

IDLE CHATTER Mark II

Newsletter No: 55

Thursday 15th August 2013

This newsletter is an initiative of the Quandialla Centenary Committee

Sponsored by Ted & Joan Smith

PART SEVEN – R.S. GRINTER'S MEMORIES 1923-1926

The following is the first part of Mr Grinter's story of when he was getting ready to leave Quandialla and then his trip to Trundle.

THE TRACTOR RIDE

This story is a day by day account of moving a Rumely tractor, an International Header and a Beard and Session mould board plough from Quandialla to Trundle. But first we had to get ready to leave.

On Tuesday 5th Jan 1926 we finished harvesting wheat at "Daisy Meadows" (now known as Willawa) after lots of breaks, some wet, some too hot to work (113 deg. F). There were still several wagon loads of bagged wheat to be carted to Berendebba Siding, a distance of about 6 miles. The wheat bags were 3 bushel bags and held about 180 lbs. The wagon was a "Coxon" made from red gum, its' rear wheels were 6 feet in diameter and its' front wheels were 5 feet 6 inches in diameter and all 4 wheels had a 6 inch wide iron tyre. The wagons carry capacity was about 15 ton and was pulled by a team of 8 horses and was of an English design, it had a perch pole and stringers.

Friday 15th Jan 1926 we finished wheat carting and brought in 121 bags of seed wheat. Cutting chaff for 2 horse teams plus spares took up some considerable time, a never ending job (about 30 horses)

Monday 18th Jan 1926 2 surplus wagon loads of seed wheat were carted to Berendabba Siding. Fallow had to be worked over before I left the farm. I used my 10 furrow skim plough with 14 horses abreast and I borrowed Uncle Walters 8 farrow skim plough with 10 horses abreast. Quandialla soil was too heavy and sticky to use long mould board ploughs. We finished working the fallow on Tuesday 26th Jan.

Saturday 30th Jan, we started to dismantle the implements that had to be transported to Trundle and load them into a railway truck at Berendebba Siding.

Friday 5th February 1926, the railway trucks were all loaded by this date. It looked a mixed lot of iron ware by now, looking nothing like their former shape.

Saturday 6th Feb, many small items around the farm yard still remained to be packed up and got ready for the trip. Chaff cutting was still a job to attend to.

Friday 19th Feb, my father and brother Ernie left Quandi at midday with a wagon load of household items, half the load was made up of chaff, oats and some seed wheat to feed the horses. The wagon was pulled by a team of 8 horses with a few cows and horses following along behind.

Monday 22nd Feb 1926, I had packed various items in and around the International Header which had been reduced in size for road transport. The few hens which I had, fitted into the riddle box on the header. But they never laid any eggs on the trip. I left "Daisy Meadows" at midday, with the Rumely tractor hauling the header and a stump jump plough behind the header. The spade grips on the rear wheels of the tractor had been removed so as not to damage the surface of the road. This I found out later slowed up the travelling as the iron wheels slipped on the smooth roads, especially on an incline.

I arrived in the township of Caragabal with my slow moving circus about dark, the trip so far had been uneventful except while passing the school at Berendebba. One of the Lawson boys nearly got himself ironed out under the corn wheel of the header, with the weight of the header I am sure the corn wheel would have left a lasting impression. My top speed would average about 2 ½ miles an hour, these children were walking and could easily keep pace with me and they kept jumping on and off the implements as I was travelling along.

Watch this space next week for Part 2 of this story.

THE FUTURE – CENTENARY NEWS

THE CENTENARY QUILT

"More Fabric Please"

Judy tells me that they still need more fabric to complete the job. Bottom line, the quilting group (Judy, helpers & centenary funds) hope that donations from your scrap pile will be the main content of the quilt with the Centenary Funds purchasing what is required to complete the project. So please join me and take a look at your fabric and see what you can spare. I have it on my, to do list this weekend. You can leave your parcel at the PO and I will pass it on.

NOW

CWA INTERNATIONAL DAY LUNCHEON

Quandialla Central School on Thursday 22nd August

Country of Study – Morocco - Cost \$12.00 per head

Members of the Community and all CWA Members

ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

RSVP – QCS by 3pm on Tues 20th August Ph: 6347 1207

FOUND: **1 Earring** – found in the school library after the Quandialla Central School Centenary on Sat 27th July. It may be collected from the front office during school hours.

CWA: Our August Meeting was cancelled due to an influx of apologies. The next social event for our branch will be the International Day (advert above) and our next meeting will be held in September.

QUANDIALLA FRIDAY NIGHT JACKPOTS: The Bland Hotel Poker Jackpot has jumped to \$360 this Friday as the money goes up - the number of cards to choose from goes down, so the odds are getting better. At the Club there is sad news for us but not for Pat Daly from Ungarie who won the money last week. A bit of trivia information for you - the same Mrs Pat Daly was the lady behind the original Club's Draw conception ump-teen years ago. Even though it didn't come to Quandialla this time, we are very happy for Pat. So this Friday we start again at \$650, hells bells I would be happy with that, so we will keep showing up on Friday nights to the Pub and the Club – you just never know, it might be ours or your lucky night.

SEWING GROUP: Our next sewing group will be held on Saturday 24th August at Quandialla Central School. Start at 10am and finish at 3.30pm. Come and join us and have a great day, everyone welcome. Bring along a project, machine and lunch. Tea and coffee provided. See you there. M.T.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Extracts from IDLE CHATTER

Extract from IDLE CHATTER NO. 38

THURS. JAN 17th 1957

You may wonder why this is all higggedly piggedly this week, but to be frank with you, I've had it. The hot weather is getting me down and I am rapidly running out of words. Don't think that I can't imagine your remarks to that statement. I can, and yet you would be wrong. I am informed that Idle Chatter can be found in some of the best little houses in this land..... When I really get going you know that I can go on for hours, without any rhyme or reason and the rest is up to you. Read 'em or burn 'em, but if you will go on reading 'em I'll write 'em.....Fancy me using slang like that with a brand new headmaster of the school in town. I take this opportunity of bidding you welcome to our little community Mr & Mrs RF Warne and may your stay be a pleasant one.....There will be a Junior Farmer's meeting on Thursday February 7th. I know it's a bit early but you can't blame me for not attending, and from what I can hear some of you are getting a bit lax about these meetings.....Congratulations to Mr & Mrs L Potbury, who were blessed with a daughter last Sunday. The name? Christine June.....Bless my heart and soul there is even some cricket news. Things are looking up in the publishing game. Eurabba played Quandialla and Eurabba won.....Just talking to Bill Slavin who informs me that his wife is well again and should be home very shortly..... Some person (no names, no pack drill) is trying to bribe me with a bottle of pickled onions, but there is a condition attached to the offer. I have got to get about two dozen square pickle bottles for her before I can collect. So will you please look among your empties to see if you can help me. The honour of the local press is at stake, please help.....I want you to tell me if you like your news served up like this or would you rather have it in nice little blocks with a title to each. I can assure you, you get a lot more for your money this way even if I do have to go dippy to fill it. Don't be afraid to criticise IC if you feel like it because it won't make any difference.

Cheers everyone.....**Sue Priestley**