEN

Hugo and Dora van Woerden sharemilked for four years for the White family before buying their first block of land in behind the McGough property on Eureka Avenue. The van Woerdens bought from Grays in 1964 and in 1973 bought an adjoining block from Habrakens. Their son John and foster son Wayne Robb were educated at Eureka School. Hugo and Dora played an active role in school and district. Hugo was secretary for the local branch of Federated Farmers for many years. In 1982 they moved to Waikino and a sharemilker is now employed to run their farm.

CHANAN SINGH

Mr and Mrs Chanan Singh and family came to Eureka in 1962. They bought a farm on Eureka Road from Arthur

Pemberton. Mr Singh worked the farm with the aid of his family: Narrinder, Surrinder, Harrinder (Harry), Surrinder Kaur, Davinder, and Davinder Kaur (Vindy). Surrinder Kaur, Davinder and Vindy attended school in Eureka. Harry served his motor mechanic apprenticeship with Joe Stockman at Eureka Motors.

In 1965 more land was bought on the opposite side of the road (now McCurdys'), and about 1970 another house was moved on to the farm (now Morris').

The family were very involved in badminton and cricket and the boys were representative hockey players. Narrinder and both Surrinders married during their time in Eureka and Surrinder's two daughters started school in Eureka.

The Singhs sold to Wim and Ria van Vugt in 1979 and moved to Hamilton.

The foregoing brief profiles of many of the families who bought land and settled the district between the 1870s and 1960s, have been compiled from information provided by themselves, their descendants, or from research.

Tribute must here be paid to the numerous sharemilkers and farm workers, many of long-standing who, over the years, contributed greatly to the growth and development of our community. We regret that unfortunately it was impossible to trace and record these families individually and fairly.



Celia and Mel Masters who settled in the district in 1913. Their home was the old Gordon homestead (see over).

CHAPTER 3

THE HOUSE ON THE HILL

Perched atop the Hill, the Eureka homestead has always commanded a panoramic view of the surrounding district. For more than three decades after its erection the homestead was the focal point for the flourishing little community.



During Henry Reynolds' tenure as manager it was the pivot of the company's operations. It was from here that Mr Reynolds pushed ahead with his seemingly impossible task.

Yet by the end of 1878 great strides had been made in the taming of the swamp. A reporter, roving the area, wrote a glowing article on the progress.

"...Having thus satisfied a morbid curiosity to walk over the celebrated swampland and see how it looked we are pleased with the change effected by the transforming hand of the company.

"Instead of a useless wilderness of flax, whose leaves re-echo the dismal howling of the wind, it is a clover and grass-covered plain, the air resounding with the contented bleating of sheep mingled with the lowing of herds of cattle.

"Some distance from Eureka Hill a large gate blocked the entrance to the property. On either side of the gateway the land was well stocked with trees. The roadway was even for about four kilometres and had the appearance of a carriage drive through a park. There were two main drains near the roadway and into these ran numerous feeder drains.

Progressing down the road there was a continuous expanse of flax and rushes. But, nearing Eureka Hill the signs of extensive cultivation became obvious.

"The rape was three feet high; it we in full blossom presenting a very pleasing sight and looking like so many miles of buttercup-covered meadows from which sparrows

and linnets start in flocks. Scotch thistles, sow thistles and dandelions also flourish exceedingly well..."

The most advanced reclamation work was around the homestead block. Mr Reynolds' home and offices were built on the summit of the rising knoll and by 1878 the scene around the hill was similar to looking down on a prairie. On every side lay a vast area of drained swamp land. Luxuriant borders of clover and rye grass grew by the wayside of the road leading to the company's land.

Eight hectares around the homestead were used as an orchard, flower and kitchen garden. Ornamental shrubs and flowers bordered the carriage drive to the house. Visitors were greeted by a brilliant array of flowers and well-kept lawn just outside the front door. The orchard by this period contained 1000 trees. Once it had been so waterlogged that the horses ploughing the area became bogged down and had to be pulled out.

When Mr Reynolds moved to Woodlands in the autumn of 1881, Mr Bruce Suttor, the new owner may have moved into the homestead. What became of the old homestead is not known. But the settlers believe it was either burnt down or eventually fell prey to the elements.

When John Gordon bought land at Eureka he built a new homestead on Eureka Hill. He immediately set about restoring the site to its former glory. His new home had twelve rooms including a dark room, store room, two rooms for issuing implements to the workers, a wash-house, coal room and a fruit room.

At some point the Gordons apparently ran short of paint or wallpaper - one of the bedrooms was papered with pictures from the *Auckland Weekly News*, dated between 1904 and 1905. There was a large lawn at the front of the homestead and even a flagpole which stands on the property today. The homestead was often used as a meeting place by the early

settlers whenever there were important community issues to be discussed. Mr Gordon took an active role in Eureka's community life. Once jokingly he complained that he had been pitchforked into shouldering the many public duties he took on. He also began a magnificent plantation on the estate.

Beautiful English trees were planted over nearly 1.6 hectares. Almost every tree imaginable those days was planted in the orchard - walnuts, chestnuts, monkey puzzles, gums, wattles, pines, oaks, linden trees and bamboo. The camellias now reaching for the sky form almost an avenue on what is today Masters' Hill.



The Gordon homestead.

For many years the Eureka School used the homestead's plantation for picnics and the trees cast a bit of welcome shade on the young picnickers.

The carriage drive to the homestead was again planted with borders of flowers. In its heyday it was an oft-used and admired drive which led all the way out to Hinton Road. Now overgrown, only the occasional hardy Belladonna lily still graces the disused path.

Near the homestead there stood a fully equipped blacksmith's shop, a few cottages for married couples breaking in the land, outhouses and a bunkhouse for the farm-hands. A large two-storeyed barn at the back of the house provided stables for work horses and was well equipped with stalls, feed and chaff bins. The barn was also used to store traps and buggies. Woolsheds were popular venues for dances then and the loft of the old barn was frequently used as an entertainment area by the workers. The teamsters working the land were housed in a large bunkhouse with twelve bunks and an open fireplace for cooking their meals.

The surrounding countryside in the early 1900s was dotted with rambling homesteads and small cottages for the teamsters. Some of the old homesteads were brought by rail from the Waihi goldmines. Slowly the cottages disappeared and much later were replaced by sharemilkers' homes.

Mr Gordon sold the homestead block to Mr Frederick French Pemberton. But before he left the district on a wet miserable Tuesday night in May 1908 he was given a heart-warming farewell by forty settlers at a reception held at Eureka School.

The Pemberton family came north from Rangiwahia, bush country near the Ruahine Range. Mr Pemberton's daughter, Mrs Alice Potts, recalled her father had bought a block of land in the area a year after he married. That settlement is called Pemberton today.

"Moving to Eureka was all great excitement for us because we had to drive to the nearest railway station at Mangaweka.

The buggy and horses were sent as far as they could go up the railway. But there was a big break where the railway had not been finished," said Mrs Potts.

"We proceeded to drive and ride across that stretch of country and got on the train at Taumaranui."

Frederick and Janet Pemberton had four children: Archie, Ruby, Alice and Kathleen. The girls attended Eureka School, their father being school treasurer in 1911-12. The family kept the grounds of the homestead like a park carrying on the Gordon tradition. They stayed at Eureka for five years and then moved to Karapiro.

The farm was sold to Mr Mel Masters, formerly a Kaitaia storekeeper. With his wife Celia and four children (Cyril,

Lester, Julie and Ernest) he moved to Eureka in January 1913. From the day they moved in the local school teachers boarded with the family. Mel and Celia both took an active part in the school and district, all their children attending the local school. Most families in the district played tennis on the beautifully kept lawn court.

The farm was approximately 212 hectares when the Masters bought it and included the land on the opposite side of Eureka Road. The barn was used chiefly as a stable and the blacksmith's shop was unused - except by the children who found it a marvellous playground.

The roomy old mansion however was still in excellent condition. Candles and lamps were still in use as the area had not yet been electrified. The only telephone was at the Eureka Post Office.

The Masters briefly moved out of the homestead when they sold it in 1918 to Mr Thomas Luxton. When they regained the property in 1922 the Gordon homestead, which had stood on the site since 1898, had been burnt to the ground. All that remained were four chimneys, the outbuildings and a heap of old rubbish.

Mr Lurton had put a bore down when he farmed the land.

The water from that bore is still in use today; only the pumps need periodic renewal. The water is still pure and beautiful.

Only two sons, Cyril and Lester, moved back from Hillcrest. A house was built in 1923 on the opposite side of the road to the old homestead. This house is still standing. It was built with timber milled locally from trees on the property.

The brothers backed and worked the farm together until Cyril married Edna (nee Nixon) in 1928.

The farm was divided. Lester took over the homestead block and Cyril remained on the eastern side with the newly built home.

Cyril and Edna had two sons: Colin and Ralph. Colin died of leukaemia, aged 10 years. Their next house on the farm was built in 1934 on the right hand side of the straight to Eureka Station (Chapmans own this house now). It was built by Street Construction for five hundred pounds. Edna and Cyril's last home is still occupied by their son Ralph and his wife Anne whose four children - Lye, Janene, Geoffrey and Paul - were third generation Masters to attend Eureka School.

Lester backed in the outbuildings until he had a new home built on the same site as the original homestead and married Hermine (nee Dods) in 1929.

The grounds had been neglected between 1918 and 1922 but they restored them to their former glory. Hermine and Lester both took an active interest in the district helping at all functions and sporting events. Indoor bowls was a great interest in later years and Hermine is still much in demand

for her floral work. They had one daughter, Jill, who has lived all her life in Eureka.

She was a keen horsewoman from the age of six and also a keen tennis player on their homestead tennis court. In 1951 Jill married local storekeeper Noel Campbell, so moved only half a mile from home, moving back to a new house on the hill in 1971 to be near her parents who still reside in the homestead to this day. Jill and Noel had three children: Colin, and twins Bobbee and Ann, also third generation Masters to attend Eureka School.

Standing on Masters' hill today, the garden presents a feast of colour.

Flowers and shrubs bloom in profusion. Dahlias, roses, camellias and delphiniums vie for attention. A well-kept tennis court and beautifully laid out lawns surround the house.

And still the verdant pastures of Eureka - the wilderness long since tamed - spread out below.



First school picnic held at the Masters' homestead circa 1915.

CHAPTER 4

WILDERNESS JUNCTION

“ALL the needs of the district, whether personal or for the farm, came by train and it was a friend indeed, a haven for many a bird-nest or a childish love affair...”

Situated in the middle of the peat swamp Eureka Station was regarded as something of a wilderness junction by most travellers through the Waikato in the early 1900s. But to the prospering settlement it was an immense boon.



For until the advent of the railway, coaches were the main form of public transport in the district. Travelling by coach between the Waikato and Thames was an endurance test for many of the early settlers. Those who had journeyed between Te Aroha and Hamilton had vivid recollections of the miseries of the trip, the deplorable state of the roads, the potholes and slush. Consequently settlers in the Waikato and Thames districts eagerly awaited the day coaching would become a thing of the past. Their first glimmer of hope came in 1879. On a drizzly afternoon on May 1 that year New Zealand's Premier, Sir George Grey, turned the first sod at the Waikato end of the railway. The ceremony took place in a grass paddock at the rear of F. R. Claude's farm in Hamilton East. On October 1, 1884 their dreams were realised as the first passenger and goods train pulled into Morrinsville.

Coaching in the Piako area in the 1870's was an arduous business. Those who travelled in the vicinity in the winter or rainy season had to endure bleak scenery and wretched roads over which they had ridden or been dragged.

Coaches were often stuck in boggy patches. Serious accidents along the trail were not uncommon when horses became bogged down and threw their riders.

For bad weather trips spades and shovels were a must on coaches.

In the Piako Swamp area coaches often made a stop at the Tauwhare township. A large two-storeyed hotel was opened there in 1883 to serve the coach route. The proprietor offered beds and meals to the weary passengers.

Work on the railway line from Hamilton began at the end of 1879, two years after Sir George Grey had turned the first sod at the Thames end of the line.

The successful tenderers for the formation of the first section from Hamilton were Hunt and White of Auckland. By October 1880 they had completed the 21 kilometres stretch - at a cost of 9930 pounds. The contract for the "permanent way" of the Eureka contract was given to Mullinger and Brett. The 27 kilometres cost 11,943 pounds to complete.

Work on the Morrinsville contract began in June 1881 and was completed by the autumn of 1882. It cost 3494 pounds and the work was carried out by W. Lovett of Hamilton.

Communities for miles around anxiously watched the progress. A Te Aroha correspondent for the Waikato Times wrote in May 1884: "Much satisfaction is felt here with the progress made on the Eureka section of the railway that is to connect us with the Waikato. The rails are now linked nearly to Morrinsville and it is hoped that in two or at most three months the line to that place will be in full operation." In the meantime tenders for the construction of the stations were called.

The contract which would have included Eureka was given to W. Cameron and Price and Malcolm. Engineering problems in the construction of the Hamilton bridge held up the opening of the line. Finally, on January 8, 1884 the first trolley went across the bridge and the first engine crossed it - at five miles an hour. In October that year a new era in the history of the Piako district was inaugurated with the opening of the line.

“All who are interested in the prosperity of the Waikato may now look with satisfaction to the vast tract of valuable country which this extension of the railway has now opened up to settlement,” wrote a Waikato Times correspondent.

“Though the country between this district and Morrinsville has been in the hands of Europeans for many years past, settlement on anything like an extensive or progressive scale has been greatly retarded by the miserable means of communication which an indifferently formed surface road has afforded.”

And though the opening of the railway was greeted with cheers in Morrinsville, the location of Eureka Station was a sore point for some of Eureka’s residents. Most of the farms situated near the Cambridge-Morrinsville road were some distance from the station. The settlers there felt the station, flanked by ti-tree, flax and rushes was built out in the wilderness.

‘J’ locomotive hauling a mixed train through Eureka bound for Tauranga, December 1949.



PHOTOS: Joe Terry

The Waikato Times comments on Eureka Station were in the same vein:

The country passed through on a trip to Morrinsville is certainly anything but of an encouraging and picturesque character. On the contrary it is exceedingly disappointing and is not likely to favourably impress the mind of a visitor. After passing through Claude's bush the train emerges on the vast swamp property of the (New Zealand) Land Association.

And now a dreary ride through a veritable waste commences, altogether unequalled in railway travelling in the province. The swamp is about 11 miles across and in places seems to extend on either side almost to the horizon.

...To all appearances the Eureka Station is isolated from the outside world. It is well in the middle of the swamp and the road giving access to it if it is intended that the station shall be of any practical utility to the district might profitably be reformed and otherwise improved.

The Eureka homestead with its well planted surroundings is the only attractive feature in the vicinity.

Eureka Station had at least three rooms as it was graded a fourth class station. There were railway houses for the station agent and gangers who worked on maintaining the line. These were probably erected while the tracks were

being laid. The station buildings sat out on the swamp on the south side of the line. The goods shed, cattle yards and station-masters house were on the opposite side.

At some point the goods shed must have been removed as in November 1907 a deputation from Eureka called on the Premier. They urged him to install a goods shed and improve postal facilities in the district.

The farmers complained that they had suffered heavy losses as their manure and other goods had been damaged by water seepage. They called for adequate shelter to handle the goods in wet weather and some kind of system to alert settlers when their goods arrived at Eureka.

By 1908 a new shed had been erected. Fixed signals and a tablet system came into use. The tablet method was a token system which allowed the driver to proceed to the next station once he had received the tablet at Eureka.

As the track was built on peat over the Eureka stretch, the community's, old-timers recall watching the track move up and down on the springy peat as the express trains thundered past. But when the station first opened only one train passed through. It left Morrinsville at 9.35 am and arrived in Frankton an hour later, returning from Hamilton at 2.40 pm.



The station as it was in 1956 looking from Hamilton.



Two mixed trains crossing at Eureka. December 1949.



Waggons waiting on the Eureka siding.

By 1915 the passenger and goods trains through Eureka were frequent. The station became the community's, lifeline. Stock used to be loaded on at 8.00 am and reached the Frankton yards by 9.30 am. Farmers living near the station sent their cream via rail to Frankton or Morrinsville. When the butter factory and later the cheese factory were built at Eureka many of the factory's, supplies came by rail.

Timetables were flexible then. The engine drivers knew most of the farmers who used the trains regularly. They stopped and waited if they sighted a cream cart clattering down Station Road (Eureka Road). On odd occasions the station-master let the children wave the red or green flags to passing trains and the drivers in turn whistled a "hello".

The older children used the trains to ride into Hamilton to high school. Their milking duties done, they had just enough time to get spruced up before they charged across the paddocks or galloped down to the station just in time to hop on.

The horizons for entertainment expanded. The Te Aroha races provided a welcome respite for the farmers while their wives took time out to go shopping in Hamilton. Gone were the days of travelling into Hamilton by horse and gig.

The annual Ngaruawahia regatta for many years was a special family outing. The train ride there and the regatta were a special treat for the children.

The station was eventually closed down when the passenger trains were taken off. The familiar sight of gangers pulling themselves along the tracks on hand-worked jiggers disappeared. Only goods trains still passed through to the East Coast. The Rotorua railcar ceased running on November 12, 1968 and the railcar to Te Puke was stopped in 1967.

The station staff and their families were part of the Eureka community.

Two of the longest serving station families were the Tom Dawsons and Mr and Mrs Harry Cronin. The Cronin family came to Eureka in 1945 and their children, John, Margaret, Lois and Pamela all attended school in Eureka. The whole family played a very active role in the community being involved in everything from Social Club to tennis and bowls. Harry is remembered for his part in skits at concerts. It was all great fun and they were missed on their departure in 1959.

Some of the staff who have served at Eureka Station are: J. Clemmelt, W. Walker, Hodgson, J. Holt, T. Dawson, J. Peebles, T. Cork, E. Murray, C. Hale, E. Hunter N. Kaire, J. Hale, D. Love, Tairi, B. Kingi, C. Gaylard, Bromley Whitely, J. Nesdale, H. Cronin, Brierley, L. Taylor, J. Heke, Bryant, Terry, McCarthy, W. Johnston, R. McIlwraith and F. Petrocivitch.

The tracks, once level with the road, now lie high above it. The peat on either side has subsided more than two metres over the years. The station buildings and houses have long since gone, some of them sold and others pulled down. (The goods shed is for example still in use on Van Vugts' farm). The place, so often a hive of activity for the early settlers lay disused for many a year.

But on October 16, 1983 sixty-four Eureka residents once more flagged down a train. The special excursion train was put on by the Morrinsville and Hamilton East Lions Clubs and made a special stop at Eureka. It took them on a day trip to Mount Maunganui and returned to Hamilton with a stop at the junction in the wilderness to let off its Eureka passengers.

*The express from Rotorua on
the main line at Eureka, 1957.*



CHAPTER 5

BUTTER AND BACON DAYS

LIKE the mythical phoenix, the Eureka Butter Factory has continued to rise anew since 1903. It has weathered several fires, different owners - even bullet holes! Today it sits on a farm in Eureka, its role much altered from its earlier function. Over the years it has been a butter factory, cheese factory, produced hay barns and chips and was a depot for a transport company!



Originally operated by the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company it was first called the Eureka Co-operative Dairy Company and owned eight hectares at Eureka. From 1903 on it churned out butter under its own name: Eureka.

The Eureka company also owned a Creamery at Tauwhare which it operated till 1917 when it sold part of the four hectare property to Mr William Edward Jones. The company still retained two hectares until the early twenties.

In the pioneering stage of the dairy industry, farmers delivered their whole milk to a nearby Creamery where it was separated and the cream was then carted to a centralised factory for butter manufacture. This may have been the case at Eureka. In 1909 there were 28 suppliers to the skimming station at Tauwhare. By 1915 there were 38, falling away to 25 by 1917. From 1909 many farmers took up “home separation”, separating the milk on the farm and some sent their cream by rail to the factories at Frankton or Morrinsville.

The Eureka Butter Factory was situated on Hunter Road, then called Factory Road. The first building was made of wood and was managed by Mr William George Jackways. He was succeeded by Mr Ken Campbell. Mr Jack Falconer was manager between 1911 and 1918. Five Falconer children went to the school: Alice, Frances, Mace, Reid and Herbert.

Dairying then was not the specialised industry it is now. Times were hard and the revenue gained from supplying milk helped to boost the struggling farmer’s income. Milking was not allowed to interfere with normal farming operations. The family was up at 4am, the cows were milked and the milk taken to the factory before the day’s farm work began.

A steady stream of carts and waggons pulled into the factory in the mornings. The daily trip was a meeting point - a chance to tell a tall tale or exchange a joke. Then there were races home down the Old Factory Road.

Contraptions used then were often dangerous, not only to the driver but to others on the road, too. Mr Billy Field, a settler of Friedlander Road, was a familiar sight on Station Road riding on his spring cart pulled by a faithful old horse.

As he sedately made his way down the road to the station with his cream, the wheels would suddenly come apart, the cream cans clattering off the cart.

The spokes on the wooden wheels were notorious as they used to dry and shrink in the summer.

When the milk was unloaded it was sampled, graded and weighed. Each farmer received the whey from the milk he supplied. Pigs were reared on most farms as the whey was fed to them and they provided an extra source of income. Hence the label “butter and bacon factories”. In 1907 the factory was gutted by fire and the farmers took their milk to Tauwhare while the new factory was being built.

On a blustery spring day the new Eureka Butter Factory was opened by the Member for the district, Mr Greenslade.

Almost 300 settlers attended the opening held on September 8, 1909. The brick building erected on the old site contained a separating room, manufacturing room, insulated chamber and engine room. It was built by J. T. Julian and Company and cost 200 pounds. With all the new equipment the factory's output was expected to reach 152 tonnes of butter.

A patent American hoist was erected behind the milk shed - the first of its kind in New Zealand and the engine, boiler and refrigerator were thoroughly overhauled.

By 1918 this factory was run by the New Zealand Dairy Association. The NZDA operated on the basis of its creamery stations some of which supplied the Eureka Factory. Cream was brought to Eureka from Matangi, Orini, Gordonton and other nearby districts. In 1919 the major dairy companies in the South Auckland area amalgamated and formed the New Zealand Co-operative Dairy Company which ran the Eureka Factory till it shut down.

Some of Eureka's inhabitants had contracts to cart butter from the factory to the station. Mr George

Hinton had the job for a while. Each day, laden with butter containers, he headed off down Station Road. Flanked by wide drains, the road was often boggy. On odd occasions the drays became stuck in the mud. Mr Hinton's method of extricating them was simply to throw a few containers over the side. The load lightened, they proceeded on.

The demise of the factory came in 1921 - again destroyed by fire. Only the shell remained which a local farmer used as a storage shed. But by 1923 another building was erected on the site: a cheese factory. In the meantime the farmers had taken their milk to Matangi.

Tenders were called for the metalling of the road leading to the rise on which the new factory was to be built. Mr John Hooper was given the contract.



Mr Jackways and his First Assistant, Mr Campbell, outside the original Eureka Dairy Company's factory with some of the early suppliers in 1904.

The Hooper family shifted to Eureka in 1920 and settled in Hooper Road. They started a carting business in the twenties which grew to become Eureka Transport, a family concern until 1980.

With a dray borrowed from a friend, and two horses, Mr Hooper carted the metal from the station to the site. It was shovelled on by hand and he was paid four shillings and sixpence a yard. W. B. Young of Hamilton won the contract for building the factory; Mr Hooper carted the timber and shingle from the station. He also put down a bore for the water used at the factory.

The cheese factory comprised portions of the former Eastport Road factory, which was situated in the Waitoa area. It was then the Thames Valley Co-operative Dairy Company. It came by rail to Eureka and was reassembled and joined onto the old shell of the butter factory. The cheese factory was the 16th built by the company and cost 5500 pounds.

It was equipped with vats, a regenerative pasteuriser, cooler, milk weigher, agitator and whey separator. In its first season it was supplied with milk from 1000 cows and this increased to 1800.

Before 9 am each day the farmers arrived with their 30 gallon cans of milk.

The cans were slid onto the landing stage and the contents tipped into the vats. Often the horses bolted onto neighbouring farms with the farmers in hot pursuit.

The cheese-making process took about eight hours and when the workers knocked off at five, the vats were scrubbed clean ready for the next day. The cheeses weighed about 36 kilos a block and were packed in crates and railed to Auckland.

The first cheese factory manager was Hugh Gilmer (1924-1928). He and Maggie had seven children - Nancy, Jean, Molly, Martin, Hughie, Thelma and Jessie - who all attended Eureka school.

Mr Cuthbert Cresswell was the second manager and the family resided at Eureka from 1928 till 1942. Six workers were also employed and they lived in a cottage on the factory grounds.

The Cresswell kids - Henry, Clarry, Jessie, Athol, Donald and Billy - are well-remembered in the community for their antics and pranks. They spent many happy hours fooling around the factory sticking their fingers in the cheese and sampling the contents. On a hot day vats were handier than the Waitakaruru Stream. As they held 2700 litres of milk and were about a metre in depth the children filled them up with water and dived in.

Athol Cresswell, one of the older children, had a burning ambition to be a pilot, so the vats served yet another purpose.

Armed with a sheet he “flew” off the vats with his parachute - the short flight ended in the bushes.

However, the training paid off. During World War II Athol Cresswell became a night fighter pilot and flew over Germany in 1942. For his efforts he received a Distinguished Flying Cross.

The cheese factory also had its fair share of fires. In the summer of 1934-35 one of Mr. Cresswells sons, Clary, headed back to Eureka after attending a dance at Motomaoho.

The glow from the fire could be seen from quite a distance. As he neared Eureka around two a.m. he spotted the fire and tooted his horn. Quickly the taps were turned on and the vats filled with water. The farmers rallied round, formed a bucket brigade and finally put out the fire. It had been caused by the coal stored in the old butter factory catching alight by spontaneous combustion.

The settlers saved the company some 10,000 pounds. Their reward? Those involved received a pound each! During the Second World War cheesemaking became an essential industry and all farmers were directed to supply their nearest factory. The Eureka factory operated around the clock with a day and night shift.

Those who could not go to war served in the Home Guard. One of the factory hands became increasingly depressed that he could not join the soldiers. One night when the Home Guard was at rifle practice he committed suicide at the factory - the bullet holes are still visible.

The factory finally closed in August 1945. The last manager was Bill McPartland. At first milk was taken to Matangi after collection from a dump opposite the store but later milk tanker collection took over.

The land and building was put up for auction in 1958 and was purchased by Mr Ted Hunter whose farm bordered the factory site. The building remained unused for some years and was then leased to Mr Johnny O'Neill for five years.

He built round hay barns at the factory. Today those barns can be seen dotted on various farms throughout the North Island. When he shifted out of the locality the building reverted to a farm storage shed.

In 1970 Mr Fife Anderson of Cambridge leased it and opened a potato factory. At first the factory pre-packed potatoes in ten pound bags. The business prospered and diversified. The building was renovated and soon goods trucks were pulling up at Eureka, off-loading tonnes of potatoes. Peeled potatoes, chips and the tiny round potatoes often served with meals on overseas flights on Air New Zealand were produced at the factory. By 1977 33 people were employed there. But after eight successful years Mr

Anderson moved to Cambridge and the potato factory closed down.

Eureka Transport then bought the factory and used it as a depot but the family sold the business in 1980 and the building was regained by the Hunter family.

In 1981 it was again auctioned off and Maurice Torr purchased the site. The factory still sits on the site, sometimes used as a storage shed. But it may yet again be given a new lease on life. Its present owner is toying with the idea of turning it into a country club!



The old factory.



A bach used by factory workers circa 1930.

CHAPTER 6

THE FOUNT OF KNOWLEDGE AND NEWS

PERSEVERANCE paid in many ways for the settlement's pioneers. One of their many success stories is Eureka School.

Back in 1903 they began to push for a school at Eureka. On behalf of the settlers, Mr John Gordon wrote to the Auckland Education Board on January 12 that year. He pointed out there were 23 school age children at Eureka and 14 under school age; he also offered a free site for the school.



The letter was signed by J. McClennan, M. Mulcahy, W. G. Jackways, T. Hinton, J. Roche, D. Tribe, M. Murphy, H. Lock and J. Gordon.

But the Board felt the Eureka community would not last long and suggested the children attend Tauwhare or Marshmeadow schools. By June 1903 the settlers again attempted to cajole the board by stating they would erect the building on the donated site or make a donation towards one. They were again turned down.

By October there were 30 children over seven and 23 under. The school age children were trekking seven kilometres to school and back every day. The parents had had enough. They wrote to the Board and this time the inspector Mr E. K. Mulgan met them and it was decided that the Tauwhare school would be shifted to Eureka. An access road was to be formed and it was to be sited on Hooper Road. This created a furore in Tauwhare and the proposal was dropped.

Refusing to be thwarted, early in 1904 Eureka residents offered the Board 50 pounds towards the cost of the school. A school room, seven metres by three metres went up on the donated site. The school today is still located on its original site - at the crossroads of the main highway, Eureka and Hunter Roads.

The origins tiny one-roomed building had two windows and a porch and cost 325 pounds 16 shillings and 11 pence. It was situated on the corner of the present school grounds near the

road. The only access to the school and the farms situated on Station Road was a wee wooden bridge just wide enough to take horses and waggons.

It opened on May 2, 1904 with 23 pupils and one teacher, Miss Lucy Bell.

The first day was chaotic as the school was equipped with little more than a blackboard, a few desks and a table. Fortunately, the business of making out the school roll and arranging the class occupied most of the day. An older pupil was despatched to Hamilton to buy the necessary supplies and then school began.

Children in those times worked hard - both at home and at school. Those who were old enough had to be up at 4am to milk the cows. When they returned home from school the cows had to be milked again. Many attended school just for a "bit of a sleep" according to an ex-Eureka resident, Mr Tom Muir.

Many rode to school and the school grounds doubled as a horse paddock and a playground. There were fat Shetland ponies, cantankerous old nags and gentle mares. One family, the Leasks, sent four of their children to school astride Bumbly - a tall, dark bay mare with a long neck and a Roman nose. She died in 1937 from a mishap. Some of the kids hitched rides to school on farmers' milk carts or in later years on the local store's delivery van. The boys often turned up to school in bare feet.

“We used to be the first to break the ice on the puddles on the road with our toes on the way to school, that is if we were quick enough and beat one of the other kids,” recalled Mr Harry Clarkin who attended in 1918. “We played King of Sinai, Red Rover, hares and hounds, marbles, hide and seek and the girls played hopscotch and basketball and we all fished for penny doctors and played sardines.”

The teachers seldom spared the rod then and the children in turn got their own back. Canes were often hidden. The teacher’s desk was once filled with creepy crawlies. Once the teacher walked in to find all the desks suspended from the ceiling! By the close of 1905, 39 children were crowded into the little room. A new half-hectare site was purchased for 15 pounds and a new school for 45 children was erected for 254 pounds and 10 shillings. The new premises were occupied on February 26, 1907. By 1909 an assistant teacher was also appointed - Miss E. M. Walker.

The new schoolroom was divided by a curtain so two classes could be held. Many of the children were roasted alive if they sat too close to the coal stove. Still others froze on chilly winter mornings as they did their sums on cold slates.

By 1915 the original schoolroom had become Eureka’s Post Office.

The annual school picnic became a feature of Eureka School. Every year the children walked up to the Eureka

homestead’s plantation and frolicked under the shade of the trees. On Arbour Day they planted trees at the school. The row of trees stretched all along what is today the boundary of the school.

Former pupils still fondly remember their days at Eureka. One ex-pupil, Mrs Sophie Cameron (nee Leask), penned her memories in the Eureka School Diamond Jubilee booklet:

“... I remember Eureka School. Inside intense boredom but outside there was so much beauty. The lovely lane running beside the row of poplar, almost divided by two hawthorn hedges, which is now a busy main road, was the road we called the blind road. There were some beautiful shrubs in the school garden. Rhododendrons, flowering cherries, conifers, wisteria and roses; and an eleagnus hedge where we got very good horse sticks. We shared the playground with the horses. It seemed an admirable arrangement. While we were in the school they grazed the whole of the paddocks and mowed the grass and when we wanted to play they moved off into the northern corner ...”

Once a month they trudged off to Eureka Station to catch the 8.50 am train to Hamilton Technical College. The boys were taught woodwork and the girls attended cooking classes. A complete waste of time but good fun. Once the children passed standard six they used to catch the train into Hamilton to attend college.

By 1917 the roll had grown to 52 and by 1921 a second classroom had been added at a cost of 464 pounds. Later a shelter shed costing 53 pounds, bike sheds, a pump house and tennis court were built.

During the war years school continued. Vina Gee (nee Inglis) recalled: "On the whole they were a tough, healthy lot as absenteeism was noted for its absence. During those wartime years we did not look for improvements - just strived to maintain the status quo. We were very patriotic.

We sang patriotic songs...Air raid shelters were dug under the hedges and we practised filing out in an orderly manner with our ear muffs at the ready..."

In September 1953 the school committee held a meeting to discuss building a swimming pool. Each member gave a generous donation and it was decided to canvass the district to raise enough money to start the project. With an Education Board subsidy of 350 pounds plus a grant of 65 pounds towards the cost of a water supply, a roster system for the labour was drawn up and in 1956 Eureka School had its swimming pool.



EUREKA SCHOOL 1938

Front row: Phillipa Harington, Graeme Sanders, Donald Cresswell, Colin Masters, Barbara Hinton, Shirley Duncan, Margaret Jones, Ralph Masters, Betty Powdrill, June Powdrill.
 Second row: Jill Masters, Vincent Jones, Gladys Muir, Lois Sanders, Doras Dalziel, Alva Hinton, Edith Jamieson, Barbara Sanders, Hilda Powdrill, Margaret Harington.
 Third row: Phyllis Harris, Bruce McClennan, Russell Bargh, Richard Harington, Tom Hinton, Wesley Muir, Laurence Hinton, Jean Inglis, Dulcie Harris.
 Back row: Peter Duncan, Roy Larsen, David Jamieson, Peter Harris.

In 1962 - at a cost of 6,640 pounds-the two small classrooms were remodelled into one and a new classroom and administration facilities were added.

The school was decapitated in 1970 with the Form One and Two pupils attending Intermediate school in Hamilton from then on. Late in 1978 the possibility of acquiring a school library was considered.

The South Auckland Education Board told the school committee that the size of the school made it ineligible for a library but it would be willing to assist if the residents provided a building.

A meeting was held and the proposal was

unanimously approved. Within days a building had been found on a demolition site. The Board approved it and the Eureka PTA bought it. With the Boards help the building was renovated, equipped and formally opened at the school's 75th Jubilee in 1979.

On July 10, 1962 a meeting was called to form a Parent Teacher Association for Eureka School at which there were 32 people present. Mr M. E. Duncan, school committee chairman, chaired the meeting. Mr P. Schollum was guest speaker on the Parent Teacher movement. Mr L. Freeth, headmaster, put the teachers' viewpoint. It was moved that a PTA be formed and an election of officers was held. The first committee members were: chairman, Noel Campbell; secretary, Mrs T. McClennan, committee, Mrs E. Johns, Mrs A. Pemberton, Mr D. Branch, Mr C. Purvis, Mr G. Gray.

A membership fee of 5 shillings per family was decided upon.

Later in the year Mr Gordon Edwards began organising card evenings under the auspices of the PTA. An enthusiastic and hardworking PTA has been operating ever since, raising money through stalls at sports days and group days, holding gala days, bobby calf drives, levying school fees and even holding a casino evening. Over the years since its inception the PTA has furnished the school with a record player,



LEFT: Construction of school swimming pool 1955-56.



*RIGHT: Eureka 'B' Netball Team 1964
Suzanne Peters
Ann Campbell
Bobbee Campbell
Susan Johns
Diane Flavell
Carol Gray*

books, encyclopaedias, tea wagon, typewriter, football jerseys, netball uniforms, listening post, tape recorder, musical instruments, tennis net and has contributed towards the building of the adventure playground, the sand pit, slide, library and video equipment.

Major PTA office holders since its formation have been:

	Chairman	Sec/Treasurer
1963-1967	Noel Campbell	Muriel McClennan
1968-1971	Graham Mayall	Margaret Duncan
1972	Graham Mayall	Bev Kimber
1973-1974	Graeme Kimber	Bev Kimber
1975-1976	Graeme Kimber	Pam Hinton
1977	Kevin Buckley	Gail Mayall
1978-1979	Robyn Bargh	Gail Mayall
1980-1981	Chris Irvine	Delwyn Kimber
1982	Chris Irvine	Diane Barker
1983-1984	Glynis Hinton	Diane Hinton

Since 1904 the school has celebrated three jubilees. On May 29, 1954 the school’s first teacher, by then Mrs Alex Ramsay, rang the old school bell again and opened the Golden Jubilee celebrations. Mrs Ramsay and the first enrolled pupil, Mrs R. Stokes (Rita Murphy), cut the specially prepared jubilee cakes.

The Diamond Jubilee, held on May 22, 1965 was again blessed with fine weather. Well attended by ex-pupils and

former teachers, the day went with a swing. Its 75th Jubilee, held on a cold bleak morning in May 1979 still did not deter Eureka old-timers from returning to their *alma mater*. The speeches over, school was out and young and old enjoyed the lunch, banquet and ball held that day.

Today Eureka School has three classrooms, a library, swimming pool, tennis court, a large playing field and is equipped with many modern teaching aids.

Since its inception it has stood at the crossroads, a monument to the enthusiasm, generosity and dedication of Eureka’s settlers.



EUREKA SCHOOL 75th JUBILEE COMMITTEE — 1979

Back, l to r: H. Van Woerden, B. Harris, B. Mayall, R. Masters, M. Duncan, H. Masters, T. Hinton, R. Peters.

Centre: G. Mayall, K. Clarkin, R. Townsend, H. Clarkin, B. Gordon, R. Langdon, R. Moltzen, L. Masters.

Front: T. McClennan, N. Carmont, L. Buckley, N. Campbell, F. Hinton, N. Stockman, K. Stockman, V. Pollock, P. Harris.

Below: Construction of school adventure playground 1978.



SCHOOL COMMITTEES

For the first ten years there was a committee of seven but no names are available.

1904 to 1907 Mr J. L. Roche was Commissioner.

	CHAIRMAN	SEC/TREASURER	COMMITTEE
1907	J.R. Hethrington	T. Clarkin	
1908	T. Hinton	T. Clarkin	
1911	T. Hinton	F.F.Pemberton	J.McClennan T.Clarkin
1913	T. Hinton	E.M. Masters	T. Clarkin J .A. Falconer
1914	T. Hinton	E.M . Masters	J.H.Marston J .A.Falconer W.McHardy M.J .Mulcahy T.Clarkin
1916	T. Hinton	J .A. Falconer	J.McClennan T.Ciarkin J.OHara E.M.Masters

	CHAIRMAN	SEC/TREASURER	COMMITTEE
1917	T. Hinton	J .A.Falconer	R.Casey J .OHara J.McClennan
1918	J. OHara	T.Clarkin	McKelvie W.Leask J.G.Muir
1919	J. OHara	T.Clarkin	M.Townsend J .H.Clarkin W.Leask
1920	A. Johns	T.Inglis	W.Leask C.McGough T.Luxton
1921	T. Lurton	T.Inglis	R.Townsend W.Leask Montieth
1922	T. Luxton	T.Inglis	R.Townsend W.Leask S.B.Larsen
1923	J. Ol-Iara	T.Inglis	R.Townsend Montieth G.Hinton

	CHAIRMAN	SEC/TREASURER	COMMITTEE
1924	J. OHara	J.Inglis	R.Townsend A. Johns G.Hinton
1925	R. Townsend	T. Inglis	S.B.Larsen G.Hinton H.Gilmer
1926	R. Townsend	T. Inglis	A.Johns G.Nixon H.Gilmer
1929	G. Hinton	T. Inglis	R.Townsend G.Nixon E.Hunter
1930	P.Shine	C. Harington	G.Hinton H.Cresswell E.Hunter
1932-1934	P. Shine was appointed Commissioner - No Elections		
1934	M.E.Harington	Mrs Cresswell	Mrs Johns G.Hinton A.G.Powdrill

	CHAIRMAN	SEC/TREASURER	COMMITTEE
1936	M.E.Harington	Mrs Cresswell	Mrs McClennan C.V.Masters A.G.Powdrill
1938	M.E.Harington	Mrs Cresswell	Mrs McClennan C.V.Masters A.G.Powdrill
1940	A.G. Powdrill	Mrs Hinton	K.Inglis C.V.Masters C.E.W.Edwards
1942	A.G. Powdrill	C.E.W. Edwards	K.Inglis C.V.Masters L.G.I-Iarris
1944	C.V.Masters	J.R. Inglis	K.Inglis Mrs Powdrill L.G. Harris
1946	J.L. Michell	J.R. Inglis	F.Pinfold Mrs Powdrill A.G. Smith
1948	A.G. Smith	J.R. Inglis	F.Pinfold P.R.Inglis W.G.Williamson

	CHAIRMAN	SEC/TREASURER	COMMITTEE
1950	P.R. Inglis	J.R. Inglis	F.Pinfold G.T.Hodgson A.G.Smith
1951	P.R. Inglis	J.R. Inglis	F.Pinfold G.T.Hodgson A.G.Smith
1953	A.G. Smith	F.J. Hinton	W.Saunder M.E.Duncan Mrs J.Larsen
1955	A.G. Smith	Mrs J. Larsen	F.J.Hinton M.E.Duncan R.G.Townsend
1957	A.G. Smith	F.J. Hinton	W.Saunders M.E.Duncan R.G.Townsend
1959	M.E. Duncan	F.J. Hinton	A.D.Flavell S.E.Peters R.G.'Townsend
1961	M.E. Duncan	F.J.Hinton	A.D.Flavell S.E.Peters R.G.Townsend

	CHAIRMAN	SEC/TREASURER	COMMITTEE
1963	M.E. Duncan	R.G. Townsend	R.IR.Masters S.E.Peters F.Waite
1965	M.E. Duncan	R.G. Townsend	R.R.Masters S.E.Peters H.vanWoerden
1967	R.R. Masters	G. Edwards	J .A. Stockman P.J.Harris H.vanWoerden
1969	P.J. Harris	W. Pollock	R.Duncan Mrs C.Hinton R.D.Kimber
1971	P.J. Harris	W. Pollock	R.Duncan Mrs C.Hinton R.D.Kimber
1973	G.V. Mayall	R.D. Kimber	R.Landon S.Willets Mrs M.Phillips
1975	G.V. Mayall	M. MacDonald	R.Landon F.W.Appleton Mrs M.Phillips

	CHAIRMAN	SEC/TREASURER	COMMITTEE
1977	F.W. Appleton	Mrs M. Phillips	B.Mayall B.F.Gordon Mrs L.Buckley
1979	F.W. Appleton	Mrs L. Buckley	B.Mayall B.F.Gordon Mrs D.Ammann
1981	B.F. Gordon	Mrs L. Buckley	B.Mayall G.Savage Mrs L.Brewer
1983	B.F. Gordon	Mrs L. Buckley	G.Savage Mrs L.Brewer



EUREKA SCHOOL 'A' RUGBY TEAM 1975
 Back row, l to r:Mr Peter Clark, Principal and coach; Kevin Mayall, Steven Clark, David Clark, Greg Ward, Darryl Kimber.
 Front row: Craig Madsen, Peter Tims, Peter Mayall, David Phillips, Keith Lawrence, Philip Clark.



Left: Calf club

Eureka School Staff (As far as can be ascertained)		
Miss Bell	1904-1914	Headteacher
Miss Walker	1909-1912	
Miss Carley	1912	
Mr Arthur Benton	1914	Headteacher
Miss Cooke	1914-1915	
Miss Ruth Munro	1918	
Miss Given	1916	
Miss Wilson		
Miss Turney		
Miss Towers		
Miss Rose	1924	
Miss Fitzgerald		
Mr Kilfoyle		
Mr Le Petite	1925-1927	
Mr Snell		
Mr McCambridge		
Mr Bowater	-1930	Headteacher
Miss Bennett		
Miss Grant		
Mr Retter		

Miss H ODonnell	1930	Headteacher
Miss M.E.G. Archibald	1938	
Mrs T.V. Sealy	1940-1946	
Miss M.A. Still	1946	
Miss V.F. Buckland	1952	
Mr John E. Hunt	1953	Headteacher
Miss B.A. Horsfall	1956	
Mrs Valerie F. Pollock	1959	
Mr W.L. Freeth	1960	Headteacher
Miss Doreen A. Wallace	1960	
Mrs Muriel N. Shaw	1962	
Miss F. Anne J. Lovell	1964	
Mr William R.N. Tier	1964-1967	Headteacher
Miss J. Gardner	1964-1965	
Mrs D. Rowell	1965-1966	
Miss Joanne Burley	1967	
Miss W.J. Meinung	1967	
Mr Peter R. Clark	1968-1975	Headteacher
Mrs Nell L. Russell	1971-1984	
Mr Roger I. Moltzen	1977	Headteacher
Mrs Eileen Baillie	1979	

EUREKA POST OFFICE

The Eureka postmark



During its seventy-year history the small country post office at Eureka became world famous. Its date stamp was the last squared circle in use long after this type of stamp was withdrawn.

However before it was built, mail first arrived in Eureka on mail coaches.

In the late 1800's the coaches were the only form of postal service. Often they were delayed or disrupted due to bad roads. If the coach became stuck in boggy patches the driver often unhitched a horse and rode out with the mail to the farming districts. Contracts were held by various coach services for the mail delivery.

When the railway opened the mail came in by rail. The first officially recognised post office at Eureka opened on April 1, 1904. Mr W.G. Jackways, the factory manager, is listed as the first postmaster in the New Zealand Post Office records. However it was Mrs Jackways who ran the post office at her home according to Mrs A. MacLaren, one of their daughters. The mail bags were picked up at the railway station and brought to the house. The settlers were able to pick up their mail there.

The Jackways also owned the first telephone in Eureka according to Mrs Maclaren. With a telephone installed they were able to receive and send telegrams. Post Office records indicate a telephone office opened on May 22, 1907 and it would have been on a party line. Gradually 10 party lines became available prior to a 4-party line service. The Eureka Automatic Exchange which opened in September 1962 was a great step forward for the residents. Eureka is now part of the Hamilton Exchange. The first school became the Eureka Post Office in 1915. It was still situated on the original site with the new school building further back from the road.

The little room had a small counter and the average daily mail bag then contained around thirty letters.

By the twenties the mail was picked up from the station by Arthur Lock.

Just as school ended Mr Lock arrived on his horse and gig and all the children gathered round to pick up their mail.

Mrs Lily Ridgley (nee Townsend) was postmistress from December 1924 until the end of 1926, the last postmistress to work in the former school building.

During the depression of the thirties it fell into disuse and tenders were called for its removal. Eventually it was dragged down the road on two gumpoles to serve out its remaining years as a storeroom on Mr Jack Clarkin's farm. Some years later it was burnt in a peat fire.

“For thirty years it stood at the crossroads and served this district as a seat of learning and later as a calling place for residents to receive all the news - both good and bad - either by post or by gossip.” (Extract from *Eureka School*

Diamond Jubilee.)

By 1923 Eureka had acquired a general store and the post office became part of it on December 13, 1929. The store was owned by Mr Patrick Shine and his daughter Audrey ran the post office.

When they moved out of the district the post office continued to be part of the store. Most of the storekeepers devoted an hour each morning to sorting the mail. They also spent a great deal of time answering queries about the famous date stamp and franking envelopes for philatelists around the world, according to Mr Noel Campbell, Eureka's longest-serving storekeeper.



Mrs K. Langdon showing the last letter cancelled with the famous Eureka stamp.

The post office finally closed on February 7, 1975. Its last postmistress, Mrs K. Langdon, spent the last two nights stamping well over 200 letters from postal history societies and stamp collectors who wanted the closing date stamped on. By the last day all the letters were stamped and ready to be sent with the day's mail. When the post office closed its doors the wooden handled date stamp - the last of its kind in New Zealand - was sent to the Post Office museum in Wellington.

Eureka's Postmasters and Postmistresses have been:	
1904	Mr W.G. Jackways
1908	Miss Ethel Landman
1910	Miss Olive Hinton
1915	Miss Frances McClennan
1915	Miss Mary Murphy
1919	Miss Frances Falconer
1919	Miss Grace Inglis
1920	Miss Doris Rowe
1921	Miss Kathleen Porter
1924	Miss Alicia O'Hara
1924	Miss Margaret Rose
1924	Miss Lily Townsend
1927	Mr Patrick Shine
1937	Mr Charles Saward
1942	Mr Patrick Shine
1944	Mr Leslie Michell
1947	Mr Kenneth Davis
1951	Mr Noel Campbell
1971	Mrs Stuart Willets
1971	Mrs Noeline Stockman
1973	Mrs Kathleen Langdon

7/2/1975 Post Office closed.

CHAPTER 7

THE CORNER STORE

SPENDING winter camping out would be considered somewhat eccentric in today's world. The chill winter mornings, the Waikato fogs and the dismal rain were only a few of the hardships endured by the Shine family when they moved to Eureka.

But had it not been for such off-beat, adventurous souls, Eureka would never have acquired its colourful corner store.



In the autumn of 1923 Patrick Shine, his wife, May, and daughter, Audrey, visited Eureka and in 1925 returned to stay. They passed the next six months in a tent on the corner of the crossroads opposite Eureka School. During that time they built their first store. Came the spring, Eureka's local store was open for business.

The settlers welcomed the opening of the store as prior to this time many travelled by horse and gig to Hamilton to buy their monthly groceries.

Butchers, bakers and grocers from Cambridge, Morrinsville and Hamilton also called in at Eureka plying their wares. Residents recall a Mr Sarich who made monthly visits from Morrinsville. Riding in on his horse and trap he made his deliveries and took down the settlers' orders for the next month. Sugar was delivered in 70 pound bags and there were 50 pound sacks of flour. In the days before refrigerators were easily available the butchers visited twice weekly.

One butcher sat high on his cart which was loaded with various cuts of meat: He let the tail door drop and used that as his cutting board when he called on the homesteads. The meat was stored in meat safes then. Hams that were cured on the farms were hung from the ceiling in the kitchen. Travelling salesmen also called in around Christmas time selling material and other paraphernalia.

Once the Shines were in business the settlers no longer had to plan their grocery lists a month in advance. All their daily

requirements were stocked at the local store, from hardware to footwear.

Mrs Audrey Dunlop (nee Shine) was just 11 years old when her family moved to the district. Her father first latched onto the idea of a local store from talking to passing travellers, she said.

“Living in a tent seems very long ago now but at the time it was quite an adventure. About sixty years is a long time to recall and I must be the last pioneer in our family. It is amazing how we managed to keep warm without electric blankets and central heating and hardly ever caught a cold.

My father decided it would be a good corner for a store and bought the land, about three-quarters of an acre, from Mr Mel Masters and we were almost in business. It must have been a stepping out into space experience for my parents but I cannot remember ever feeling any sense of insecurity.” Their “home” that first winter measured approximately four metres by four metres. The tent was large enough to hold a double bed, a single bed and a kitchen. There were even partitions for the bedrooms. Despite the chill outside Mrs Shine managed to create a cosy atmosphere within.

“The land from the store back to the hill was rough swamp with beautiful blackberries galore - then Lester Masters developed it into good farmland and ruined the picking,” Mrs Dunlop reminisced.

“After the store opened the waggon used to call on the way home from the factory. Some fair races were run on the way to the factory and as the four roads met at our corner we witnessed a few near misses-no road code then! We soon learned which horses would kick and bite. The late Mr Townsend (the family moved to Eureka in 1917) had a white one which would bite anyone within reach and it was amazing how its neck could stretch.

“Later we delivered three days per week ...rice, sago, tapioca and sultanas were five pounds for a shilling. A large bar of soap was elevenpence ha’penny. The children spent their pennies and even if they didn’t have a large amount to spend they received good value: Sante bars, a penny; five ounces of chocolate for a shilling”.

By 1928 it was obvious that the store and the living accommodation had to be improved. A new building and living area were built and the old store was used as their garage. A mail car used to bring the mail into Eureka then and the settlers used to pick up their mail, paper and bread on their way home from the factory. Waggon and horses were always tethered outside in the early evening, their owners never missing the opportunity to catch up on the affairs of the district. From 1929 the Post Office became part of the store.

From then on for many, many years the store became the real social centre of the district.



Though accustomed to the hard work and tough lifestyle, those pioneers still managed to find the time to enjoy life. On Sundays the teenagers would gather outside the store or in the paddock opposite for a chat or a social game. The children would sing or skate on the front step of the store after school. The plum hedge which bordered the Masters’ property on Station Road was irresistible. At lunchtimes or after school the children raced down there.

The juiciest plums always seemed to be the ones at the top. Those with horses used to stand on their backs and reach up high. Townies with rustic yearnings came picnicking at Eureka and they pinched a few plums too. They never did

any damage and in those days no-one worried-there was plenty to go around.

Whenever the drains around Eureka flooded, so did the creek and the children raced off down there with their old bath tub toys. The simple pleasures of eeling or shooting birds with catapults seemed to give them hours of delight.

Swaggers with their billies on their backs were a common sight in Eureka in the early days. They never worked but were well thought of. In return for food they were quite willing to do a bit of weeding or help with some odd job. A former Eureka resident, Mr Dick Casey, said swaggers often seemed to call at their house.

“They often left a stone or a brick by the gate as a message to other swaggers that they could find a good feed in the house. They’d always get a feed and a packet of smokes.” Eureka had its share of troubles and tragedies. But always there was a friend or neighbour ready to help.

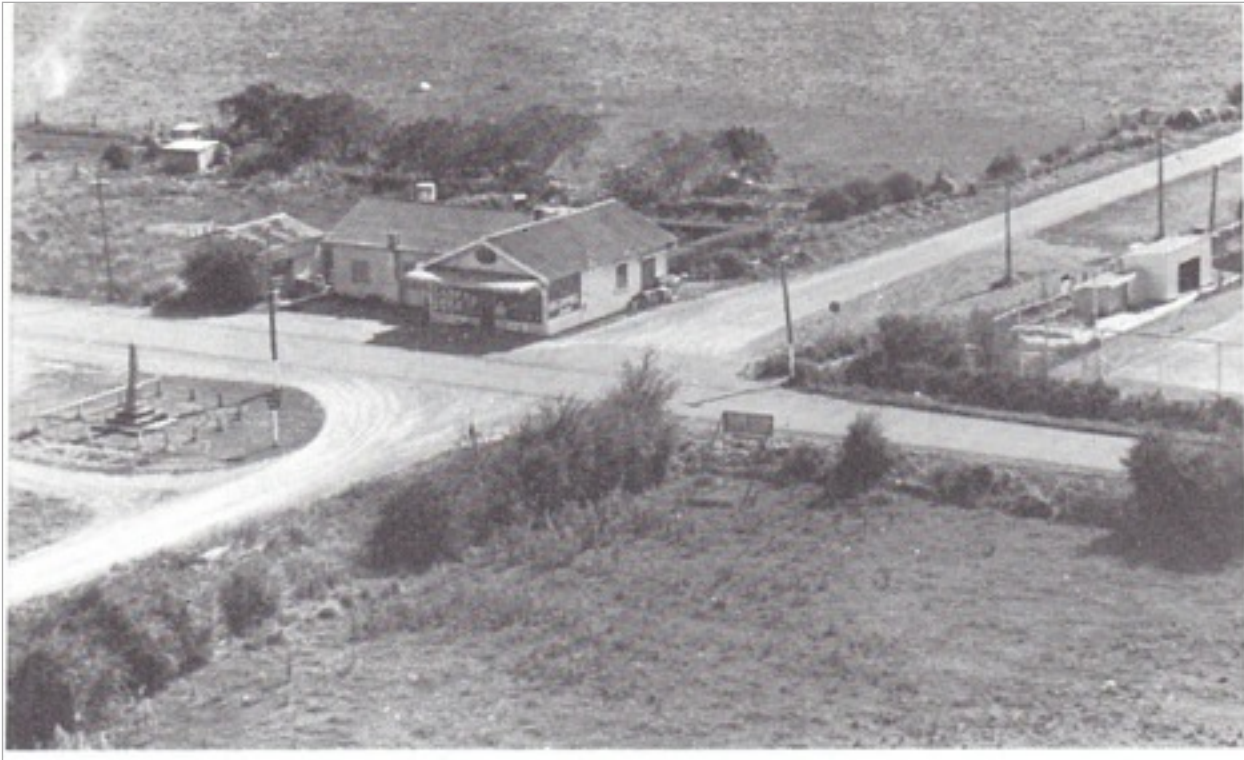
“I remember when Billy Cresswell, aged 3, (the factory manager’s son) fell into a trough and got scalded,” said Mrs Dunlop. “Another girl, Felicity Seaville, fell out of the waggon and was kicked by one of the horses. I rang the Cambridge Post Office and asked them to get someone out on the road to stop her father who was on the way to Taupo. This they did and told him to return home. Two sad events for the whole district.”

Some of the farmers’ wives were trained nurses and they were always ready to answer distress calls. Mr Roy Clarkin of Eureka said his mother was a nurse and she was called out on several occasions - to tend to the sick, the dying, someone in an accident or a woman in labour. Neighbours with cars were usually willing to drive a really sick person into Hamilton.

Personal service was a feature of the store from the beginning. Goods were always delivered to the homesteads.

One station agent’s wife, Mrs H.T. Cronin, said that the drains on Station Road used to be very treacherous, even in the forties. She was always glad when the storekeeper Les Michell made his deliveries as the children hopped onto his vehicle and were driven to school. Even in the fifties the Campbells, who owned the store then, continued the practice of giving the children who lived near the railway a lift to school.

Mr Shine even did some babysitting for the locals. Some of the parents used to drop their children off at the store on the way to a dance at the Eureka Hall. Mr Shine had five to six little ones sleeping at the store while their parents attended the dance! “We played tennis on the school court and in the evening when the light faded our store was the meeting place. Various and many were the subjects discussed and debated,” recounted Mrs Dunlop. “Dad would sometimes be referee to see that both sides had their say. Mum kept order. Politics and racing were two favourite subjects.



Above: Crossroads at Eureka showing store, cenotaph and school.

“After Guy Fawkes night we used to explode the surplus fireworks. Leaving his horses and waggon standing on the roadside Harry Clarkin, always a willing helper, lit the heap of crackers. The bang that followed so startled his elderly pair of horses that they set off at a canter for home with Harry in hot pursuit,” she said.

The Shines left Eureka temporarily in 1937 and the store was leased to Mr Charles Saward. Charles and Wake Saward had three grown children: Howard, Evelyn and Bert. The older two helped their father in the shop and Mrs Saward developed a beautiful garden on the section. She was a good tennis player.

Both sons served in the Air Force in World War Two and were killed on active service.

In 1942 the Shines returned for a two-year stint before selling the store to Mr Les Michell.

Les and Janie had two small sons, Tony and David. Tony started school at Eureka. During the war years it was difficult to keep the store running with rationing in force but the storekeepers tried to keep the favoured stocks for their regular customers. Often people passing through the area used to stop and try to buy their favourite brand of cigarettes or sweets.

Those were the days of coupon books and almost everything was rationed - butter, tea, sugar, clothing, meat.

Sugar was limited to three pounds per person per month. There were hardly any luxury items around and even biscuits and confectionery were in short supply.

In 1947 Les Michell sold to two returned servicemen friends, Ken Davis and Noel Campbell. Ken had married a nurse, ‘Mac’ who had also served overseas. She and Ken had a daughter, Carole, and son, Bryan, born during their stay in Eureka. When Noel and Ken took over, rationing was still in force.

Petrol, tobacco and tinned fruit were scarce. They even ran short of toilet rolls! Cigarettes were in short supply until 1952. In 1951 Ken sold his share in the store to Noel and

moved from Eureka. Noel married Jill Masters that same year.

Noel and Jill spent the next 20 years as the local storekeepers. Being so handy to the hall, Noel was the obvious choice for hall secretary (Ken was Hall Committee chairman) and thus he landed the job of running the fortnightly dances - transporting the supper from Hamilton and locking up at festivities' end etc. Another of Noels community services was being Scout Master (at Newstead then) and transporting a van load of local boys every week for many years on Scout night.

On St Patrick's Day Noel Campbell used to have a trying time. Eureka's old-timer, Harry Clarkin, used to erect signs on the roadside advertising Irish stew for sale at the store. Of Irish origin, Mr Clarkin failed to inspire similar patriotism at the store. Mr Campbell rubbed out the sign on the store window and scrawled "Irish Stew Bad - Haggis Available".

Another of the Clarkin clan, Mr Bill Clarkin, once paid a visit to the store with his pony in tow. The animal followed him to the counter and out again... just as the bus from Hamilton pulled up outside.

"The people nearly fell out of the bus when they saw the pony," Mr Campbell said.

For sixty years the store played a vital part in the community but with the advent of fast cars and supermarkets the little store began to fail.



Stuart and Margaret Willetts bought the store from the Campbells in 1971 and were ready to shut the store down later that year but a week before they were due to close a suitable offer was received from Mrs Stockman. Noeline ran the store until 1973 when she sold to Morris and Kay Langdon. The reprieve for the corner store was brief. In 1975 the store and the post office closed down.

Once the store closed the district really lost its focal point. The building is still on the same site, though. It has been turned around from its original position and is now a private home. But it is still within the community, a proud reminder of earlier days.

“...They were good days with lots of harmless fun. What a pity we are so strangled by rules and regulations now. No-one could buy a corner and start a business now.” - Audrey Dunlop.

CHAPTER 8

RECREATION AT EUREKA

WHILST hewing a livelihood from the scrub and flax the settlers tolerated many hardships.

Amenities were few and money was scarce. The constraints of their lifestyle no doubt caused so many social activities to flourish in the little farming district.

Those were days when people made their own fun, whether a barn dance or a picnic or a game of cricket.



Everybody joined in, anyone who could swing a bat or hit a ball. Eureka soon developed quite a reputation for its rugby team, tennis club and in later years its badminton and indoor bowling clubs.

By 1914 the community decided they needed a hall. The hall committees first meeting was held on March 11 in the school. Mr Joe Muir, a local resident, proposed that a hall should be built. The motion was immediately seconded and carried unanimously. A subscription list opened that night reached 101 pounds 9 shillings. One of Eureka's pioneers, Mrs Murphy, donated the site for the hall - a half acre on the south side of the main highway.

Arrangements went ahead; the Bank of New Zealand allowed an overdraft of 400 pounds on a Joint and Several at six percent, by June 3rd trustees had been appointed to make arrangements with an architect for the survey, plans and specifications. The architect was Mr Jack Chitty of Hamilton. Tenders were soon cadged for the construction and Mr D. Andrews' price of 459 pounds was accepted.

Contributions to the fund flowed in from the community and their friends outside Eureka. The subscription list closed with a total of 152 pounds 14 shillings. Added to the first nights donations it totalled 254 pounds. As the work progressed it was obvious the original tender had been exceeded. The cost was now 529 pounds 11 shillings and Sixpence.

The hall was finally completed in August that year but the turmoil caused by the beginning of World War I delayed the opening. On December 18, 1914 Mr R.F. Bollard opened the hall.



Children entertain at the old Eureka Hall



The parents take their turn on the same evening

Although Eureka's settlers were already close-knit the opening of the hall had a tremendous impact on the district. From its opening the hall was a silent witness to many events in the community - both great and small. There were farewells for the Eureka lads off to war very soon after it was built, card evenings, kitchen evenings for girls about to marry, concerts, meetings to discuss serious issues, dances for sheer enjoyment.

On Sundays it became a church. Formerly church services were held at the school. One of Mrs Jackways' children said her mother trudged off to the school one rainy Sunday. She was the only poor soul who attended, apart from the priest.

When services were held at the hall the various denominations took their turns. Sunday school was also held there.

Dances could now be held at the hall instead of in barns. The first dance held when the hall opened was so good it was decided to hold another on the first new moon.

Mr Clary Cresswell, who still performs occasionally, played at many of the dances at Eureka and surrounding districts. He said the Cresswell family virtually ran the dances there. People came from miles around on horseback or by horse and gig. In later years free buses ran from Hamilton to Eureka for the dances. Policing of alcohol was strict but the men still managed to smuggle some in. One Eureka resident remembers pedalling into Hamilton to buy a sugar bag of

Waikato brew and then biking all the way back to Eureka for the dance.

Mr Cresswell's father, Cuthbert Cresswell, manned the door, his wife and their grandmother prepared the food for the supper and Clary was in charge of the music. His band consisted of three to six people - a family affair that gave much enjoyment to the settlers.

During the war years the ladies of the district formed a social club. Aimed at raising funds for the soldiers, it also injected some fun into life while their men were away.

Snippets from the minutes of their club meetings reveal life in those times: "On March 6, 1940 the club held their first meeting of the year. They decided to hold card evenings fortnightly at the hall and the funds would be used for patriotic purposes. Proceeds from the card evening of March 13: two pounds. This was donated to the patriotic appeal. At their May meeting they decided the proceeds raised from their social meetings would go towards the hall fund and the patriotic appeal alternately."

Over the years they contributed to various appeals, the Plunket Society and sometimes towards toys for children who were patients at Tokanui Hospital.

On May 6, 1942 a discussion arose as to whether they should have afternoon teas with sugar rationing in force. It was decided they would continue but the hostess would not have

to provide sugar! They also began sending food parcels to Britain every month and a special parcel at Christmas time.

As the war came to an end the meetings grew more frivolous. Small competitions were held for the “best bloom” and the most original article made from a scrap such as a sugar or flour bag. Bathroom and pantry afternoons for girls about to wed flourished again.

After the war donations again went to the hall fund for items like lining, chairs and crockery. They started to hold children’s Christmas parties every year in the hall.

The ladies organised several dances to raise funds for a men’s toilet in the hall. It appears the lack of this facility caused the ladies some concern and several months were spent raising money for it.

By 1961 Eureka’s residents decided it was time to erect a more modern hall. They met that August to discuss ways of raising the money needed. By July 1966 they had decided the best way to raise the required 8000 pounds was by way of a special rating scheme for the district. After some discussion with the Waikato County Council this method was chosen.

Tenders were called and that of Mr Tom Muir, a former Eureka resident, for \$18,355 was accepted. The hall committee also received from the Golden Kiwi Lottery Board a grant of \$1300 conditional on the hall being completed within 12 months.

On August 31 , 1968 a special family evening was held at the old hall. Both young and old came to farewell the old building that had served them for nearly 54 years. On September 8, 1968 Mr Ivan Pizzini started the demolition work. By October one of the district’s landmarks was gone forever.

The hall committee purchased an adjoining section to the old site and the new hall was sited across both sections. In November the foundation of the new hall was laid. The steelwork, clockwork and roof were completed by December. A few more improvements were made and on January 30, 1969 the committee held their first meeting in the new hall.

The new hall was literally put together by the community. A working bee of 50 residents puttied 29,700 nail holes in the floor. Eureka Transport carted many metres of clay and sand to level the section. The Eureka Ladies Guild donated chairs, tables, heaters, a door and curtains. The Ladies Social Club donated a stove, Crockery and tiles for the floor.

On April 19, 1969 Mr Campbell Henderson, chairman of the Waikato County Council, opened the hall and 200 residents attended the afternoon opening. A tea was served and later than evening 216 people celebrated the opening at a ball which went on to the late hours. Since then the hall has been used continually for dances, balls, badminton, bowls and yoga. Before 1910 the only place large enough to hold the

whole community was the butter factory. The hall now provides an excellent venue for a meeting.

In the 1950s a Presbyterian Ladies Guild was formed. The founders of this group were Mrs Alex McClennan and Miss Grace Inglis. The objective of the group was to raise money to help with the running of the church services held in the hall. The money was raised mainly from the annual flower show held in the hall. In the late 1970s the Guild went into recess as the church services had been moved to Hillcrest. As it was wished to keep the money in the district the funds in hand were donated to the Eureka Hall Committee for furnishings. A plaque in the hall today acknowledges this generous donation.

Through two wars and two periods of peace most of the district's life revolved around the hall. The first hall has now been replaced by a modern building. It stands as a monument to the community spirit and enterprise of the pioneers.

The district has always been prominent in sport, especially in the show ring, the hunting field and in rugby.

RUGBY

Over the years Eureka produced many a good rugby player. They began playing in their school days and later went on to gain representative honours.

Eureka School's football team of 1909-10 was well-known throughout the district. Made up of eleven- and twelve year olds, they had to catch the train into Hamilton to play against



Howden Cup Team 1909
Back row: H. H. Howden, A. Thrupp, L. Landman, P. De Ville, W. Davidson, H. Howie, T. Hinton (President).

Second row: G. Radford, C. Radford, H. R. Hinton, C. Hinton (Capt.), R. A. Hinton, A. Devine, L. Radford.
Front row: T. Thrupp, J. Mulcahy, C. Clarkin.

various Hamilton schools. They beat them all and won the Howden Cup that season.

One of Eureka's Pioneers, Mr Thomas Hinton was a well-known rugby footballer in the Waikato. He was also the father of the Piako Rugby Union and captained the Piako representatives for many years.

Following their father, the Hinton clan continued to be prominent on the rugby field. George, Ross, Arthur, Dick and Carl Hinton were all representatives for Hamilton. Other locals who gained representative honours in the Hamilton team were Tom, Will and Cyril Clarkin, Lester Masters and Bill Leask. Terry and Roy Clarkin played in the Morrinsville representative team.

Mr Pat Clarkin also represented King Country and later played for Waikato. Mr R. McWilliams made the Auckland team and later the All Blacks.

TENNIS

Tennis was also popular at Eureka. The tennis court at the Masters' homestead was frequently used. Tennis was also played on the school courts but interest in the game had been sporadic for some time until some children revived the club in the thirties.



Above: A tennis afternoon at Eureka in 1927.

Mr Tom Hinton, the pioneer's grandson, said he and some other kids discovered a few old racquets at the school and started playing with them. The community became interested, racquets were donated to the school and a tennis club was started. Mr Arthur Hinton donated a cup to the school in 1939. Held on a handicap basis, competition for this cup became a keenly contested annual event eagerly looked forward to by pupils from Standard 3 to 6.

Long-time locals recall the many popular tennis afternoons held at Eureka. The club played Hillcrest, Newstead, Matangi, Tauwhare and Motumaoho and in its day was one of the strongest in the area.

NETBALL

In the mid 1930s, two sand tennis Courts were put down in Lester Masters' paddock opposite the school. However, they were never used for tennis as the sand proved to be too heavy. Instead they were put to use as netball courts by some of the young married and single girls. The team members were Grace and Ivy Townsend, Greta Powdrill, June Hinton, Norma Johns, Beattie and Nellie Harris, Alma and Edna Manson and Hermine Masters. A team of local lads were recruited for practice sessions. Games were played against other country districts. A Town versus Country tournament was also held and the Eureka team won this. A Country rep team was picked to play the Town on the final day of the competition and included the three 'centres' from the Eureka team: June Hinton, Hermine Masters and Norma Johns. Yes, the Country team won!

INDOOR BOWLS

Indoor bowling became popular in the fifties. The Eureka Indoor Bowling Club was formed in 1951, although it had previously been one of the activities of the Young Farmers' Club. Membership increased steadily and the country club had quite a reputation. In 1963 Bruce McClennan won the New Zealand Indoor Bowling Singles championship held at Wanganui. He had been bowling for nine years - a proud

moment for the club. In its 14 years of operation it had also supplied runners-up in the pairs, runners-up in the fours and quarter-finalists in the rinks. Mr McClennan, who was Eureka's president in 1963, also won the Waikato Singles in 1960.



Bruce McClennan (right), winner of the National Indoor Bowls Singles, 1963, being congratulated by runner-up Russel Moore.

In 1983 Mr Bob Townsend was elected a Life Member of the Eureka Bowling Club. Having been a foundation member, long serving office holder and club stalwart, it was a fitting tribute to a very popular member.

BADMINTON

In 1954 a Eureka Table Tennis Club was formed but after three years it was decided to hold a public meeting to consider the formation of a badminton club as interest in table tennis had waned. On the third of April, 1957 it was decided to form a club to be named Eureka Badminton Club. Jack Hunt was the first president and Tom Hinton the first club captain. The Table Tennis Club handed all its assets over to the new Badminton Club. The secretary, Glennis Inglis, was authorised to purchase paint for lines, one new net, one dozen shuttles and four racquets for club play. At a general meeting later in the season the Badminton Club paid the Eureka Hall Committee \$38 towards the cost of new fluorescent lights.

The club has thrived at both senior and junior level, thanks in no small way to the involvement of Tauwhare members. In 1979 an ex-junior member of the club and Waikato champion, Marlene Landon, won the National under 16 Title. Also in 1979 a 25th anniversary ball was held. At this function Barry Mayall was honoured with life membership.

Currently the club is flourishing with the teams continuing to do well in the inter-club competition. In 1969 a ladies' afternoon badminton club was formed and this has proved to be popular and successful at both club and inter-club level.

HUNTING

When hunting first began at Eureka almost every man, woman and child owned a horse and most homes walked a hound puppy for the Hunt Club. Everyone participated; even if they did not have a horse, they followed on foot. Early in the day they met at one of the farmers' homesteads, mounted their horses and went chasing the hare down the old Factory Road and across farm paddocks. The farms then had large paddocks and drains. There were also hurdles on most of the farms, so the horses could jump from one paddock to the next.

In later years the hunts became more structured. The participants were dressed in correct hunting attire. By then the Waikato Hunt headquarters were at Fencourt near Cambridge. The hounds were kept there and walked to wherever the hunt was being held. The horses, too, had to be ridden to the hunts and back home again - no horse trailers then. There were usually four to five hunts at Eureka over the winter.

These were well attended by some 50-100 people. The Pakuranga Hunt Club was visited occasionally and once the Governor-General, Lord Jellicoe, and his wife attended a hunt.

Towards the end of the day, hunting was purely incidental. Usually, a "hunt breakfast" followed the hunt - sandwiches, tea and some liquor. Out poured the stories of the day's challenges and disasters.

There were many fine horses at these meets but one many people recall was Golden Roll, owned by Mr Mel Masters. Mr Lester Masters said his father bought the horse at a fair in Cambridge.

"He had more spills off that horse in the first year than he ever had off anything in his life. The horse never jumped a hurdle - he rolled over them!"

Hence he was christened Golden Roll, said Mr Masters. The horse later became a well-known show jumper in the Waikato and was re-named 'St. Nick'. After he finished his show jumping days he pulled a gig and jogged along obediently whenever his owner drove, but played up with anyone else.

"He was a fair dinkum outlaw. He bit and kicked and ended up delivering milk to the factory", said Mr Masters.

Other well-known local names in the hunting field were Dulcie Peters (nee Harris) on 'Mickey', Noel Campbell on

'Eiffel Tower' and Norman and Noel McClennan. Mr Norman McClennan even now at 80-plus still trains racehorses.

The Hunt Ball at Eureka was always the year's highlight according to Mr Harry Clarkin, a frequent participant in the hunts. People came from all the surrounding districts and a huge marquee was erected by the old hall where the supper was served.

Hunting at Eureka ended when farming became more intensive and paddocks decreased in size. Though the Waikato Hunt is still strong, it is now confined to sheep and cattle areas in the hills where the paddocks are large. The last Eureka Hunt Meet was held in 1954 but hunts were still held over the Johns' farm for a few more years.

During the Second World War gymkhanas were held at Eureka, Gordonton, Cambridge, Matangi and Taupiri. Aimed at raising funds to send food parcels to Britain, they attracted sizeable crowds. They ended with the war when the usual venues for shows started operating again.

Eureka's gymkhanas were held in Stokes' paddock. There were all sorts of competitions - tilting the ring, draught horse derbies and pony scurries.

After the war a training track was made in Schollum Road. For a while the gymkhanas continued there but interest later centred on the major Waikato shows.



The Waikato Hunt on Johns' property (circa 1950).



Hunt Club gathering at Johns' house.

Many Eureka folk made names for themselves at shows in the Province. From 1907 to 1913 Mr Thomas Hinton won Champion Hack and Hunter at every show in the Auckland province with a horse called 'Larrikin'. Olive Hinton (Mrs W. Luxton) was champion lady rider throughout the province - both side saddle and astride. Carl Hinton was Gentleman Rider at many shows. Ruby Hinton (Mrs S. Insole) was a Champion Lady Rider. Cyril Clarkin was a Gentleman Rider and rode many winners for other people. R. H. (Bob) Townsend won many championships with 'Perfection'. He also had a champion carriage mare in 'Nancy'. Tom and Pat Clarkin and Jas McClennan also had many successes in the show ring as did Mel Masters. In later years Jill Campbell was successful at many shows and gymkhanas with 'Penny' and later still Caroline Tims (nee Hinton), with her pony 'Ebony', carried on the family tradition in the show ring as has her family in more recent years. Her son Peter is a most successful jockey, having been New Zealand's leading apprentice rider.

"Racing in New Zealand has become everyman's sport from the rich to the poor. In the early days racing relied to a great extent on the sport of hunting for its steeplechasers and hurdlers. People who hunted had racehorses, too. Hunting in the Waikato meant a great deal to racing and other sports in New Zealand," said Mr Harry Clarkin.

And he should know. Mr Clarkin, one of Eureka's best known identities, was for 33 years a racing judge in the

Auckland district. He started with showjumping and won a string of cups and trophies. His connection with the shows led him eventually to race commentating and then into the judge's box.

In 1947 he accepted a position as assistant judge. Ten years later he was offered the position of judge of the Auckland Racing Club. Other clubs were quick to follow suit and he quickly became one of the most popular racing personalities in the top half of the North Island.

He ended his distinguished career on July 23, 1980.

CHAPTER 9

WAVERLEY ISLANDS & THE PIAKO SWAMP

A LONE tractor putters from Seddon Road, the dust trail following its waning whirr. Dust? From land once likened to an inland sea? All around the lush pastures touch the horizon... the great Piako Swamp, 1984.

Back in the forties the manuka forest reached for the sky. Hawks nested in the vegetation and rabbits multiplied on the ground. At night the terrain was blanketed in fog. In summer the black peat smouldered, the tiniest ember sparked off large-scale fires.

MAP ONE

*Thomson & Farrer
Registered Surveyors*

Barugh

J. Knight

W. McHardy

*Confiscation
Line*

The tale of the pioneers who toiled on the peat soils spans more than a century. The transformation of the Waikato “fens” into fertile farmland began with the Land Company and still continues today.

About 12,000 years ago the Waikato River left its previous course through the Hinuera Valley to the Hauraki Gulf and broke into the Hamilton basin. At that time erosion of the central plateau during the last glaciation loaded the river with debris, sand and fine gravel.

In the process of filling the basin with debris, the river kept blocking itself up and following many different courses at different times. Along these courses ridges of sand and gravel were laid down and the original drainage pattern was upset.

Shallow lakes began to form. These lakes were left behind when the river followed its present course.

Around the shores of the lake peat began to form. Eventually these became peat bogs and the peat grew inwards towards the centre of the lake forming deep peat bogs. Thus the Piako Swamp was formed.

The Waverley Islands block subdivided by the Land Association consisted of some 1005 hectares. Of this, 243 hectares were rolling country surrounded by peat swamp. The “islands” snaked and curved their way through the swamp - hence the tag.

Waverley Islands’ first owner, Mr Joseph Baruch, sold his land for 3400 pounds to William Higgins around 1904. The parcel of land changed hands several times and each owner concentrated on developing the rolling country.

The swampland remained virtually untouched until the property was split into smaller farms.

In 1916 Mr Frederick Lovelock purchased Waverley Islands and had managers on the farm until 1925 when the family shifted to Eureka. Mr Ivan Lovelock, his son, said that the rolling country was sown in oats and grass and the rest of the property was peat swamp, covered in manuka and over-run by rabbits.

Stuck out in the swamp, the Lovelocks were in an unenviable position. Their homestead was the only house on Waverley Islands, situated roughly in the middle of the property. The main access was from Piano Road. But there was also a track which led past the railway houses into Eureka. To use it they paid a fee of 10 shillings a year.

Cultivating their land was a matter of trial and error. The manuka was cut down and burnt. Before any ploughing could be done they “bagged” their horses’ feet. Three or four sacks were tied around the animals’ legs and this extended their width and prevented the horses from sinking into the bog.

They also milked 135 cows with sharemilkers and ran some sheep and cattle. The chaff from the oats was sold to nearby stock farms.

They had no power or telephone in the house. Candles, kerosene lamps and wood stoves had to suffice. Manuka was cut down for kindling.

Mr Lovelock said he used to hike five kilometres to the Eureka store if there was some emergency at home. He also collected the mail from the post office for the six families living near the station then.

They were friendly with the railway folk - their closest neighbours. The porters at the station often came over in the evenings for a game of cards.

The depression years were a grim time for the family. They had to mortgage their farm and Mr Francis Burley eventually took over the property in the thirties. Part of the land was sold to Mr Mervyn Buckley, while the remainder was bought by William Saunders in 1951. Maber Lands acquired the Saunders property in the sixties and the land was later subdivided and sold off in small lots. Some of the old railway houses were purchased by Maber Lands and placed on the property for use by sharemilkers. Most of them were pulled down later.

The Buckley family moved to the northwest corner of the Islands. By 1946 they owned 284 hectares.

“Everything that was not hard country grew nothing but tall tea-tree and there were millions of rabbits,” recalled Mr Claude Buckley. The Buckley family still resides on Waverley Islands.

One tiny plot of land, Chinaman’s Hill, was in good pasture then. It had previously been leased to a Chinese man for twelve months. Part of his contract had been to sow it in pasture while he grew vegetables there.

This knoll of 16 hectares was surrounded by manuka and peat. Most of the stock made their way to Chinaman’s Hill as that was the only decent pasture and there were few fences up then.

When the Buckleys arrived, their home was only partially built. “That first year was quite a struggle,” said Mr Buckley. They milked 30 cows and nearly starved to death. But they progressed and milked 130 by the third season. They also experimented with farming techniques as no-one knew how to farm peat economically.

The Buckleys tried applying lime, potash and phosphate on a forty-hectare section. Most people thought they were pouring money down the drain. The work was hard; although a contractor carried the material to the site, they still had to do the rest of the work by hand, moving the materials from the truck to the spreading trailer. But it was worth it. By that autumn they had a field full of clover. But the peat was not their only problem.



Crushing ti-tree on the Eureka Swamp in the late 1950s.

“We were surrounded by wilderness and the constant danger of fires coming through with the tall scrub nearby,” recalled Mr Buckley. “There were always fires. We were in the middle of the swamp and they could get us from anywhere.”

In the summer months the peat became so dry that a carelessly flung cigarette butt or a few sparks from passing trains used to set it alight. And, once the peat caught alight,

the fires raged all season as the peat burned under the surface. Only the winter rains put them out.

“At Christmas time there were always peat fires going,” Mr Robert Stokes remembered. “In February there was that much smoke you couldn’t see an inch in front of you. With the heat you only needed a beer bottle lying on the peat and the heat of the sun was enough to set it alight when the peat was dry.

“And there were terrible fogs. Mr Casey (a local farmer), went to leave Morrinsville to come home one night in the fog and he found himself driving round a farmer’s paddock. He’d gone the wrong way. With the smoke it was more like smog”.

Long-time Eureka resident Mr Frank Hinton said: “I remember as a boy having it instilled into us that no way do you build a fire during the dry period. Once my sister walked into what she thought was a soil paddock but she had walked into a part that was on fire and had her feet burnt.”

Although the fires did not spread at a terrific rate, once they struck pasture land they became creeping fires as the small animals went rampaging around on fire themselves, trying to escape. This spread the fire and they could not be put out easily. Grass fires were fought with sacks.

Even though a fire may have been put out on the surface, if it had seeped to the peat it burned underground. Often the whole neighbourhood was out fighting fires in summer and the locals labelled them ‘Piako Road Picnics’. “If we had not

had those diversions I don't think we'd have had the necessary stimulation to continue developing. Once the land was developed to a certain point the fires could be held back," said Mr Buckley.

Over the years Eureka has coped with fogs, fires and floods and one morning in 1952 it even withstood a tornado.

At 9.15am on November 14 that year some of Eureka's farmers were going about their normal day's work. While making ensilage some of the residents noticed an unusual cloud formation over the swamp. A long tail of swirling cloud seemed to be reaching down from the sky but stopped well short of the ground.

Eureka's residents watched in amazement as the clouds nearby tossed about and the tail disappeared and reappeared. A very thick tail began to reach out from the clouds towards the earth accompanied by a distinct roar.

The cloud began to revolve faster and faster and the noise grew louder as it dropped rapidly. With a terrifying noise it hit the middle of the swamp and then began to sweep in a southwesterly direction.

With alarming intensity and a deafening roar, the tornado flung itself along the swamp towards the cultivated land. It swept across several farms in the district, but fortunately the damage was confined to uprooted trees, wrecked hedges and fences. Only a couple of buildings were damaged.

The tornado jumped across the main highway, flinging fences and gates in all directions as it continued across farmlands before retreating back into the sky.

The roar of the wind was deafening as the ominous cloud swept along.

Settlers watched in disbelief as it wreaked havoc - huge trees which had withstood gales and storms for years were smashed like matchwood.

That day the skies over Eureka were very dark and the settlement was lashed by rain.

CHAPTER 10

DOWN ON THE FARM

A CHALLENGING scene confronted Eureka's pioneer farmers as they settled in the community at the turn of the century. While the Land Association had developed the land in the vicinity of the homestead block, the greater portion of the countryside was still untamed.



The early settlers had their work cut out for them. Most of their lots were merely ring fenced and in winter were wet and swampy. Rushes grew wild on many properties.

Farming was a matter of trial and error then. Through sweat and experimentation they gradually developed their land.

Prior to cultivation, rushes and tree stumps had to be uprooted. All the work was done with draught horses, the farmer trudging behind. On many farms the rushes were a metre high and had to be grubbed with a spade. Ploughing was no easy task. It took days to plough just one paddock - the farmer walking many miles behind his horse and plough. Paddocks were much larger then and fencing with post and wire was a slow and arduous process. Lotus Major was the popular variety of grass sown as it grew well on low fertility soils.

Fertiliser was brought to Eureka Station by train. The heavy jute bags used to be delivered to the farms by Mr John Hooper who operated a carting business in the twenties.

There were few veterinarians on call but locals remember a man called Murphy from Morrinsville. All through the thirties Mr Murphy was a familiar sight in his old two-seater car. He toured the countryside pedalling his various remedies for stock complaints. Sadly, he was never heard from again once veterinarian clubs started in the early forties.

He had no qualification but understood stock, according to Eureka farmer Mr Wally Pollock. He had a good range of

drenches for cows. One favourite was a mixture of ginger, Epsom salts and molasses, generally given to cows as a booster after calving.

“He used to mix Condyl’s crystals and that made a good-looking drench”, Mr Pollock noted. “He must have had some chemistry, though a lot of them may have been herbal remedies.”

In early times cows were milked by hand in walkthrough sheds. By 1910 milking machines were being used but they ran on kerosene. “We used to heat the engine up with a blow lamp so that it was hot enough,” said Mr Norman McClennan, formerly of Eureka. “Then, when the kerosene came in it formed a gas and if you were lucky, the motor started.”

Cows had to be leg-roped and washed individually. A large herd then was around 100 cows and four people were needed to milk them. The sheds were concreted only where the milking took place - sometimes the cows had to wade through mud up to their teats. Wood fires and chip heaters supplied heating in the sheds in those early days.

When the milk was taken to the factory the residue from the cream, the whey, was taken back to the farms and fed to pigs. But once the factory at Eureka shut down, whole milk was taken to the factory at Matangi and slowly the pig industry disappeared.

A contractor came every day to Eureka to pick up the milk and there were pick-up points all along the roadside. There was a depot at Friedlander and Schollum Roads and one opposite the hall.

Below: Haymaking with the horses on Duncan's farm in the late 1940s.



Once milk tankers came to collect the milk the regular evening gatherings for the farmers came to an end. At first the collections were planned by the tanker drivers but now the runs are charted by computers.

Haymaking before the fifties was a real feature of Eureka's community life.

"We all pulled together for haymaking-it was a pooling of resources-the farmers all co-operated with each other,"

said long-time Eureka local, Mr Maurice Duncan. "It involved horse-drawn mowers, horse-drawn implements and hay turners, hay rakes, various hay sweeps and stackers. We used to lift the hay onto the stacks which were built by hand." As the farmers helped each other cut their hay, their wives always provided a magnificent lunch for the haymaking gangs. As the work was often near Christmas there was quite a festive atmosphere to the proceedings.

"It used to take two days to make a stack of hay-a fairly slow process,"

recalled Mr Duncan. "As time went on the introduction of hydraulically operated machinery meant the farmer did his own haymaking in quarter of the time. The haybaler was introduced about 1946 and that's when communal haymaking stopped."

That communal aspect of farming life has almost disappeared in Eureka today. Modern technology has made the farmer independent of his neighbour.

Herringbone - and later, rotary-milking sheds enabled farmers to milk 200 cows in half the time it used to take to milk 100. The quality of milk improved as well. The numbers of stock carried on farms increased with the introduction of artificial breeding and herd testing. Enriched soils also stepped up stock rates. Calving, unlike the Murphy era, is like a factory operation now. With synchronizer mating, cows calve in seven weeks or calving can be induced.

With mechanisation, one farmer is able to do the work that used to take three. To cope with the extra workload he now hires contractors instead of calling on a neighbour. The introduction of electric fences in the 1960s had a tremendous impact, as they decreased the time and effort spent on erecting fences. They also decreased the farmer's costs.

Sharemilkers and farm workers have played a large part in the making of Eureka. Mr Pollock related their contribution:

Sharemilking is a system unique to New Zealand and has been the first step into ownership for many of the present

settlers in Eureka. In earlier days of big families the annual sharemilking exodus made big changes to the school roll. One season 10-12 years ago eleven families left Eureka. Of course they were replaced but it does show something of the changing situation in our district.

In earlier days, 33.5% was the main sharemilking system, then came the 50:50 system, 29%, 39% and latterly the contract milking system, based on "X" cents per kilogram of milkfat.

The 50:50 system is usually the last rung in the sharemilking system which leads to farm ownership. Many of our present settlers came to the district as sharemilkers and then purchased farms. Others left the district and took large herds to other districts and became owners in many parts of New Zealand.

Sharemilkers from Eureka are known to be spread from Kaitai to Hokitika.

At one time Maber's farm - now Ammann's, Rae's, Buckley's, Gordon's and Chalmer's - ran a herd of 700 cows milked by the McLaggan family plus four or five boys, one of whom was usually a Japanese farm trainee.

Robert and Bev Kimber have also had a series of farm trainees on their farm. Through the efforts of the Eureka people the fame of the district has spread internationally, Mr Pollock said.

Over on the Waverley Islands side of Eureka, the greatest changes to the farming scene came in the seventies.

Until the fifties the farmers at Waverley Islands had concentrated on farming the rolling country. The peatland was largely untouched. But gradually the settlers crushed and burned off the manuka and the land was drained. At first the land was stocked with sheep but later dairying took over.

Good farming practices improved the soil. Research stations helped the farmers to understand the problems of peat farming. Twenty years ago the lack of copper and selenium in the soil was a real headache for farmers on the peat. This was later overcome with copper and selenium injections, fertiliser and drenches. Management of the land improved as they understood the need for pasture renewal. The phosphate level of the soil was now at an acceptable level for good pasture growth, but farmers were still struggling to attain ideal lime and potash levels. Another problem peat farmers faced was that of creating adequate access to paddocks through races and gateways. Peat had to be properly drained before a good road could be formed or a race built.

Mr Brian Gordon, who has been at Waverley Islands since the seventies, maintains that the pressure on the farmer is still as great but the workload has been lightened because of mechanization.

In fact farming today has become a business - a finely tuned one, according to Eureka farmer Mr Bob Appleton.

Young farmers today are far more educated than their predecessors. They can go to technical colleges or universities to acquire the knowledge Eureka's pioneers gained by learning from their mistakes.

In Eureka a farm cadet scheme has been operating for the last 15 years. The cadets are placed on farms and virtually serve a four-year apprenticeship. At present there are about 500 cadets in the Waikato on the scheme.

While on the scheme they are shifted around various farms and also attend courses at technical institutes. At the end of their apprenticeship they graduate with a trade certificate and are fully trained in every aspect of farming.

They can go to a lending institution to borrow enough money to buy a herd to go sharemilking. Through sharemilking the former cadets are able to build up their assets so that they can eventually purchase their own farm.

The pioneers, despite their hard work, were usually short of cash. Farming was not a very profitable occupation then. Something was always required - fencing materials, seed, manure. Most of them took on contract work of some sort to supplement their incomes.

Some took on carting work; others tried for roading or drainage contracts.

The work was tough and usually had to be done by hand - digging drains or shovelling metal on roads.

Until about 1910 a timber mill also operated at Eureka. Tyson's Mill was situated on Hunter Road near the intersection with the Cambridge-Morrinsville Road. The mill provided another source of work for the locals.

There was a large pine plantation behind the mill and Mr Tyson used draught horses to uproot the trees. He moved around the neighbourhood with his equipment buying trees and chopping them down. The timber was sold to local farmers for building purposes.

There were nine workers at the mill, according to Mr Norman McClennan who worked there for 18 months. As the trees were cut down the logs were pulled into the mill with a winch and wire rope, he explained. Eventually it burnt down and the land was sold. When the Nixon family shifted on to the property in 1925, all that remained of the mill was a big heap of sawdust as high as a house.

Eureka Transport also began in the twenties as a sideline to the Hooper family's farm. Mr John Hooper said his father started the business when they grew potatoes on the farm. They used to cart the vegetables into Hamilton and deliver them around town.

They began the carrying business with just a horse and waggon. For the potatoes they received five shillings a sugar bag. They also delivered manure to farms and were paid 18 pence a ton. As the business expanded they purchased a small truck.

By 1923 they had begun collecting bobby calves from the surrounding districts and bought a two-ton truck for the job. The business was still run from the farm at that time. As Hooper Road was just a track then, chains had to be fitted on the vehicles moving in and out of the farm. The road was finally metalled in 1926.

Mr John Hooper carted calves from Tauwhare, Eureka, Motumaoho, Newstead, Tamahere, Bruntwood and Matangi,



Eureka Transport's first articulated truck

picking up the animals four days a week. The calves were taken to Matangi Station and then railed to the meatworks at Horotiu and Westfield.

During the twenties drovers also operated in the district. All cattle were taken to the Frankton sales by drovers as trucks began carrying stock only in the forties.

Mr Mick Bowler, who operated in the Eureka area, lived on the corner of Woodside Road and the main highway. "Sitting astride his horse, with his trusted dogs to help him, he guided the stock into Hamilton," said Mr Hooper. There was little traffic on the roads then and sometimes Mr Bowler handled 200 to 300 head of stock.

By 1949 the Hooper business became known as Eureka Transport. In 1928 Mr Hooper left Eureka and the family continued to run the concern. They took on a contract to cart fat cattle to Horotiu in the forties.

As the company grew a depot was opened on Hinton's Road; by this time Mr Charles (Bill) Edwards who married Mr Hooper's sister, Minny, was in charge of the company. When they moved to Hamilton in 1975 the family at Eureka continued to run the business. In 1980 the business was finally sold and the company folded a few years later.

From small beginnings the family concern prospered for sixty years.

Sitting comfortably in his home in Hamilton Mr John Hooper said with a touch of nostalgia: "I often think back to those days-the best time of our lives. We had to work hard but we were better off for it."

CHAPTER 11

DEPRESSION AND DEVELOPMENT

THE depression years of the thirties were a grim time for many Eureka folk. However, the relief work schemes started by the Waikato County Council set in train the development of much of the country. Drains were dug and roads were metalled and by the end of the depression Eureka emerged with a good network of roads and amenities.



But the development of these facilities is still essentially a story of the determination and tenacity of the settlers. While outsiders may have helped to some degree, most of the ground work was still carried out by locals.

Roads in Eureka began with coach tracks through the Woodlands Estate in the 1800s. By the turn of the century, sand roads and dirt tracks were slowly being formed at Eureka.

When it was wet the roads were terrible. Mr Dick Casey recalls a particularly bad stretch near Motumaoho. Most travellers' horses became bogged there. One canny local sat by the side of the road and charged people a pound for pulling them out and with the proceeds he managed to buy a farm!

The roads in existence before 1910 were Factory Road, Station Road and Eureka Avenue. The Avenue, which now forms part of State Highway 26 as it leads into Eureka today, used to be lined with pines - hence the tag. It ended at the crossroads and from there a dirt track was the main access to Friedlander Road. The main highway then used to follow Factory Road to the Cambridge-Morrinsville Road.

Many of Eureka's locals sat on the road boards of the area commissioning road development. Others tendered for the contracts to form the routes.

The Tamahere Road Board and the Kirikiriroa Road Board were responsible for the formation of roads at Eureka. The

boards' minute books from the early 1900s chart the progress of roading in the locality.

By September 1903 the Kirikiriroa Road Board had decided to send 300 yards of gravel to Eureka Station for use on the roads in the area. Work had advanced by 1907 to the point where a surfaceman was appointed to make repairs in the area.

Eureka pioneer Mr James McClennan was given the contract for sanding Station Road. He had a team of 50 draught horses for the job. Pits were dug and sand was tossed onto the road. With his horses and drays he took on roading contracts in many of the nearby districts.

Mr Pat Clarkin and Mr George Hinton were also contractors. Using a waggon and drays, they carted sand from a pit on a neighbour's farm and tipped the load on the road. They had two men working for them in the pit and they did the carting and spreading work. Most of the work in those early days was back-breaking as it was all done by hand.

The sand roads were inadequate even for the horse traffic of early times. A clerk reporting to the Kirikiriroa Road Board meeting in November 1907 complained that a Mr Clarkin had been carrying "excessive loads between the factory and Eureka Station". The board threatened to claim damages from the offender for carrying a load of two to three tons with a team of six horses!

In 1912 the Tamahere Road Board accepted the tender of Field and Clarkin of one shilling and Sixpence a yard for putting gravel on nearly two kilometres of Eureka Avenue. By 1915 it was planning to widen the road. And by 1922 the board discussed sealing and completing it, but work did not begin until late in 1926 as there were several delays.

By 1926 Eureka residents were able to experience the thrill of travelling on tarseal. Mr John Hooper said the first piece of tarseal was put down near Newstead. At that time Eureka's roads were still sand or metal.

"Dad and Sammy Lye (of Newstead) got on the Tamahere Road Board. They fought to get the tarsealing going. They wanted a roller and they bought an eleven-ton steam roller for rolling the metal in. People reckoned it would not work. "They put this piece of metal down in front of Lye's place, about one-and-a-half miles from the Newstead railway line, heading towards Morrinsville. That lasted for years through putting in a good foundation and using a heavy roller. Sealing carried on from there," he said.

"I can remember when I was first going to school about 1935," recalled Mr Robt Stokes, "the only tarseal was a strip from Woodside Road to Marshmeadow Road. The old bus would scream along - we all thought that was wonderful then."

While Mr Hooper was on the board he also managed to have Hooper Road metalled. "Hooper Road was in grass then,"

said Mr Hooper. "Dad got onto the county to metal it. He and Les Rowe (a neighbour) got the contract to sand it. I got about 18 pence a yard for carting the sand and spreading it. I used to drive the drays and tip and spread it, they filled the drays." The Waikato County Council minute books continue the story of road development at Eureka in the twenties when new roads were dedicated and named.

On June 10, 1924 the council accepted the dedication of an extension of Schollum Road as a public road from Arthur Friedlander, a farmer who owned a large property bordering the road.

Work on Telephone Road was also underway then. In 1925 the council called for tenders for the claying of about 90 chains of the northern end of the road. And by 1927 it offered to subsidise any work undertaken by ratepayers pound for pound. By this time the road was being graded and scarified.

Work to improve the main highway to Morrinsville (still part of Factory Road then) took on new impetus in the late twenties. The volume of traffic had greatly increased and created the need for improved roads.

An engineer's report to the council in July 1927 stated:

"The sand portions of this road (the main highway) have again become rough in places and are now being re-graded with a motor grader. The metalled portions along Eureka Avenue have been given a coat of chips from Tauwhare

quarry and also a portion near Newstead. The maintenance of the metalled portions of this highway are much more difficult and costly than the sanded portions.”

By September 1928 the council resolved to take land for a road deviation from Mr W. Schollums property. He was to be offered 50 pounds compensation an acre. However, he refused and the council and the owner haggled over the matter. By March 1931 the council heard that the Schollum Road matter was ready for settlement.

Unemployment began to loom as the depression of the thirties set in. The council began relief work schemes and relief committees were formed to deal with the problems. Many of the unemployed were sent to Waverley Islands for drainage work and to Eureka for roading work.

Mr Tom Muir said of those days: “Before the depression the farmers used to get two shillings and sixpence a pound for their butter. From 1927 on everything dropped and went on like that through the thirties. There was one family of five boys and one girl who, through the depression, sent only three of the boys to school on any one day because they had only three sets of clothes. No one ever wore shoes to school.”

Mrs Muriel Clarkin recalled living on milk puddings, potatoes and pumpkins. Mr Harry Clarkin said the depression brought back tales his Irish grandmother had told him. Back in Ireland they had survived on potatoes and

‘point’. Most families in Ireland had two-room houses with open fires and the hams they cured hung above the fireplace.

As the hams grew older the smell grew stronger. When they ate their potatoes they put them on a fork and pointed them at the ceiling. She swore you could smell the bacon on the potatoes,” he said.

The people on the work schemes came from all walks of life - lawyers, accountants and labourers. The foreman for the road work at Eureka was Dick Turpin and his brother-in-law Jack Tunnel was his sidekick. They had one chain-driven truck and all the rest of the work was done with picks, shovels and scoops, said Mr Clarkin.

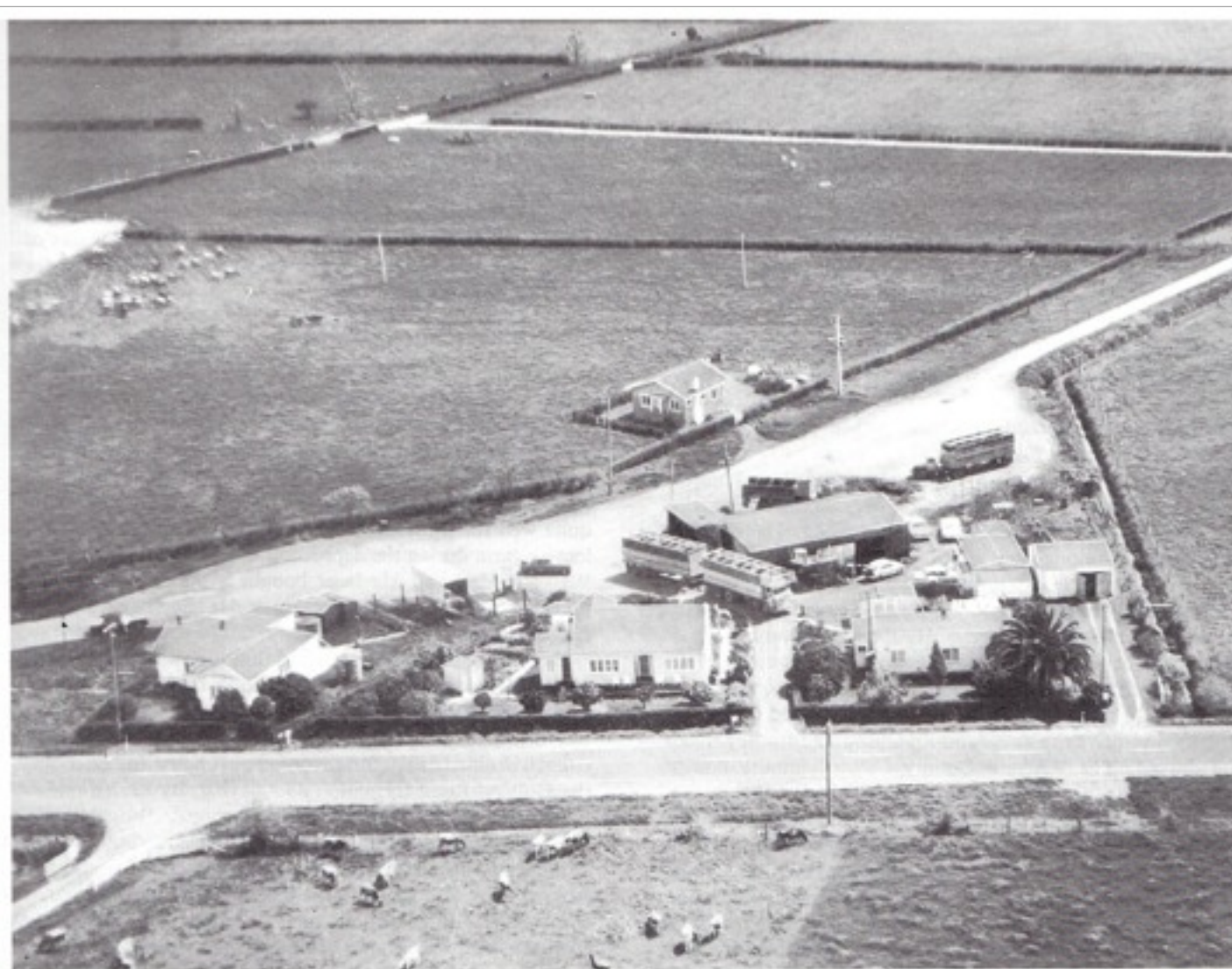
The work on those schemes was unrewarding and the men could not wait for the day to end. Brawling over petty matters was frequent. Mr Clarkin recalled that his mother used to patch up someone about three times a week.

Some of the youths of Eureka trapped rabbits which paid quite well for those times. Mr Ivan Lovelock, whose father lost his farm during the depression, used to sell his rabbits to Waikato Hospital. He later bought a bulldozer from the proceeds and took on contract work. He ended up a successful contractor.

During the depression the road that is now State Highway 26 was formed through Mr Pat Clarkin's farm. Hooper Road was extended in 1932.

Work on Holland Road began in the forties. In 1953 the council decided to try for government funding for extending the Holland Road formation and claying. By 1957 it undertook to complete and dedicate, as soon as possible, the extension of Seddon Road to Waverley Islands.

Waverley Road was officially named at a meeting in August 1967 and surveying work on the road immediately commenced. By 1970 the Council decided to construct the road that year.



Eureka Transport's depot in the mid-1970s.

Mr Maber of Maber Lands contributed 1400 pounds towards the cost of the formation of the road. In 1980 Factory Road was re-named Hunter Road.

The first telephone at Eureka, at the post office, was probably on a party line. By 1907 a telephone office had also been opened at the railway station but shut down in 1920. Presumably by then other houses in the area had telephones and the station telephone was no longer a necessity.

Rural mail delivery also began around the thirties. Mr Graeme Gatchell took over the contract in 1952 and delivered mail to 280 homes in the RD4 area for 21 years.

He covered Ruakura, Newstead, Eureka, Tauwhare, Matangi and a small part of Hamilton in the mornings and in the afternoons delivered mail to the Tamahere locality.

Mr Gatchell was a familiar figure at Eureka as he dropped off the mail bag at the store every day. He picked up the settlers' letters from the postmaster, Mr Noel Campbell.

He always had time for a chat with the residents or the children who sauntered up to greet him. In return he remembers with pleasure the Christmas turkey, cream and beers he received from the local folk.

Below: Graeme Gatchell - faithful rural mail delivery man for twenty-one years.



Candles and kerosene lamps were gladly put away by the locals when the lights came on at Eureka from 1921 onwards. In the days before electricity, reading had to be done by the light of a lamp. Children were used to doing their homework in semi-darkness, taking a candle with them when they went to bed.

The first step in power generation was taken by the Waihi Gold Mining Company between 1910 and 1913. It set up a generating station at Hora Hora. The station was taken over by the Government in 1919 and fed into the national grid until it was submerged on the completion of Lake Karapiro

station in 1947. Eureka received its first power from Hora Hora.

Mr Tom Hinton was the Central Electric Power Board's first chairman when it was constituted in 1920. At that time the board's area was wholly rural, consisting of some 906 square kilometres. The Board's first consumer was the Glaxo dried milk factory at Matangi and the surrounding dairy farms supplying the factory were connected next.

At Eureka those living on Eureka Avenue were the first to receive power.

In 1921 Tom Hinton, James McClennan, Thomas Lurton and Robert Townsend were able to switch on their lights. The following year the lights came on at Eureka's hall and in several other homes. By 1924 the cheese factory, the manager's home and the men's quarters also had power and by 1926 the store had also been connected.

Through all the stages of Eureka's settlement drainage was the key to progress. The country had to be dried out to grow crops and to support the weight of animals and vehicles. As with roading, much of the drainage work was undertaken by Eureka locals.

Today Eureka's drains are administered by the Eureka Drainage Board and a small area is also administered by the Taupiri River and Drainage Board.

The Eureka Board has its roots at the settlement where it held its first meeting on July 25, 1903. Held at the Gordon Homestead, Mr Gordon was elected chairman by several of the local community who attended the meeting.

During its formative years the board continued to meet at the homestead although the butter factory was used as an alternative venue.

Its area today includes part of Eureka, Tauwhare, Newstead and extends to Matangi.

The drains at Eureka in early days were used for watering stock and for drainage. By September 1928 the board was responsible for some 21 kilometres of public drains and its work often involved taking local residents to task for sandbagging drains. This way farmers would force the water back onto their property so that stock could drink from it. There were also legal drinking places for stock at certain points along the drains. The spoil from the drains often formed the nucleus of roadways in the area.

The first drains dating back to the turn of the century were colossal and during the rainy periods filled up very quickly causing flooding in the area near the crossroads. Some of those drains which were of such tremendous importance to the development of Eureka's farmland still exist - the Plumtree drain, Homestead drain, Woolshed, Blackwater and Sandy drains. Their names still have connections with

those early days when the pioneers with their bare hands put the community together.

The changed pattern of farming in the district was partly caused by the increase in ten-acre sections (4 hectares). Also, the smaller subdivisions became popular as more people who worked in town preferred living in the country.

Former Ruakura Riding member, Mr David McGuire, said that the increase in the number of horticultural blocks has been the greatest change he had witnessed over the years. He was riding member for the area for twelve years until 1971.

With the growing trend towards horticulture he predicts that water reticulation of the area is not too far away. The water in the area is not suitable for irrigation because of its high iron content.

In the last 12 years he has also noted a great deal of upgrading in the area - fences, buildings, improved access to farms and road hedges. Aesthetic improvements were quite marked. Rural housing loans made available to ratepayers in the county have been significant in contributing towards the change, he noted.

Until the ten-acre sections became productive their occupants would probably commute to Hamilton for work, he said. Because of this, Eureka has to some degree become a satellite suburb of Hamilton, but this trend would change as the farms become productive and commuting to the district for seasonal work would increase.

Horse breeding at Eureka would also gain popularity, he said. Its two sister settlements, Matangi and Cambridge, were already well-known areas for horse breeding.

Since the 1900s Eureka has grown from a mainly dairying settlement to a mixed farming locality. It has been hewn from land once sold for five shillings an acre, covered in scrub and manuka. A local farmer estimated its verdant pastures today could fetch \$5000 an acre.

Some of the early pioneers' descendants who still live in Eureka are now reaping a fitting reward for their toils. And still new pioneers continue to try out different types of farming, their return uncertain.

As Mr McGuire put it: "This is the way farming has always developed and sometimes at great cost to the developers. You can't help but have a high regard for their efforts. Some will fall by the wayside but as quick as they fall others will be there to take their place."



WAKATO COUNTY COUNCIL 1929

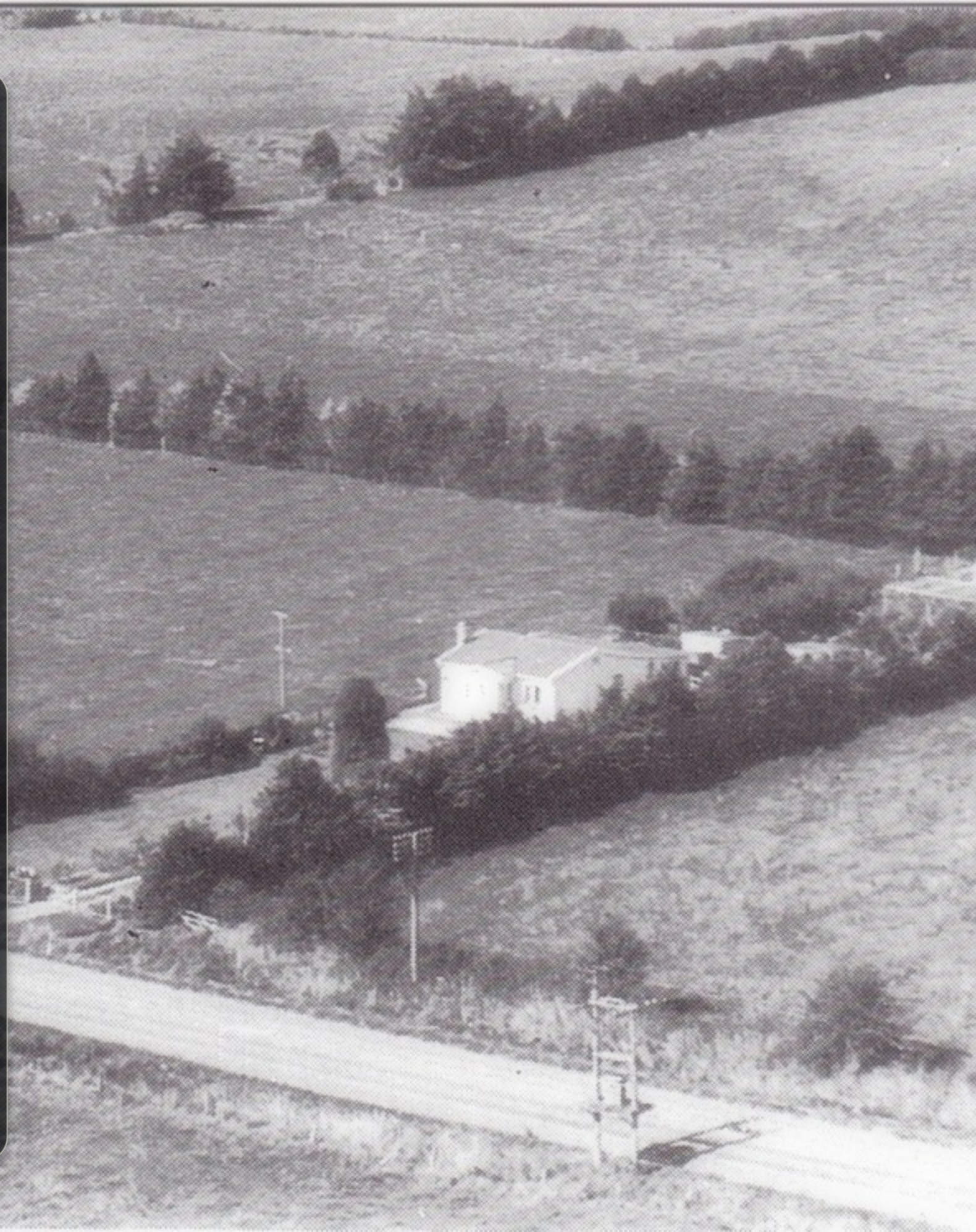
Middle row, fifth from left, T. Clarkin, T. Hinton

Front row, third from left, J. Gordon; right, T. B. Insoll — familiar names in Eureka to this day.

CHAPTER 12

EUREKA TODAY

MUCH of the land in the Waikato was cropped for wheat and barley in the late 1800s. By the turn of the century dairying had become the mainstay of farming, especially at Eureka. But today diversification has characterised the area. There are now three egg farms, one broiler farm and deer farming is also on the increase. Some of the smaller farms, particularly the ten acre blocks, raise goats for milking and angoras. Racehorse breeders are also found in the area although dairying still predominates.



Blueberry farming is rapidly gaining ground at Eureka, Newstead and Gordonton. The first blueberry farm at Eureka - Blueberry Hill - started in 1980.

“If you draw a circle around Eureka (including the neighbouring districts) you would find the heaviest concentration of blueberry growers anywhere in New Zealand,” said one of the partners in the venture.

Mr Brian Gordon of Eureka commented that blueberry farming has taken off in the Waikato because the plant prefers peat soil. The naturally low pH balance and good supply of moisture are ideal. Blueberry farms had gained popularity over the last four years and early predictions indicated it would be profitable, he said. The market realisations are yet to be seen.

Blueberry Hill, on Eureka Road, was started by Mr Tom Hinton and three partners. Perched on a hill overlooking Eureka - hence the name - it also has a man-made lake, named after Mr Hinton's wife.

Lake Claire is approximately one hectare and was formed in 1980 because the high iron content in the area made the ground water unsuitable for irrigation.

Blueberry Hill will not be in full production until 1988 or 1989. An estimated summer workforce of 50 to 60 people would be required then to pick berries - 80 to 90 tonnes of them. Two-thirds of the pickings would go to the United States and a small percentage to Europe, Australia and

Japan. Some of the fruit will also go to the local processing industry for jams and flavourings.

The farm covers two separate 2.4 hectare blocks and Blueberry Hill plan further blocks in the future. There is also quite a large nursery on the property where the bushes grown are sold to other growers or used for replacement.

There is an active Blueberry Group meeting at Eureka now. Formed three years ago for growers in the area, it now takes in Gordonton growers as well. They meet regularly to share information on the industry. In the future it is envisaged a centralised packing and grading facility and cool store will be set up to handle the fruit from surrounding districts.

Several other farm advisory groups have been formed at Eureka over the years. The Eureka branch of Federated Farmers has been active since the forties, both politically and as an advisory group. Their meetings vary from discussions on farming topics to educational trips and film evenings. Visiting speakers keep the group up to date with farming developments.

Several schemes benefiting the farmers in the area and their employees have also been set up through the branch. The cadetship scheme previously mentioned is one.

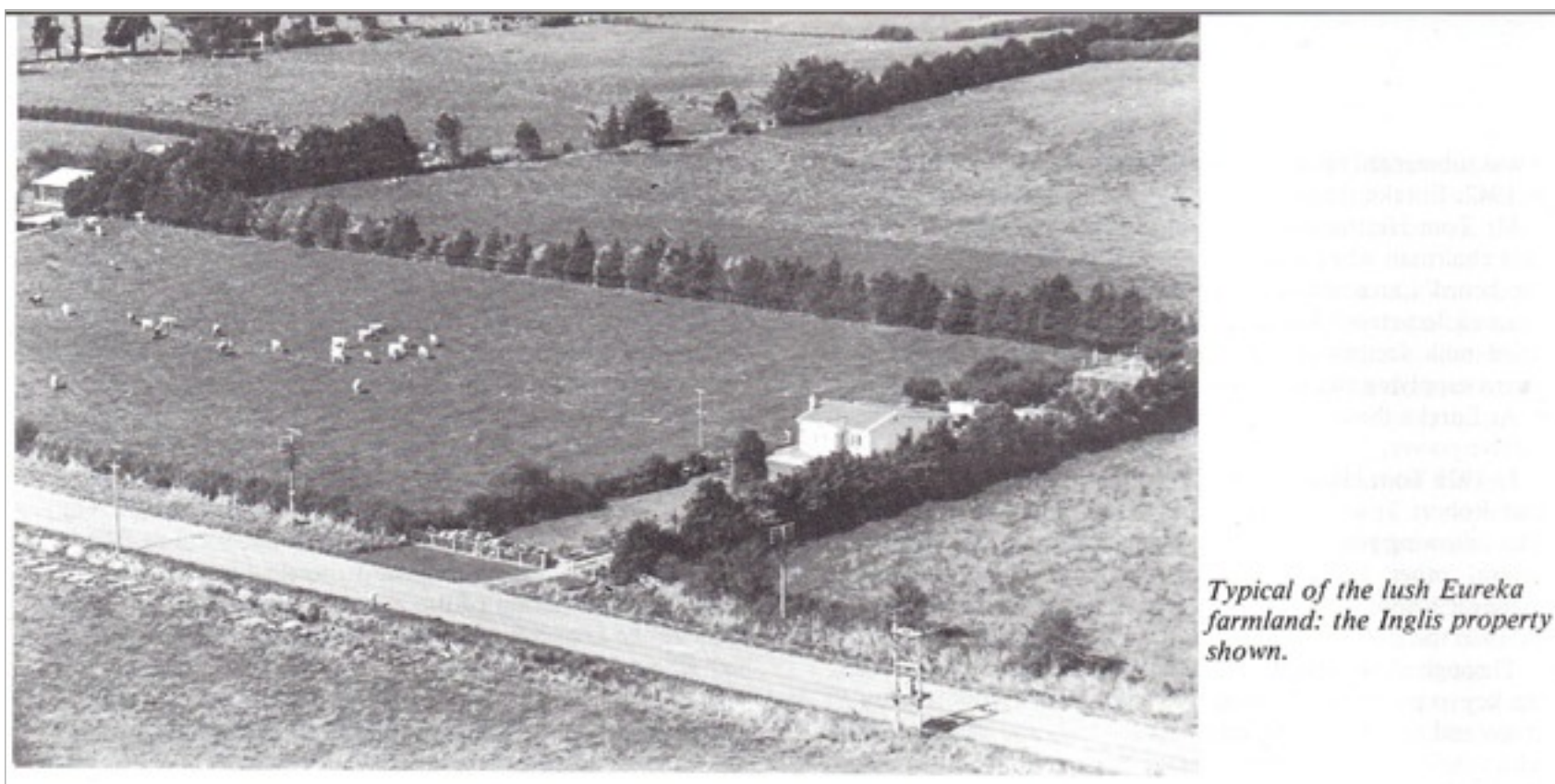
Eureka Cull Cow Pool: This pool was formed by Federated Farmers chairman Bill Saunders and secretary Ralph Masters in 1954 to supply cull cows from local farmers to Producer Meats Co-Op. For every cow supplied 25 cents

was paid into a fund to be used for the benefit of the Eureka district. Mr Stan Peters was appointed co-ordinator of the Pool, a task he performed admirably for 20 years before his retirement to town.

Farm Labour Scheme: Twenty farmers banded together in the fifties to start the scheme. They built a house and employed a worker to take over their farms if they were ill or wanted to go on holiday. At the inaugural meeting in July 1957 Mr Lester Masters was appointed chairman. The rate for the employee was to be four shillings and threepence an hour. The scheme was finally wound up in 1981.

It ended because the whole structure of the district seemed to change, according to Mr Ralph Masters, its secretary for 18 years. It began with 20 members and fell to 12. It then became too costly to run. Originally every farmer was dairying and milking, he said. Later, as farming patterns changed, this sort of assistance was no longer required on farms.

Japanese students exchange programme: The branch has also participated in an exchange scheme between the Japanese Government and Federated Farmers in New Zealand. The programme has been operating for 20 years. Farm trainees from Japan come to Eureka and work on a farm for a year, said spokesman Mr Wally Pollock.



A number of students had visited the district and Eureka had become quite a Japanese centre, he said.

New Zealanders had not been sent there in large numbers because of the language barrier. Mr Pollock said that with the growing interest in horticulture New Zealanders would soon be sent over to Japan. Farm Discussion Group: This group was first convened by Peter Hildreth about twenty years ago.

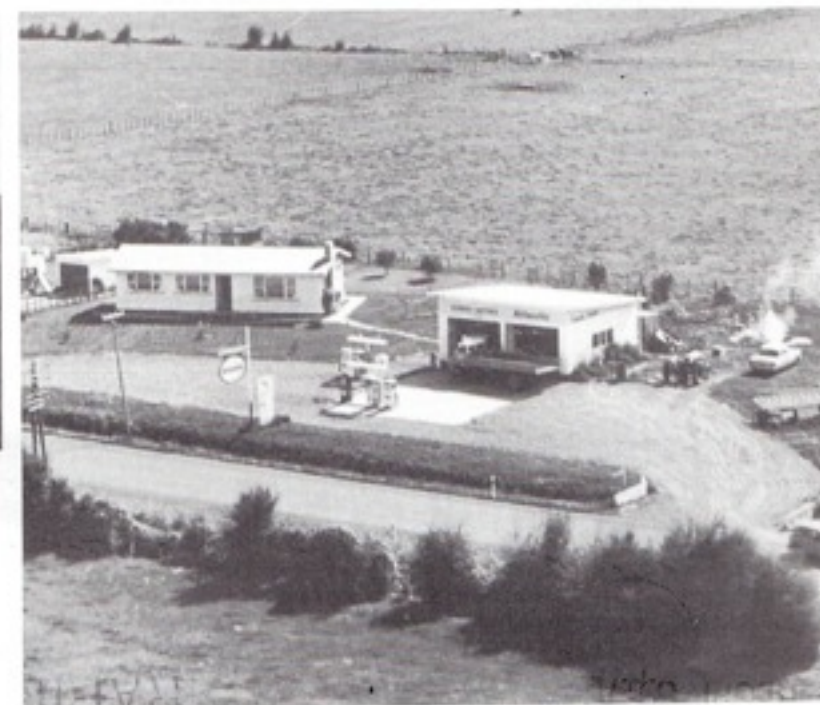
It disbanded and was then reconvened by Mr Brian Gordon about five years ago.

A farm advisor from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries comes to the group's monthly meetings and farming problems are discussed. This helps farmers to keep in touch with new research and techniques.

International Agricultural Exchange Association: Since 1979 about three students a year have visited Eureka through the scheme. They come from America, Canada, Europe and Britain. The association organises the travel experience for young people from rural areas in the participating countries.



ABOVE: Eureka Motors' original premises in 1961.



RIGHT: Proof of the prosperous growth of the district—the same premises a few years later.

BELOW: The early pioneers had no heavy machinery like this—laying the natural gas pipeline over the Waitakaruru Stream on Barry Geange's farm in 1982.



They have a chance to work and study a different type of farming. At present there are 15 different countries involved in the programme. The trainee is also paid an allowance. In New Zealand the programme was first run by the Young Farmers Club which has also been active at Eureka.

The farming locality of Eureka today is approximately 15 kilometres north-east of Hamilton in the Waikato County. It has grown in area and population over the last century and is now included in the Ruakura Riding.

The riding's population in the 1981 census was 1648.

The buildings which made up Eureka village's nucleus have disappeared: the butter factory, the station, the corner store and the post office.

Instead, sited at the crossroads today are the school, Eureka Hall and Eureka Motors.

Eureka Motors opened for business in January 1961. Its original owner, Mr Joe Stockman, said he had been living in Auckland when he heard that Eureka's store was looking for a buyer for its petrol pumps. Originally from Holland, he had worked as a mechanic in Ngaruawahia and settled in Auckland when he married Noeline.

CHAPTER 13

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9. Idem

10. Idem

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13. Ivan Lovelock

14. Mr J. Terry

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3. New Zealand Co-operative Dairy Company records

4. Mr W. Pollock

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7. John Hooper

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9. Jesse Cresswell, Henry Cresswell

10. Mrs Muriel Clarkin

11. Clary Cresswell

CHAPTER SIX

1. Eureka School Golden and 75th Jubilees
2. Eureka School Golden Jubilee
3. Eureka School Diamond Jubilee (Sophie Cameron)
4. Unpublished article by Harry Clarkin
5. Richard Casey
6. Formerly State Highway ended at Harry Clarkins farm. The main road then went via Hunter Road.
7. Mr Harry Clarkin
8. Eureka School 75th Jubilee
9. Waikato Times: 22/7/1882; 8/6/1882.
10. Eureka School Diamond Jubilee
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2. Waikato Times: 14/11/1952

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2. Mr Wally Pollock
3. Mr Bob Appleton
4. Mr Brian Gordon
5. Mr Wally Pollock
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7. Mrs Hermine Masters
8. Mr Stan Nixon

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7. Board
8. Records of the Central Waikato Electric Power Board
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10. Mr Tom Muir

CHAPTER TWELVE

1. Mrs L. Buckley

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank the following for their help in compiling this history:

Hamilton Public Library - staff in the New Zealand Room, Waikato Arts Museum, Staff of the Department of Lands and Survey and Lands and Deeds, Staff of the Waikato County Council, Mr Ken Mackwell, New Zealand Co-operative Dairy Company; Staff of the Telephone Services Branch, Chief Post Office, Hamilton, Staff of the Eureka and Taupiri Drainage Boards;

Staff of the Central Waikato Electric Power Board, Education Department, Hamilton; the publicity division of the New Zealand Railways; the publicity division and archives of the New Zealand Post Office.

I would also like to thank all of Eureka's residents, both past and present, for contributing various pieces of history about the district.

- Meena David



Long-time resident Harry Clarkin

A 4 SEE A
 CLAUDE BUCKLEY 12/6/1944
 MERVYN BUCKLEY 25/5/1949
 MICHAEL & MARGARET ELIZABETH HART 26/7/1977

A 5 SEE A
 MERVYN BUCKLEY 20/8/1946
 RONALD BUCKLEY 18/5/1955
 G. S. WILSON LIMITED 31/7/1971
 MERVYN BUCKLEY 11/12/1972
 MICHAEL & MARGARET ELIZABETH HART 26/7/1977

A 6 SEE A
 MERVYN BUCKLEY 20/8/1946
 MICHAEL & MARGARET ELIZABETH HART 26/7/1977

A 7 SEE A
 WILLIAM MANDENO SAUNDERS 11/6/1951
 HABER LANDS LIMITED 1/7/1966
 MICHAEL & MARGARET ELIZABETH HART 26/7/1977

A 8,9,10 SEE A
 MERVYN BUCKLEY 20/8/1946
 CLAUDE BUCKLEY 25/5/1949
 RONALD BUCKLEY 18/5/1955
 G. S. WILSON LIMITED 31/7/1971
 FREDERICK WILLIAM DANRELL & DELPHY MAY DANRELL 7/2/1973

A 11 SEE A
 VICTOR JOHN JAMES COOMBS 11/6/1951
 WILLIAM MANDENO SAUNDERS 11/6/1951
 HABER LANDS LIMITED 1/7/1966
 CLAUDE & DULCIE CLAUDINE BUCKLEY 3/10/1973
 KEVIN CLAUDE & LINLEY SHARON BUCKLEY 7/3/1975

A 12 SEE A
 VICTOR JOHN JAMES COOMBS 11/6/1951
 WILLIAM MANDENO SAUNDERS 11/6/1951
 HABER LANDS LIMITED 1/7/1966
 CLAUDE & DULCIE CLAUDINE BUCKLEY 3/10/1973
 BRIAN FRANCIS GORDON & SHERYL JENNIFER GORDON 26/6/1975

A 13 SEE A
 VICTOR JOHN JAMES COOMBS 11/6/1951
 WILLIAM MANDENO SAUNDERS 11/6/1951
 HABER LANDS LIMITED 1/7/1966
 CLAUDE BUCKLEY & DULCIE CLAUDINE BUCKLEY 3/10/1973

A 14 SEE A
 KENNETH SNOWSHAW TAPP 13/2/1953
 HENRY GEORGE KEITH & JOSEPHINE MARY KEITH 12/7/1973
 JOSEPHINE MARY KEITH & ALLAN JOHN KEITH 26/2/1982

A 15 SEE A
 KENNETH SNOWSHAW TAPP 13/2/1953
 HENRY GEORGE KEITH & JOSEPHINE MARY KEITH 12/7/1973
 ALLAN JOHN KEITH 1/4/1980

A 16 SEE A
 VICTOR JOHN JAMES COOMBS 11/6/1951
 WILLIAM MANDENO SAUNDERS 11/6/1951
 HABER LANDS LIMITED 1/7/1966
 DEREK DEWAR & VERNA JOYCE CHALMERS 7/7/1977

A 17 SEE A
 VICTOR JOHN JAMES COOMBS 11/6/1951
 WILLIAM MANDENO SAUNDERS 11/6/1951
 HABER LANDS LIMITED 1/7/1966
 DEREK DEWAR & VERNA JOYCE CHALMERS 7/7/1977

A 18 SEE A
 VICTOR JOHN JAMES COOMBS 11/6/1951
 WILLIAM MANDENO SAUNDERS 11/6/1951
 HABER LANDS LIMITED 1/7/1966
 KEITH RICHARD HABER 1/8/1975
 DEREK DEWAR CHALMERS & VERNA JOYCE CHALMERS 22/7/1977

A 19 SEE A
 VICTOR JOHN JAMES COOMBS 11/6/1951
 WILLIAM MANDENO SAUNDERS 11/6/1951

WENZL & JOHN JOSEPH SCHOLLUM & ROLAND PERCEVAL TOWLE 2/2/1971
 B 1 SEE B
 WENZL & JOHN JOSEPH SCHOLLUM & ROLAND PERCEVAL TOWLE 1/10/1958
 LEO PATRICK SCHOLLUM 9/3/1961
 DURCAN FARMS LIMITED 11/9/1970
 BRENDAN MARTIN DURCAN 1/10/1977

B 2 SEE B
 WENZL & JOHN JOSEPH SCHOLLUM & ROLAND PERCEVAL TOWLE 1/10/1958
 NOEL WENZL SCHOLLUM 2/3/1961
 HECTOR GOODALL WEBB 3/3/1964
 GEOFFREY DAVID GEORGE FURNISS & AGNES DICK POLLOCK FURNISS 12/8/1968
 WARREN FURNISS 18/1/1972
 RONALD GRAHAM HATTS 15/9/1979

B 3 SEE B
 WENZL & JOHN JOSEPH SCHOLLUM & ROLAND PERCEVAL TOWLE 1/10/1958
 NOEL WENZL SCHOLLUM 2/3/1961
 HECTOR GOODALL WEBB 3/3/1964
 JAMES GLASS MORRISON 24/8/1970

B 4 SEE B
 WENZL & JOHN JOSEPH SCHOLLUM & ROLAND PERCEVAL TOWLE 1/10/1958
 NOEL WENZL SCHOLLUM 2/3/1961
 HECTOR GOODALL WEBB 3/5/1964
 CHARLES ROBERT ELLIOTT & THELMA DAWN ELLIOTT 7/2/1969

B 5 SEE B
 WENZL & JOHN JOSEPH SCHOLLUM & ROLAND PERCEVAL TOWLE 1/10/1958
 LEO PATRICK SCHOLLUM 9/3/1961
 DURCAN FARMS LIMITED 11/9/1970
 BRENDAN MARTIN DURCAN 1/10/1977

B 6
 WAIKATO COUNTY COUNCIL 5/5/1931
 B 7
 WAIKATO COUNTY COUNCIL 17/10/1931

C
 WILLIAM McHARDY 23/5/1906
 ARTHUR JONAS FRIEDLANDER 17/10/1916

C 1 & 2 SEE C
 LESLIE FRANK HINTON 20/9/1926
 LAURENCE RAYMOND HINTON 1/8/1960

C 3 SEE C
 JOSHUA MATHERS 29/9/1921
 GEORGE WHITE 18/7/1938
 JOSHUA MATHERS 29/6/1939
 DAISY BRENNAN 15/4/1946
 ROYSTON WILLIAM CLARKIN 30/7/1954
 ROYSTON WILLIAM & MURIEL ETHEL CLARKIN 25/9/1984

C 4 SEE C
 JOSHUA MATHERS 29/9/1921
 GEORGE WHITE 18/7/1938
 JOSHUA MATHERS 29/6/1939
 DAISY BRENNAN 15/4/1946
 DAISY BRENNAN & JOHN BRENNAN 20/4/1955
 ARNOLDUS WILHELMUS JOSEPHUS VERSTRATEN 27/10/1961
 KENNETH ELDON PEARSON & EDA CORAL PEARSON 19/8/1982

C 5 SEE
 JOSHUA MATHERS 29/9/1921
 GEORGE WHITE 18/7/1938
 JOSHUA MATHERS 29/6/1939
 DAISY BRENNAN 15/4/1946
 ROYSTON WILLIAM CLARKIN 30/7/1954
 ROYSTON WILLIAM CLARKIN & MURIEL ETHEL CLARKIN 25/9/1984

C 6 SEE C
 HENRY ALFRED BOWERS 29/9/1921
 HENRY ALFRED BOWERS JNR 22/6/1926

CHARLES ATTEWELL 23/7/1953
 FREDRICK GOULD MAYALL 22/8/1957

D 3 to 7 SEE D
 ERNEST MELBOURNE MASTERS 13/5/1913
 CYRIL VICTOR MASTERS 5/6/1930
 DERMOT GEORGE GOODALL COPESTAKE 5/11/1940
 HUGH MATTHEW DAVIDSON 21/1/1944
 ALFRED DENNIS FLAVELL 13/8/1953

D 3 SEE D & D 3 to 7
 HANS OETTLI 30/7/1971
 ELIS OETTLI & HENRY OETTLI 10/3/1976
 ERICH HANS OETTLI & JENNIFER JOY OETTLI 30/9/1976
 ERNEST BARRY MAYALL & GRAHAM VERNON GOULD MAYALL 9/6/1978

D 4 SEE D & D 3 to 7
 JOHN EDWIN & MAUREEN JANET MADSEN 6/7/1971
 ERNEST BARRY MAYALL & GRAHAM VERNON GOULD MAYALL 14/5/1976

D 5 SEE D & D 3 to 7
 JOHN EDWIN & MAUREEN JANET MADSEN 6/7/1971
 JOHANNES NICHOLAAS ANTONIUS & NOELINE FRANCIS STOCKMAN 23/12/1976

D 6 SEE D & D 3 to 7
 JOHN EDWIN & MAUREEN JANET MADSEN 6/7/1971
 KEVIN RALPH OSBALDISTON & IRENE OSBALDISTON 25/5/1976
 RICHARD GORDON & SHIRLEY MURIEL GUALTROUGH 1/12/1980
 KENNETH JOHN FOTHERINGHAM 23/12/1982

D 7 SEE D & D 3 to 7
 JOHN EDWIN & MAUREEN JANET MADSEN 6/7/1971
 ROBERT WILLIAM PINKERTON & EVELYN JOY PINKERTON 4/6/1976
 TIMOTHY ELLIOT TRIGG & PAULA TRIGG 26/10/1978
 COLIN ALFRED CHAPMAN & LYNNETTE FAY CHAPMAN 23/2/1981

D 8 SEE D
 ERNEST MELBOURNE MASTERS 13/5/1913
 CYRIL VICTOR MASTERS 5/6/1930
 RALPH ROSS MASTERS 7/11/1958
 HAROLD EDWARDS VERCOC 23/7/1980

D 9 SEE D
 ERNEST MELBOURNE MASTERS 13/5/1913
 CYRIL VICTOR MASTERS 5/6/1930
 RALPH ROSS MASTERS 9/7/1976

D 10
 EUREKA SCHOOL 28/9/1906

D 11
 EUREKA SCHOOL 28/6/1907

D 12 SEE D
 ERNEST MELBOURNE MASTERS 13/5/1913
 CYRIL VICTOR MASTERS 5/6/1930
 EUREKA SCHOOL 4/10/1953

D 13 SEE D
 ERNEST MELBOURNE MASTERS 13/5/1913
 CLAUDE HUIA HINTON & HARRY ROSS HINTON 19/8/1919
 HARRY ROSS HINTON 26/1/1939
 FLORENCE MYRTLE HINTON 17/6/1953
 THOMAS ROSS HINTON 16/2/1960
 GEOFFREY ROSS HINTON & DIANE MARGARET HINTON 11/5/1978

D 14 SEE D
 ERNEST MELBOURNE MASTERS 13/5/1913
 CLAUDE HUIA HINTON & HARRY ROSS HINTON 19/8/1919
 HARRY ROSS HINTON 26/1/1939
 ARTHUR GUY HINTON 18/8/1941
 THOMAS ROSS HINTON 9/3/1970
 GEOFFREY ROSS HINTON & DIANE MARGARET HINTON 11/5/1978

D 15 SEE D
 ERNEST MELBOURNE MASTERS 13/5/1913

CHAPTER 14

EUREKA LANDOWNERS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

THOUGHTS

THE following pages give the names and dates of all land purchases in Eureka. The data has been obtained from the Certificates of Title contained in the South Auckland Land Registry Office records. The titles give the date of registration of the transfer of ownership and for various reasons this date may be some time after the owner took possession of a parcel of land. The new owner may also have been resident in Eureka for some time prior to purchasing land.

Some of the documents are difficult to read and while all care has been taken to achieve accuracy it is possible there may still be some errors or omissions.

Some minor parcels of land which have little or no significance in the overall picture have been omitted from the maps and lists in the interests of clarity. In general executors of estates have also been omitted unless their ownership appears to have been of some importance.

In the beginning the N.Z. Loan and Mercantile Agency Company Limited obtained the land which was to become Eureka by way of a Crown Grant dated the 20th July 1876. This was some time after work had commenced on development.

The Loan and Mercantile Agency transferred ownership to the Waikato Land Association on October 21, 1880.

On the 3rd May 1882 2000 acres was sold to Albert Bruce Suttor. This area of land is shown on Map One.

The Waikato Land Association changed its name to the New Zealand Land Association and this company purchased Mr Suttors land back from him on the 22nd August 1892.

In the early 1900s the Assets Realisation Board subdivided and sold the land. The original purchasers are shown on Map One.

Map Two is the index on which the following lists are based and a letter indicates the lots created by the 1902-1906 subdivisions which formed the boundaries of the original lots in Eureka. A number within these lots delineates subsequent subdivision.



[illegible]

A	JOSEPH BURTON	18/01/1992	A 22 SEE A	11/6/1991	D 1 SEE D	28/6/1992
	WILLIAM STEPHEN HOBSON	18/01/1994		11/6/1991	JAMES HENRY TAYLOR	8/10/1991
	JOHN MICHAEL MCARDY	8/9/1995		11/6/1991	JOHN HUGHES	26/3/1994
	WALTER BRUCE DALE STEEN	11/1/1996		11/6/1991	JAMES HENRY TAYLOR	21/7/1995
	ARTHUR RICHARD FITCHERBERT	15/6/1996		11/6/1991	ARTHUR GUY HINTON	12/10/1999
	GEORGE ROBERT JACKSON	23/1/1998		11/6/1991	JOHN HUGHES	16/7/1990
	FREDERICK EDWIN BISHOP LONLOCK	5/4/1916		11/6/1991	GEORGE WILLIAM HILL	16/6/1941
	FRANCIS WILLIAM BURLY	21/9/1992		11/6/1991	JOHN BRITTON GRAY	24/1/1944
A 1 & 2 SEE A				11/6/1991	WILLIAM BARTY WILLIAMSON	25/3/1947
	CLAUDE BUCKLEY	12/6/1944		11/6/1991	ARTHUR HENRY PENDERTON & MARY FRANCES PENDERTON	27/5/1940
	DAVID THOMAS BUCKLEY	25/5/1949		11/6/1991	GEORGE SINGH	24/10/1942
	ERIC EDWARD & EDWARD ROSE MURPHY	23/4/1972		11/6/1991	GEORGE WEAVER & SUBSIDIARY SINGH	13/6/1945
	ALBERT ARNOLD WRIGHT	26/4/1974		11/6/1991	GEORGE SINGH	13/6/1975
	SHALAT SINGH & SONS LIMITED	14/5/1978		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
A 2 SEE A PLUS A 1				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	LEWIS TO BRASSGATING CORPORATION OF N.Z.	3/5/1971		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
A 3 SEE A				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	CLAUDE BUCKLEY	15/6/1944		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	RONALD WALTER LLOYD & BETTY HELEN LLOYD	24/7/1972		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
A 4 SEE A				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	CLAUDE BUCKLEY	15/6/1944		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	HERMAN BUCKLEY	25/5/1949		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	MICHAEL & MARGARET ELIZABETH HART	26/7/1977		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
A 5 SEE A				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	HERMAN BUCKLEY	25/5/1949		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	MICHAEL & MARGARET ELIZABETH HART	26/7/1977		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
A 6 SEE A				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	HERMAN BUCKLEY	25/5/1949		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	MICHAEL & MARGARET ELIZABETH HART	26/7/1977		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
A 7 SEE A				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	VICTOR JOHN JAMES COOMBS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	WILLIAM WARDEN SANDERS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	WILLIAM WARDEN SANDERS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	MICHAEL & MARGARET ELIZABETH HART	26/7/1977		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
A 8, 9, 10 SEE A				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	HERMAN BUCKLEY	25/5/1949		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	CLAUDE BUCKLEY	15/6/1944		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	RONALD BUCKLEY	15/6/1944		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	G. S. WILSON LIMITED	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	FREDERICK WILLIAM DUNNELL & DAVID WAT DUNNELL	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
A 11 SEE A				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	VICTOR JOHN JAMES COOMBS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	WILLIAM WARDEN SANDERS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	WILLIAM WARDEN SANDERS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	CLAUDE & DAVID CLAUDE BUCKLEY	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	KEVIN CLAUDE & LINDLEY SHAWN BUCKLEY	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
A 12 SEE A				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	VICTOR JOHN JAMES COOMBS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	WILLIAM WARDEN SANDERS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	WILLIAM WARDEN SANDERS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	CLAUDE & DAVID CLAUDE BUCKLEY	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	KEVIN CLAUDE BUCKLEY & LINDLEY SHAWN BUCKLEY	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
A 13 SEE A				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	VICTOR JOHN JAMES COOMBS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	WILLIAM WARDEN SANDERS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	WILLIAM WARDEN SANDERS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	CLAUDE BUCKLEY & DAVID CLAUDE BUCKLEY	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	KEVIN CLAUDE BUCKLEY & LINDLEY SHAWN BUCKLEY	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
A 14 SEE A				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	JOSEPH BURTON	18/01/1992		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	WILLIAM STEPHEN HOBSON	18/01/1994		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	JOHN MICHAEL MCARDY	8/9/1995		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	WALTER BRUCE DALE STEEN	11/1/1996		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	ARTHUR RICHARD FITCHERBERT	15/6/1996		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	GEORGE ROBERT JACKSON	23/1/1998		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	FREDERICK EDWIN BISHOP LONLOCK	5/4/1916		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	FRANCIS WILLIAM BURLY	21/9/1992		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
A 15 SEE A				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	VICTOR JOHN JAMES COOMBS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	WILLIAM WARDEN SANDERS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	WILLIAM WARDEN SANDERS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	CLAUDE & DAVID CLAUDE BUCKLEY	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	KEVIN CLAUDE BUCKLEY & LINDLEY SHAWN BUCKLEY	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
A 16 SEE A				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
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	WILLIAM WARDEN SANDERS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	WILLIAM WARDEN SANDERS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	CLAUDE & DAVID CLAUDE BUCKLEY	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	KEVIN CLAUDE BUCKLEY & LINDLEY SHAWN BUCKLEY	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
A 17 SEE A				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	VICTOR JOHN JAMES COOMBS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
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	WILLIAM WARDEN SANDERS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	CLAUDE & DAVID CLAUDE BUCKLEY	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	KEVIN CLAUDE BUCKLEY & LINDLEY SHAWN BUCKLEY	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
A 18 SEE A				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	VICTOR JOHN JAMES COOMBS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	WILLIAM WARDEN SANDERS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	WILLIAM WARDEN SANDERS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	CLAUDE & DAVID CLAUDE BUCKLEY	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	KEVIN CLAUDE BUCKLEY & LINDLEY SHAWN BUCKLEY	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
A 19 SEE A				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	VICTOR JOHN JAMES COOMBS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
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	WILLIAM WARDEN SANDERS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	CLAUDE & DAVID CLAUDE BUCKLEY	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	KEVIN CLAUDE BUCKLEY & LINDLEY SHAWN BUCKLEY	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
A 20 SEE A				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	VICTOR JOHN JAMES COOMBS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
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	WILLIAM WARDEN SANDERS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	CLAUDE & DAVID CLAUDE BUCKLEY	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	KEVIN CLAUDE BUCKLEY & LINDLEY SHAWN BUCKLEY	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
A 21 SEE A				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	VICTOR JOHN JAMES COOMBS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
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A 22 SEE A				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
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A 23 SEE A				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
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A 24 SEE A				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
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A 25 SEE A				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
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	WILLIAM WARDEN SANDERS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	CLAUDE & DAVID CLAUDE BUCKLEY	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	KEVIN CLAUDE BUCKLEY & LINDLEY SHAWN BUCKLEY	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
A 27 SEE A				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	VICTOR JOHN JAMES COOMBS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	WILLIAM WARDEN SANDERS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
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	CLAUDE & DAVID CLAUDE BUCKLEY	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
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A 28 SEE A				11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	VICTOR JOHN JAMES COOMBS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975
	WILLIAM WARDEN SANDERS	11/6/1991		11/6/1991	WANDER & DAVIDSON SINGH	15/6/1975

2	HENRY REYNOLDS ANTHONY MARCO DEMOETRE HANS FRIEDLANDER	8/16/1934 5/9/1916 12/9/1911	2 46 SEE 2 JOHN CLARKIN JOHN CLARKIN JUNIOR K.M. THE KING FREDERICK WILLIAM JONES RUTH ARONA FARRELL EDWARD PHILLIP FARRELL ALEXANDER SOMERVILLE HUTCHESON GEORGE CONANTEN SMIT HANS VAN HEDDEN & THEODORA VAN HEDDEN	12/3/1920 9/6/1928 11/8/1932 16/9/1932 15/9/1947 1/6/1958 1/6/1958 8/1/1961 13/7/1966	2 9 SEE 2 MICHAEL WILLIAM CONNERY THOMAS COLLINS EDWARD GEORGE MORSH THOMAS COLLINS CHRISTOPHER HARRISON HARRIS JAMES HUTCHESON CHARLES GREGORY HATES NORMAN CHARLES GOSWAM & MARJORIE ALICE GOSWAM STANLEY WILLIAM BERRY DARREY MULLAR & BEVERLEY ELIZABETH MULLAR DORIAN FRANK MORRIS THATCHER & PATRICIA BLANCHIE THATCHER	18/11/1918 29/9/1928 18/10/1938 23/2/1922 13/6/1934 15/6/1934 24/6/1934 23/11/1934 26/9/1981
2 1 SEE 2	ROBERT ORR DUNGAN & WILLIAM FREDERICK DUNGAN ROBERT ORR DUNGAN ESTATE OF ROBERT ORR DUNGAN ROBERT ORR DUNGAN FRANCIS CYLE DUNGAN	14/3/1928 6/8/1924 25/6/1948 18/7/1948 12/9/1972	2 5 SEE 2 CHARLES HUGHSON KEITH ERNEST HENRI WILLIAM CHARLES HARRIS S. HETTLER and SONS LIMITED	13/8/1917 26/4/1942 2/10/1942 9/11/1972	2 9 & 18 SEE 2 JAMES GEORGE HENYON PAUL PAULSEN HENRY SAWSON THOMAS THOMPSON NORMAN BRUCE THOMPSON CHRISTOPHER WILLIAM EDWARD TONGUE & JUNE TONGUE MURRAY ERNEST HIGGS & RUTH HELEN HIGGS PETER ROBERT HUTCHESON & JUNE ANNE PETERSON JOHN E. GOWELL LIMITED	3/5/1917 18/10/1917 18/10/1919 24/7/1921 27/6/1926 13/7/1971 24/10/1998 15/6/1982
2 3 SEE 2	JOHN CLARKIN JOHN CLARKIN JUNIOR K.M. THE KING FREDERICK WILLIAM JONES RUTH ARONA FARRELL EDWARD PHILLIP FARRELL ALEXANDER SOMERVILLE HUTCHESON DAVID FRANCIS HUTCHESON GEORGE JONKIN CHRISTOPHERSON ANTHONY HARRISON & JOHANN FRANKLIN HARRISON EDWARD ARTHUR ROSS BLANCHWOOD PROPERTIES	12/3/1920 9/6/1928 12/9/1932 16/9/1932 15/9/1947 1/6/1958 1/6/1958 13/11/1958 1/7/1959 25/6/1948 13/7/1972 13/7/1972	2 4 SEE 2 JAMES GEORGE HENYON PAUL PAULSEN HENRY SAWSON THOMAS THOMPSON NORMAN JAMES THOMPSON ALBERT CECIL LONDON, JESSIE ELIZABETH SAUTER LONDON RONALD ARTHUR LONDON, THEODORE CECIL LONDON & DOROTHY ANN FIDLER LONDON RONALD ARTHUR LONDON	26/3/1917 13/10/1917 18/10/1919 24/3/1921 20/10/1938 30/7/1954 8/10/1966	2 10 SEE 2 JAMES GEORGE HENYON PAUL PAULSEN HENRY SAWSON THOMAS THOMPSON ERNEST WILLIES THOMPSON HARRIS EDWARD VERTICE WALTER EDWARD LIMITED FRANK WALTER APPLETON & DOREEN MARY APPLETON	3/5/1917 18/10/1917 18/10/1919 24/7/1921 27/6/1926 13/7/1971 24/10/1998 15/6/1982
2 46 SEE 2	JOHN CLARKIN JOHN CLARKIN JUNIOR K.M. THE KING FREDERICK WILLIAM JONES RUTH ARONA FARRELL EDWARD PHILLIP FARRELL ALEXANDER SOMERVILLE HUTCHESON DAVID FRANCIS HUTCHESON GEORGE JONKIN CHRISTOPHERSON ANTHONY HARRISON & JOHANN FRANKLIN HARRISON HANS VAN HEDDEN & THEODORA VAN HEDDEN	12/3/1920 9/6/1928 12/9/1932 16/9/1932 15/9/1947 1/6/1958 1/6/1958 13/11/1958 1/7/1959 25/6/1948 25/6/1972	2 7 SEE 2 MICHAEL WILLIAM CONNERY THOMAS COLLINS EDWARD GEORGE MORSH THOMAS COLLINS HARRIS JOSEPHINE WILLIAMS WILLIAM HENRY HATES CHARLES EDWARD SMITH & ANGEL ADELINE SMITH RAY EDWARD SMITH RAY EDWARD SMITH & JESSIE PATRICIA SMITH	12/3/1920 9/6/1928 12/9/1932 16/9/1932 15/9/1947 1/6/1958 1/6/1958 13/11/1958 1/7/1959 25/6/1948 1/6/1948		

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Thoughts

*As we sit here with pride after reading this story
And think of the effort (with its ultimate glory)
To build a great District by those tough pioneers
To its position today in these lucrative years
For the good of us all, for rich and/or poor
For themselves and their children and God's common law
For the good of all people who struggle through life
Despondent and maimed by the ravage of strife: For the
picture is there of the things they have done
With the horse and the plough until they had won
Life from this place and its wealth then displayed
In its crops and its stock and its homes on parade
There was produce, machinery, all kinds of dogs
Chickens and ponies, woollies and hogs
All shiny and bright, the best of their breed
They gave of their best in their hour of need
And we think back with pride Of those earlier folk
And we are proud to be sheltering under the cloak
of those rugged old men and their marvellous wives
Who gave us so much during their lives
They left us a heritage with glory around it
May we never forget them - EUREKA - they found it!*

Harry Clarkin

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A tribute to our pioneering families

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