

13th Sept.

One morning last week my early morning bell was answered by an ^{talky} beautiful young girl whose name I learned later. She was just finishing night duty. When I asked about her homeland, she asked me to guess and my first choice was correct — Tanga! How did I know?

I explained that my Father had been a Methodist clergyman & many Methodist missionaries had served in Tanga. In my student days a Tanganyika choir had come to Sydney, but the time when they present song was about 60-7. Later he'd been a student at Wesley College when my brothers were in residence. I was a great admirer of Queen Salote, whom she described as their pride & joy I think. She then told me that her father was at present a clergyman with the Uniting Church in Kupper Kupper in the Hunter River Valley.

That brought a cascade of memories of the days when A.O.W. was stationed at Weston, during the Depression. I was already to enrol at University and had moved to live with my (Auntie Jenny) Jane Betts (her husband Sam who lived at Eastwood). I only visited

Weston on ~~vacation~~ ^{vacation}. That whole area was a revelation as an ethnic study. Communities of miners had migrated from A.O.W. areas in UK and had had

my grandpa from apparent...
together. Desnick was predominantly Scottish, near
Albermarl Austrorians, Weston Geordie north of the River
Tyne & Juncos from Sitt - after George Stephenson
inventor of the locomotive? James Watt inventor
of the steam engine. Being depression time conditions
were grim. What the address called Striker, the
miners referred to as Lockents.

In those days our lanes were ordained

by the Methodist Conference which met in March. If
we changed schools we were always a few weeks
late for enrolment. My father had been brought up on
a property and could talk to pastoralists in their own
language but in an industrial context he was out of his
context and was impatient with their demands.

Neither ~~his~~ Circuit was not affluent enough
to afford a car. He was a competent horseman but had to
smile in a bicycle to undertake any pastoral visits.
At that time he gave up a life's habit of wearing a
hat, because he couldn't raise his hat & manipulate
the luke.

Weston was a rather dreary town
built on a good north street called by number one

hat, because the camera has no hat & manipulate the luke.

Weston was a rather dreary town built on a grid with streets called by number. One large pine tree was in the parsonage grounds, any others that I can remember were at the cemetery. The great redemptive circumstance was the excellence of choir singing and the many male-voice choirs in the district which competed in Eastheddods. One choir master who daughter was well-known later, was almost electric in his enthusiasm.

Once over a Christmas visit, I was invited to join a group singing Xmas Carols. We set out on foot from the church at midnight & returned home facing the dawn.

It took time to adjust to local customs of speech. Hearing the announcements read in church, I informed mid of the meeting to be held on "Frida' post" - the first Friday, in fact next Friday. A boys pullaver was a 'jorsey'. The women-folk steamed together to make hooked rugs of old woollen discards designing a pattern & balancing colours. Mother had one on the kitchen

floor for years. One young woman for her trousseau brought yards of yards of cotton crepe in pink & grey to make a rug for their bedroom with its chosen colour scheme.

My two sisters attended primary school and later proceeded to High School at Essonoch. My two brothers were pupils at Macland High, a school with a proud tradition. It involved leaving home by train shortly after 7 a.m and not returning till about 5. They both matriculated and were involved in Rugby Union & Swimming. Once when Lloyd's bus mate were hovering on the pass line, the maths teacher shared the odd mark, as they both passed.

The Hunter had a history of flooding when certain areas could be cut off but that never happened during our term.

While they were living there Mother must have had a load to carry, though she empathized with the women folk and from the experience of her own parents who had migrated from Cornwall as young people.

She of course in those days cooked on a coal-fuelled stove which regularly had to be

parents who had migrated from Cornwall as young people.

She of course in those days cooked on a coal-fuelled stove which regularly had to be de-sooted with scrapers, rakers & brushes. One Saturday she rose early & had a scarf over her hair & up to her elbows in ashes & soot. A ring of the front door bell alerted her and on opening the door "was confronted by a young couple in bridal array." The minister had said they had a busy day but could marry them at the parsonage at 7 o'clock. First she awakened dead who of course had died. The house was in confusion because a big rainstorm during the night had necessitated

bringing the beds ⁽⁴⁾ of the four children inside from the verandah where they slept. Eventually, after an appropriate delay, the ceremony went ahead, though he probably never saw them again.

Another night after church, when bedtime came Lloyd reported that his bed was not there in his corner. Always a joker, the fact at first hadn't registered. "The more they looked — the more it wasn't there." There was an area of scrub across Government Rd from the Parsonage. The police thought someone had come

the Passage. The police thought someone had come while the family was attending evening service and had a faintly formed idea who the culprits probably were. They visited the suspects' house but without taking a search warrant. Sheets, bedding & blankets had gone!

Night services & meetings were rather a trial, especially in the winter when the low-lying nature of the terrain resulted in fogs at night. Since surviving the Pneumonia Flu epidemic in 1920 AOW had been subject to bronchitis & other chest ills. He developed chills down his ears. Ned ~~was~~ lay bus to a meeting & home again. One night he wanted for the bus muffled up in overcoat, a blacklain cap under his had & a scarf to ~~keep~~ the damp air. The bus pulled up some distance along the road. He remembered reading a news item about the recent hold-up of a bus, somewhere in the area. He had the presence of mind to remove his scarf to reveal his clerical collar. When he mounted the bus he found the occupants all of a quake.

Our telephone number was rather like that for the Presbytery. One Sunday evening a caller asked "Is Father Head?"

to remove his scarf to reveal his clerical collar.
When he mounted the bus he found the occupants
all of a quake. 1

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Our telephone number was rather
like that for the Presbytery. One Sunday evening a caller
asked "Is Father Keach's Brother Keas replied "No, but Mum is,"

which I think may have been dictated
for some time.

A few comments about the humble form
we were able to visit because of its proximity to
Canberra. It would no way deserve the classification
of sheep station, even in bad times but could well
give you some idea of how primitive conditions were
for early settlers - as life was 80-100 years ago. ~~There~~
~~These are up-market properties. Great furniture, equipment.~~
~~improved pasture.~~ New South Wales began as a penal
settlement in 1788 and the poverty of the soil made
it very difficult to produce enough fresh food. After
explorations richer land was opened up but a flood
could soon destroy a good crop. Later three men
managed to cross the Blue Mountains in 1812 and
vast pasture lands were discovered & settled.

In the early 19th when potatoes were the
staple diet of peasants in Europe & Ireland, an outbreak
of "blight" ^{disease} destroyed the crops and famine occurred
causing widespread deaths. Migrants were sent to
Australia in shiploads. My paternal grandmother's
family ~~came~~ ^{arrived} as a young couple with 4 little
children in 1842 and crossed the Blue Mts probably
in an ox drawn cart. One part of the rough road was
so steep, the women went on foot. They arrived in

38 children in 1842 and crossed the Blue into probably
39 in an ox drawn cart. One part of the rough road was
40 so steep, the women went on foot. They arrived in
41 (Bathurst where Michael & Janet's home is) in 1842.
42 Shortly afterwards their 3 yr old daughter died
43 and my ^{Charlotte} grandmother was born in July 1942.
44 Later ~~they~~ ^{my family} moved to the Hunter River Valley and
45 must have taken up a grant of land there.
46 Later Charlotte ^{in 1865} married my grandfather
47 one of four brothers & a sister who had migrated
48 from Tupperary ~~in 1842~~ - three years after Charlotte's
49 F. had been killed. after a fall from his horse.
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Imagine them setting off for their
honeymoon with Charlotte on horseback with 17
head of cattle, a bullock dray, 2 horses and a
dog. The distance would have been ~~clearly~~ nearly
100 miles (160+ kms) and over a mountain range
to an area where they each had a land grant
of 40 acres to begin their married life. ~~Other settlers~~
~~had adjoining land. Gradually extended as they prospered.~~
The first home of the pioneers was
usually a "slab" but made of sawn timber with
wooden shutters with leather hinges. Later rooms
were added: in their case we visited as children
a larger weatherboard house with surrounding
verandahs, with hardy trees to provide
shade: pepper-corn trees, acacias cedars and a
huge elm which had been brought 60 yrs before
our day saddle-pouch. They worked so hard, clearing land & fencing
paddocks & so new & old enough they acted as shepherds
Rain-water was collected in tanks
and a dam and windmill provided water
for stock, laundry etc. Round the tank stands
were always such plants as geraniums, fuchsia
maiden hair ferns, tended by the women folk.
In remote areas where a settler's house had been

39 were always such plants as geraniums, ^{and was} 40
41 ~~maiden hair~~ ferns, tended by the women folk. 38
42 In remote areas where a settler's house has been 39
43 destroyed by fire one sees a stone or brick 40
44 chimney ^{even faintly} still with trees, and often 41
45 a clump of iris. 42
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50 My grandfather was one who 49
51 built a schoolhouse with adjacent sleeping 50
52 quarters for an itinerant schoolmaster. 51
53 Other neighbours did likewise to share, because 52
54 basic education was so important to them 53
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My grandfather ~~was~~ died before my parents 60
61 marriage and my father was the 12th child of 9th son 61
62 so my grandfather was old and frail when 62
63 we knew her as Chelvaen. She had been a 63
64 wonderful horsewoman, courageous and 64
65 indomitable and a very devout churchwoman who would 65
66 ride side-saddle in my generation ^{of} descendants 66
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My father ~~was~~ died before my parents marriage and my mother was the 12th child & 9th son. We knew her as Chelnaen. She had been a wonderful horsewoman, young years and indomitable, and a very ^{Fathers} devout church person who would ride side-saddle. In my generation & descendants studied to become Engineers & the following generations have been highly successful in a wide range of activities. Three have had the honor to be elected members of the Royal Academy of Science.

Ray, the talkative brother certainly had a competent hand with the electric shears. My brother reminded me that the add bits from the legs & face are called "h. f. no." & are separated from the fleece from

hand run
that the odd bits from the legs & face are
the "skewings", are separated from the fleece from
back & belly.

Imagine them setting off for their
honeycombs with Charlotte on her back with 17
head of cattle, a bullock dray, 2 horses and a
dog. The distance would have been ~~at~~ nearly
100 miles (160+ km) and over a mountain range
to an area where they each had a land grant
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