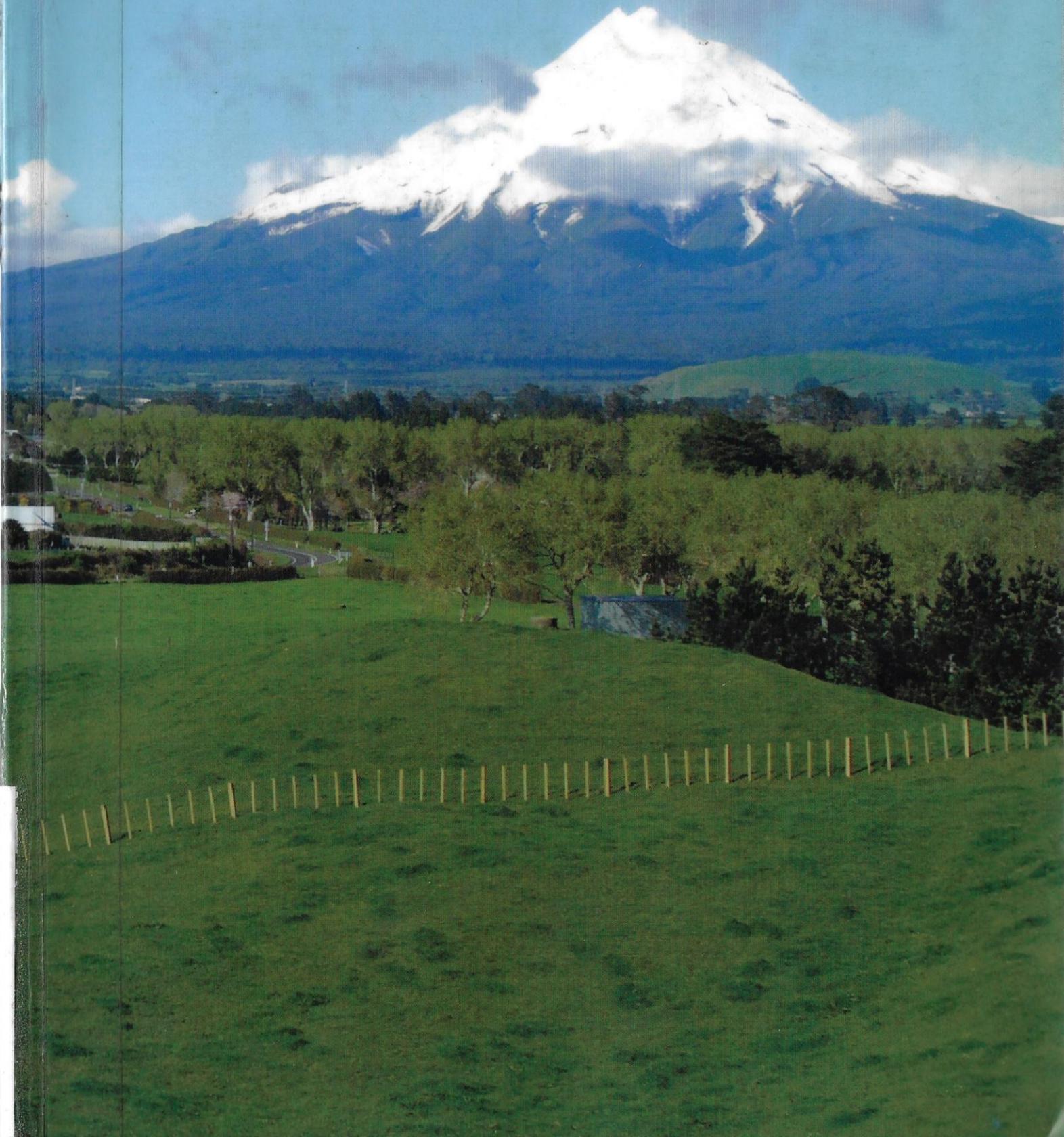


Egmont Village 125 Years



Egmont Village 125 Years

Dedication

This book is dedicated to all the people who, over the years, have contributed to Egmont Village School and the Community as a whole. These are obviously too many to include in this book, but we appreciate that everyone's contribution has shaped the school and community into what it is today.

FOREWORD

In November 2002, I was approached by Des Hollard from Villa Photographic - "did I want to put a book together?" The 125th Jubilee Celebration was a very low key affair for which I had gathered photos and other information from the school archives. Having an interest in history, I decided to take on the challenge.

Researching material and collating it; great, but what about the typing? My friend and co-writer Ann Holland had just taken a computer course at WITT and she offered to do all the typing. Ann also has a more comprehensive knowledge of village history, so between us we put the huge historic jigsaw together.

In order to present original material substantially unaltered, the book presents a number of items of original work in chronological order under the three main headings of Early Settlers through to the 1940s; The Egmont Village School; and Egmont Village Businesses and Post War Development. Ann and I have endeavoured to fill

in the gaps with chapters based on our research and numerous conversations with both past and present villagers.

Both of us have families and households to run and part-time jobs, so we fitted in work on the book whenever it was possible. Keeping in regular phone contact and meeting over a cup of coffee once a week (if possible) kept up the progress.

Our first proof was ready in February 2005. What an amazing feeling, we felt we were just about there. Then a whole fresh lot of information was discovered - mainly through word-of-mouth, but also with the rediscovery of Fred Thomason's marvellous historical writings.

In October 2005 we submitted our final proof. A wonderful feeling to finish this tribute to the people who have spent some, or all, of their lives, in this unique part of the world - Egmont Village.

Cheryl McKercher

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Thank you Des Hollard, for suggesting the idea of this book. Sarah De Cent for the amazing work you have done with our material. With the proofreading, John Apps thank you for your support and time spent on this task. The staff of the Taranaki Section of Puke Ariki for your help with our research, particularly the awesome photographs. Linda Langman for putting up with our interruptions and always being willing to help with our next request. To the Drinkwater family for your donation which has been greatly appreciated. Our thanks to everyone else who has supplied information and photographs contributing to this book - as you can appreciate, these are too many to be named, but please accept this as a personal acknowledgement.

Memoirs of Village Life - Early Settlers through to the 1940s



Photo W. A. Collis c. 1890 supplied by Don Jenkins.

A Short History of Egmont Village

Article by Neville Henry
School Principal 1992-2001.

The Egmont Village district is in the Te Atiawa tribal area, within the boundary of the Puketapu hapu.

Egmont Village is situated 5 kilometres Northwest of Inglewood, on Junction Road (State Highway 3) at the crossing of Egmont Road. The locality took its name from Egmont Road, which in turn was named as it lead to Mount Egmont. The mountain was named on 11th January 1770 by Captain James Cook, after the Earl of Egmont who was First Lord of the Admiralty. The Earl's title came from a ruined castle near Buttevant, County Cork, Ireland.

Up until 1868 much of the Egmont Village district was covered in thick, standing bush. As a refuge for settlers, should there be skirmishes with Maori (part of the Taranaki Land Wars), in 1868 a blockhouse was built adjacent to the corner of Egmont and Junction Roads. In 1874 Mr Humphries surveyed the Egmont Village block and planned the Egmont Village Township. Soon after, more settlers arrived. Many sections were taken up by soldiers from the Land Wars. Among the first settlers were the Price family, the Swan family and the Olson family. The Prices and the Olson's both came to Egmont Village on the same day in 1874. They had to cross the Waiwakaiho River at Fitzroy and journey via the Egmont Road as there was no bridge over the river at Junction Road.

At this time Edward and Mary Olson and their young family moved into the blockhouse which was on their newly acquired property. The Price family lived at first in a ponga whare.

In 1877 Egmont Village residents petitioned for a school which was subsequently opened in the blockhouse. A new school was built adjacent to it in 1879 and the blockhouse became the teacher's house. In 1904 a new teacher's house was built. It is now the Egmont Village Community Centre.

As more bush was cleared and farms became established, businesses and amenities were developed, especially in the vicinity of the intersection of Egmont and Junction Roads. These included a creamery, butchers shop, blacksmith and farrier, a general store which included a post office, a saddlery and the village hall. Up until the 1880s roads were mud tracks but were gradually metalled. In the 1920s tar sealing began. Electricity came to the district in 1927.

Some businesses closed but other small businesses developed in the Village, e.g Eureka Market Garden, Mitchell's Concrete Works, Hurlstone Earthmoving, Egmont Village Tractor Parts, Kauri Cottage, Missing Leg Backpackers Hostel, Egmont Village Fibreglassing and the Egmont Village Service Station.

Village people were generally known as independent, hard working, practical folk who knew how to entertain themselves. At various times there have been cricket and rugby teams, bowling and tennis clubs, an Operatic Society and even a theatre group.

The Story of One of the Earliest Settler Families in Egmont Village: Edward (1843-1893) and Mary (1847-1928) Olson

Extract from Wold to Woodlands.

Edward was born in Lincolnshire in 1843, arriving in Wellington at 15 years of age, with brother Henry. He joined the Taranaki Mounted Volunteers at the onset of the Land Wars.

In 1865 Edward married Mary, 18 year old daughter of Omata settler William Harrison. Edward, Mary and their young family moved into the blockhouse (later to be used as the first Egmont Village School Building) on the corner of their new farm in 1874. Edward enjoyed exhibiting his cattle and cheese. He won a great number of medals and certificates. Mary became known for her butter making.

The vision of the English squire must have been in Edward's mind because he made substantial plantings of oaks and other English trees. The oriental pines, interplanted with oaks are now a predominant landmark. They line the left hand side of Egmont Road, going out of the Village limits towards the mountain. A Norfolk pine of massive proportions can also be seen near the site of the original homestead. This property is presently owned by the Winnie-Magee family and the Parish family own the property where the plane and oak trees start.

Edward was fatally gored by his own bull at the Hawera Agricultural and Pastoral show in 1893, at the age of 50 years. When he went to remove the animal's rug, one knot of rope attached to the bull's ring had come undone and the bull turned

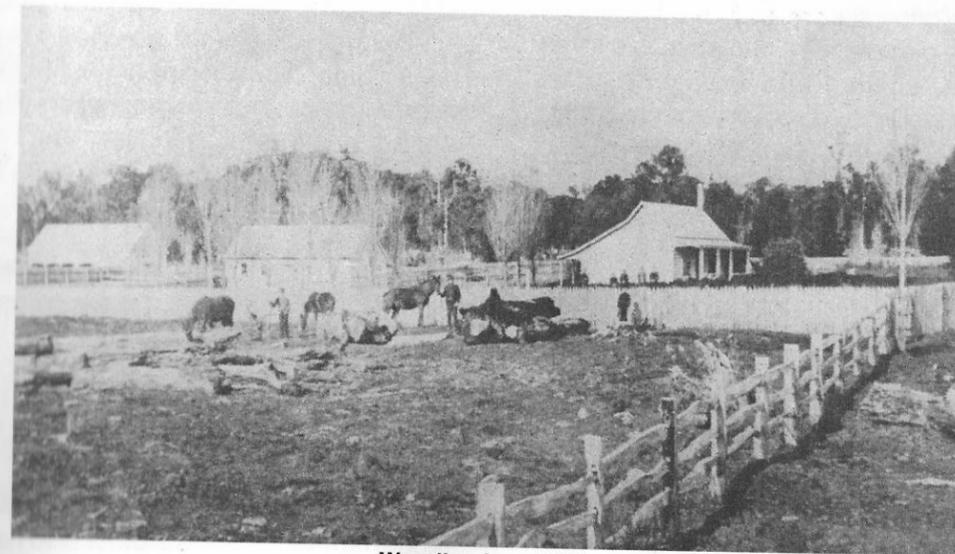
his head, piercing Edward's chest. He died shortly afterwards, but as he lay mortally wounded he said "don't shoot the bull, it wasn't his fault." Mary, widowed at 47, continued to live in the Village. Her last years were spent with her son, Harold in New Plymouth. She died in July 1928.

On September 24, 1988, descendants of Edward and Mary Olson planted an oak tree and unveiled a commemorative plaque in the Egmont Village School grounds. (This is situated just inside the Junction Road crossing entrance). The oak tree is significant because of the ones that are mentioned above, planted more than 100 years previously, by Edward Olson.

Children of Edward and Mary Olson:

Ada (b) 21-6-1866 (d) 9-9-1924, married George Marsh. Mary (Polly) (b) 3-9-1868 (d) 27-2-1906, married William Orr. Edward (b) 3-8-1870 (d) 7-8-1930. Mabel (b) 6-2-1873 (d) 12-8-1938, married Arthur Morton. Harold (b) 9-10-1875 (d) 24-6-1936, married Lillian Andrews. William (b) 17-2-1879 (d) 27-2-1949, married Jenny Tuck. Clara (b) 16-4-1881 (d) 26-11-1927, married George Foster. Percy (b) 17-5-1883 (d) 17-10-1935. Lewis (b) 24-2-1886 (d) 22-7-1925, married Elsie Burrows.

Without going into detail of the extensive family resulting from the offspring of Edward and Mary Olson, listed below are family names of the descendants that lived in the district and attended Egmont Village School: Marsh, George, Morton, Shallard, Foster and Jones.



Woodlands c. 1885.

Visit to a Bush Farm "Woodlands" on Egmont Road 1874-1890

Extract from 'Wolds to Woodlands' The story of Edward and Mary Olson 1842-1988.

About a half a mile from Egmont Village, on the road leading to the mountain, there is to be seen a farm, which from its well kept appearance, at once attracts the attention of the passerby. "Whose comfortable little homestead is that?" asked Lord Onslow of Colonel Stapp, on his recent visit to the mountain.

The reply was that it was owned by Mr. E. Olson, who by his own exertions, with no capital beyond a few pounds, had in a comparatively short time cleared the bush and made the place what it now is; that whilst he attended to his own affairs he did not neglect his duties as a colonist. Such confidence had his fellow settlers in him, that he was Vice-President and Chairman of the Taranaki Agricultural Society, member of the Taranaki County Council and the Education Board, and Chairman of the Co-operative Society. At the last Metropolitan Agricultural show, held in Wellington, he carried off a first and second prize for his Ayrshire cattle.

Sixteen years ago the land beyond the Egmont Village was standing bush, whilst the country leading to it was much broken and very difficult to travel over. The land where Inglewood now stands had not been acquired by the natives, therefore settlement did not extend more than five or six miles from New Plymouth.

Mr Speck, of Waipuku, and one or two others had ventured "into the bush" as it was then called. There was only one track and that over the highest of the hills. The pioneers of those days had a very hard life of it, coming into town only when absolutely compelled to do so, for flour and other necessities, which they had to carry to their houses on packhorses. With little knowledge of farming, and none of bush life, in 1814, Mr E. Olson purchased a level section of sixty acres. Mr Olson, his brother, and a chum of theirs started from New Plymouth, with their axes on their shoulders, to cut a road through the bush to enable them to get to their land. It requires a stout heart, strong arms and considerable amount of perseverance to continue at the work of clearing the bush for any length of time. After a day's labour there is very little to show for the exertion undergone.

The land selected by Mr E. Olson, as we stated, was level, but heavily timbered, there being an average of seven pines to the acre. There was no road to get cut timber from a mill to build his house, so Mr Olson and his brother had to saw it. Mr Olson must have worked hard, for in 1879 - five years after he dropped his first tree - he took the prize of ten pounds offered by Mr. W. Carter, of Inglewood, for the "best bush farm in the district". The judges were Messrs. H. Newland and A. Davidson, these gentlemen described the farm as it then appeared, as follows:-

Mr E. Olson's farm, Junction Road contains 120 acres, enclosed by a ring fence; has about a mile of four-railed and paling fence. Eighty acres are in grass, and about forty logged and picked up and divided into paddocks; two gardens and orchard cleared and fenced, and one acre planted with ornamental and forest trees. The buildings consisted of a five roomed house - 24 x 20 feet. Dairy and cheese room 36 x 12 feet. Cowshed and calf shed and a loft for hay, iron roof, 36 x 12 feet. Three pig stys, fowl house, and potato house. The buildings are extensive and convenient, considering the short time he had been on the place. The garden is well kept. The plantation is of useful shelter trees, is extensive and looks well. The fences are good and substantial; the pastures of mixed grasses good and the cocksfoot is a fair crop. He had to thank his brother for much that had been done to the farm. He thought it well to mention that in bush farming two men should work together to make a successful and profitable undertaking, for where one worked alone it took such a time before any result was viable. He attributed the gaining of the prize that day to the principle of doing a thing well. If they could not put up a good building at once, they waited until they could do it. It was acting on that principle since he had taken to farming that he attributed winning the prize for the best bush farm in the district.

During the eleven years which have elapsed since the prize was awarded, Mr Olson has not been idle. He has added land to his farm which now consists of 355 acres; it is for the most part cleared of the bush and has 250 acres in grass. He has added to his residence, the house, now covering a block of land 41 x 36 feet. He has increased the size of his out houses and made his place quite a model farm. Mr Olson's brother also has 200 acres

alongside Woodlands, which is also cleared and down in grass. We took occasion the other day to visit Woodlands and received a most cordial welcome from Mr and Mrs E. Olson. We were kindly shown over their homestead. Mr Olson freely gave us every information we asked for, reflecting his success as a farmer.

After showing us over his commodious dwelling-house, Mr Olson took us through his garden, in which he planted several of the shrubs from the mountain. We went to his cheese-house and dairy. This is a building 36 x 20 feet and is sheltered from the summer's sun by a row of poplars. It is divided into three rooms, the wall of one of them being covered with prize cards - the prizes Mr Olson and his wife have taken since they commenced farming.

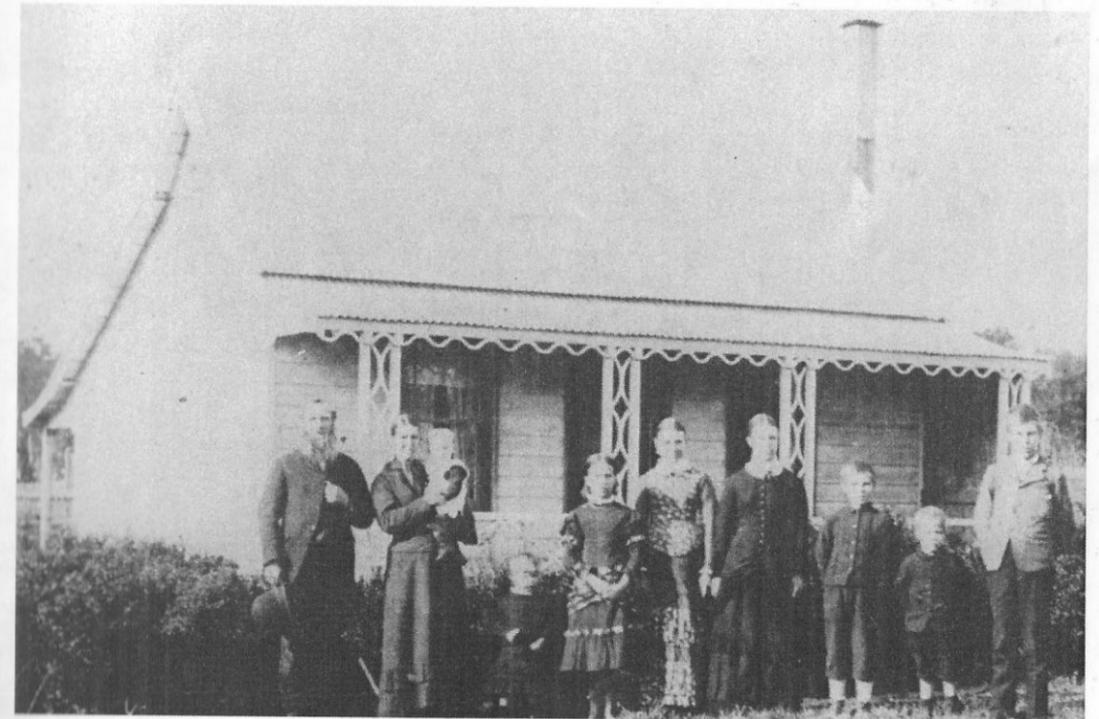
Mr Olson informed us that he makes on an average six tons of cheese a year, which was all done during seven months, the other five months devoted to butter making. He makes a little bacon, but intends erecting a smoke house and going more largely into that business. There is a cooling room, which is floored with concrete, with a concrete tank for keeping the milk in hot weather to an even temperature. From the dairy we went across a yard to the cow yard and milking shed, which are the most complete we hear, of any in the district.

The yard is about forty feet square and paved with large stones, a hundred tons of which it took

to complete the work. The milking shed is 48 x 12 feet, and the cows after having been milked are turned into a large paddock. Mr. Olson then took us to see his plantation, which forms a semicircle of nearly half a mile around his house. He has planted two rows of gum trees, two of poplars, one row of English trees consisting of the oak, oriental plane, sycamore, ash, larch, elm, etc.; and then two rows of pine trees. These are now of a good size, and although the fire last year made a gap in the plantation, in a few years the effect of the fire will not be noticeable.

We went next to see Mr Olson's herd of cattle. He told us that in 1874 he commenced with one cow. He afterwards, in 1878, bought a cross bred bull "Coloniel Baker" and several short horn heifers at the Waiwakaiho sale yards. Not feeling satisfied with the result of this breed, he directed his attention to Ayrshires. Mr Olson has about a hundred head of cattle, of which thirty are pure Ayrshire, six being imported, and the rest have one, two and three strains of Ayrshire in them.

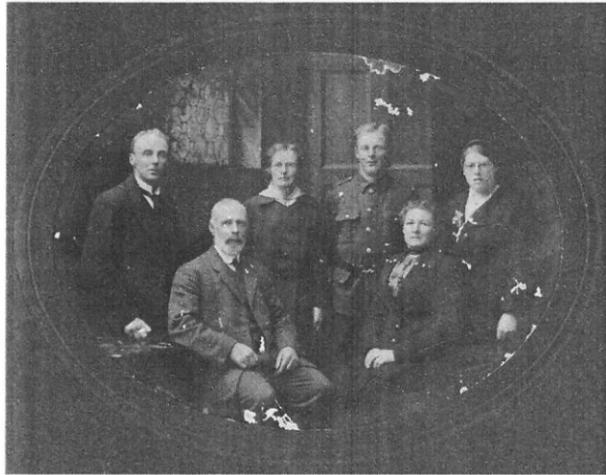
He sold one of the yearling bulls lately for 10 pound, but for the one that took the first prize in Wellington he wants 25 pound. The paddocks are in very luxuriant grass, and would bear being more heavily stocked. Our account of this bush farm has extended to a greater length than we expected, so we must therefore conclude by wishing Mr and Mrs Olson many years of health to enjoy the fruit of the past sixteen years labour.



Edward, Mary with Percy, Clara, Mabel, Mary, Ada, Harold, William, Ernest.

The Marsh Family

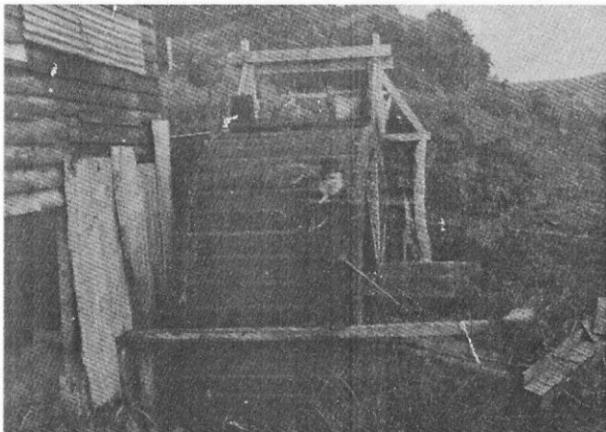
Article information from the Marsh Family Book by M. Henderson.



Ronald George Marsh (1886-1956), Mabel Constance (May) Marsh (1888-1942) m George, Gordon Harry Marsh (1892-1979), Emily Mary Henderson (1900-1986) nee Marsh, George Marsh (1858-1937), Ada Marsh (1866-1924) nee Olson.

George and Ada were both born in New Plymouth, George in 1858 and Ada on 21-6-1866. Ada was the eldest child of Edward and Mary Olson and born while her father was actively engaged as a member of the Taranaki Mounted Volunteers. Ada lived in New Plymouth for 8 years before moving to Egmont Village with her parents, helping them to pioneer their farm and spent a lot of her time milking her father's herd of Ayreshire cows. She also helped her mother with the growing family.

In 1870, after the cessation of the Maori Wars, George returned with his family to the farm on Marsh's Hill, where he spent his boyhood and early manhood. After his marriage to Ada in 1884, they farmed on Upland Road, later buying a small



Waterwheel to drive the milking machines for a three cow plant c. 1910. Mr George Marsh. Reference Te Moa by R.W. Brown.

adjoining block that fronted onto Egmont Road. It was here they built their homestead using part of their former home. George had an arched concrete bridge built to join the two properties—quite a feat in those days and in 2005 it still stands. His brother Manley farmed the adjoining property. George milked shorthorn cows, probably much to the chagrin of his brother-in-law. At that time, the work was hard and the conditions primitive.

George, along with his keen interest in farming and the manufacture of its products, had a genuine desire for scenic and forestry preservation. His assistance was readily given to the scenic board in control of the Meeting of the Waters reserve with the late Mr Henry King. He was a member of the Ancient Order of Foresters.

Chew Chong - the great Taranaki pioneer who built the first butter factory was a great friend of George. George being one of the farmers who supplied fungus from the bush on his farm to Chew, benefited from this lucrative trade which was exported to China.

George was an accomplished and talented musician, having his own Orchestra which played for dances in the district. He was the band master of the Inglewood Brass Band for many years,



Back: Nora McRae (1903-1976) nee Marsh, Manley Marsh (1864-1940), Arthur Morton, Marjory Morton nee Marsh with baby Jean Jones, Mary Henderson nee Marsh, Gordon Harry Marsh (1892-1979)
Front: Emily Marsh (1831-1918) nee Batten, Alice Marsh (?-1941) nee Wells, George Marsh (1858-1937), Ada Marsh (1866-1924) nee Olson, Mabel Morton, Mary Morton
Arthur (Boy) Morton, Albert Edward (Ted) Marsh (1906-1987).

being one of the founding members. He also taught the piano and violin, playing at concerts and was much in demand as an accompanist for singers. This demand meant that Ada was the one who spent more time in the milking shed.

George served as the chairman on the Egmont Village School Committee. From 1907-1933, George was a director of the Mangorei Co-op Dairy Company and was chairman from 1925-1933.

Shirley Gibson (nee Marsh), George's oldest living grandchild, remembers him living a full and busy life as a farmer on Upland Road.

Shirley knew him for only 10 years and to her he was always an 'old' man. When he retired from active farm work George and Ada settled in New Plymouth. George travelled to Egmont Village regularly in his Model T Ford, bringing doughnuts for afternoon tea as he knew they were favourites. Shirley and sister Valerie watched in fascination as he poured the tea from his cup into the saucer and shakily raised it to his mouth. Ada died on 9-9-1924 and George on 9-8-1937.

Pictured below (photo supplied by Mrs S. Gibson) is the original homestead of George and Ada Marsh. Gordon Marsh then lived here with his wife



Gordon Marsh on homestead verandah c. 1900.

Shirley, and children, Valerie and Bill. The house still exists on Egmont Road today, being owned and lived in by Stephanie McSweeney and family.



This article was written by Elizabeth Jane (Daisy) Price, Dick Sinclair's mother. It is now a very valuable document as it is the only record we have of the first days of the Egmont Village School. Daisy was a first day pupil. Article taken from Egmont Village School Booklet.

"I began my school days in the old blockhouse, so called because it was to be used as a kind of refuge in case the Maoris were troublesome. The settlers near it would have used it if needed. It was just a shell of a barn and I remember seeing the black beetles up in the boarding of the roof.

The School Mistress in those days was called Miss Drake. A very capable teacher who did not stay long as she became the Head Teacher of the Inglewood School but I must not forget to mention Mr John Hill who was really the first teacher. Mr W. Crompton was the first inspector of the school. It did not seem very long before a small school was erected. It even had a school bell on top of it and this was rung by pulling a rope which impressed us all very much. Mr Hill was replaced by Mr W. Irvine Grayling known to many as Dr Grayling. He was a clever science master and a gifted Greek Scholar. He was also a soldier who took part in the Battle of Waireka against the Maori.

He and Mrs Grayling and their family remained in Egmont Village for many years and were much respected by all the old pioneer settlers. Their daughter married Henry Waite and they became two of the earliest residents of Tarata.

I remember on one occasion Mr Grayling assisted by his daughter had to take school in the bush, a beautiful patch being close by, as alterations were being made to the school building, but the trouble collecting all the children after the dinner hour was a problem; school in the bush being more or less a great joke. I remember on one occasion the School Master's son was up a tree a great height from the ground and others went fishing in a stream in the bush (Mangaoraka) and it was well on in the afternoon before all the students could be rounded up. I am sure that Mr Grayling was very pleased to get back to the old school routine. We all loved the bush, the beautiful trees and the bird life. We led a very simple life, sharing each others joys and problems and the little concerts we used to put on at the school were quite an event.

Transport in the pioneer days consisted of riding horseback or in a bullock dray and a few traps were used. As time went by the main road to New Plymouth was metalled and twice a week an enterprising old gentleman drove a coach from Inglewood, he called it the 'Red Rover'. He brought out 'The Weekly Budget', and then we knew of another world beside Egmont Village.

A new inspector was appointed, Mr William Murray, and he seemed to expect much more than Mr Crompton. New methods in education were introduced and we felt it was an awful business, at least I did, not being very fond of school at any time. Mr Grayling also decided at this time to retire and we all missed him and his family very much; he retired to New Plymouth.

Our next teacher was a Miss Wrigley and very strict. Attending school became harder still, impositions and the cane were used often and we all felt very sorry for ourselves. The old happy times were gone never to return. A system of cramming was introduced and we did as much homework in the evening as we did during the day at school, I had to milk several cows by hand twice a day as well. However there came a day when the teacher presented me with a certificate of having passed the 6th Standard and I left school and felt quite grown up. Still the years rolled on, time and tide wait for no man. My Grandchildren attend Egmont Village School now and like it very much."

This article covers the years 1877-1887 and was written by Daisy Price before her death some years ago. The grandchildren mentioned are Philip, Jean and Kath Sinclair.

The dear soul would undoubtedly have been very proud if she had been spared long enough to see her great grandchildren Rodney, Kay and Neville Sinclair, complete their primary education at Egmont Village School. Great great grand children Rachelle and Lisa Sinclair make five generations of children attending Egmont Village School. Lisa was attending Egmont Village School at the time of the 125th Jubilee celebrations.

This article was supplied by the Sinclair Family.

Richard Price was born in County Kildare in 1840. His wife, Mary (Kidd) met Richard at Akaroa, South Island, and after their marriage they heard the fertile soil in Taranaki was good for farming. Richard bought a block of land in between Kaipi Road and Egmont Road in 1874. He landed in New Plymouth by surfboat with a bull, dog and himself, then walked to his section of dense standing bush. Giant trees were felled to make space for a ponga whare. During this time he lived under the roots of a huge rimu tree. Richard survived by collecting fungus, carrying it to New Plymouth on his horse and bartering it for tea, sugar and flour with Chew Chong, who later became a famous Taranaki identity.

Mary left Oamaru for New Plymouth with their two year old daughter Elizabeth Jane (Daisy) by ship and then by horse to Egmont Village where the ponga whare under the great trees awaited them.

By 1877 Richard had built a small hut near a spring where water was handy. Their home was later extended to accommodate seven children: Daisy, Carrie, Frank, May, Elsie, David and Amy, who all went to Egmont Village School.

Herbert Sinclair was born on August 16th, 1870 in Fulham in the County of Middlesex. On 12th June 1898 Herbert Sinclair married Daisy Price. In 1902 Herbert bought a farm on Kaipi Road off Edward Sutton Regall and here they spent their farming life with their four children: Marion (Marnie), Archibold (Archie), Norah and Richard (Dick). Herbert built their home on the farm which was given the English name Hynford. It still stands today although some renovations have been made over the years. Their children were all educated at Egmont Village School. The Taranaki Hunt Club first started using Hynford and surrounding farms in the early 1920's. The Taranaki Hunt Club is still enjoying the use of this farm and the surrounding properties for their annual hunt.

On 4th August 1932 Dick Sinclair married Christina Ina Wilson and took over the farming of Hynford. Dick and Ina had three children: Phillip, Jean and Kathleen.

Happy days of farming continued with more Sinclairs attending the Egmont Village School. Egmont Village pet day is a very important date



Haymaking

on the school calendar. Winning the Mona Mona Cup for the best calf is always the most sought after prize. To win the Cup meant success for the farmer as well as for the pupil. Philip had to rely on his sisters to see the Sinclair name go on the cup. The best he could do was rear a calf with a first prize tail.

On December 13th 1949 Sid Holland became Prime Minister of New Zealand. The National Party had won the election and with the telephones on Kaipi Road and at Egmont Village Garage just connected, seven party line members had a free-for-all on the phones. The evening finished with a celebration at the Sinclairs.

The local tennis courts and bowling green were all used by this family, taking a very active part both as players and administrators. During the years that Philip was working away from the farm, Jean had the pleasure of giving Dick a hand on Hynford. On the marriage of Philip to Ngaire Kay on 25th October 1958, Dick and Ina retired to New Plymouth. Once again Hynford was in good hands.



c. 1930. In the early days euchre was a great pastime for the farmers in Egmont Village. The game was played in all sorts of places, especially by these four gentlemen (l to r): Cyril Hurlstone, Dick Sinclair, Ray Bishop, Fred Chard.

Article as recorded in the Egmont Village Newsflash dated July/August 1993.

Mr Frederick Earp was born in Worcestershire, England, in 1844 and his early occupation was a blacksmith in a smelting works. He subsequently went to British Kaffraria in South Africa, where he remained for five years before migrating to New Zealand and settling in Taranaki.

He took up land as a military settler and did blockhouse duty. It is of interest that the first school at Egmont Village was opened in 1877 in a blockhouse, as the threat of Maori had somewhat lessened at this time and the sanctuary of blockhouses was not in great demand.

In 1872 he took up his holding on the Lower Egmont Road, at this time covered in beautiful native bush. Mr Earp, together with a Mr Bosworth, were the first residents of Egmont Village. Later, Frederick Earp took charge of the first immigrants to the area and working for the Government, instructed them in bush work, etc. At this time he supervised the clearing of the site that was to become Inglewood. For many years he was spoken of as the Father of Inglewood. Subsequently, he was Works Overseer for the Government during the construction of cart tracks that later became roads.

Frederick Earp married Mary Anne Willing of the Egmont Village District and they raised four daughters. The third daughter, Ella, began school in the winter of 1898. The young four and a half year old was confronted with a long five km walk up Egmont Road - often muddy because it was not metalled.

The head teacher at that time was a Mrs Dewhirst and Ella, because of her age, was not recognised as a pupil. When the children lined up outside the school for roll call, she did not have her name called. When they marched in line into school, Ella had to wait until last. Although she had a slate pencil, the slate was not ruled and Mrs Dewhirst was not going to rule it until Ella was five. The day she was five she presented the slate to Mrs Dewhirst and after it was ruled was admitted to Miss M. Potts Infant Room, then with great delight began regular school work. (A slate was made from a thin fine grained sheet of natural grey rock and framed with wood). Ella learned at an early age that one did not 'spit' on the slate and rub unwanted writings off with her hands. She had to

use water from a bottle and rub with a cloth. Education at this time was similar to the system referred to as the three R's - Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. The times table was recited by the whole class and it became second nature to memorise the multiplication of 2x up to 12x. The alphabet was also recited daily. Ella remembers the boxes of silver and copper coloured imitation cardboard coins that were used to familiarise the pupils of their value.

An alternative to school work was the teaching of needlework and knitting. Ella did not remember what the boys did during this time but presumed they were employed in cleaning up around the school grounds or in the garden. Another teaching aid remembered was the 'copy book' where writing was displayed for pupils to imitate.

The cane was something to be feared and it was for this reason that Ella vividly remembers the good behaviour of the children. An amusing incident was recalled when Mrs Dewhirst called one Harry Bocock out for punishment, only to realise that her cane was missing. She became very angry, thinking that someone had removed it from her desk and it was some time before she realised that it was under her arm!

In 1908 Ella left Egmont Village School and attended New Plymouth Girls' High School for two years. In 1918 she married John Hinz and farmed next door to her old home. They had a family of four boys - Paul, John, Trevor and Clyde.

Frederick Earp's farm of 222 acres on the Egmont Road will be remembered by the naming of Earp's Hill, a hill that formed part of the property's Egmont Road frontage.

This extract is from a letter written by Fred Earp to his sister Jane, in Kidderminster, England, dated 1st May 1898:

... and to make matters worse we had a grand fire, the greatest fire ever seen in this country, doing great damage to farmers that settled on bushland. This last summer has been a very dry one, the driest I have seen since I have been in this country, though I have seen a longer time of dry weather in Africa.

In November last, the smouldering fires in the clearings began to travel across the country before a strong wind from the north, burning the



Price Family: Back: Bert Sinclair, David, May, Frank.
Middle: Daisy, Richard, Grandma, Carrie.
Front: Amy, Elsie.



Sinclair Family: Back: Archie, Marion, Richard.
Front: Daisy, Norah, Bert.



Dick and Ina Sinclair, Philip, Jean, Kathleen.

Philip and Ngaire's three children were: Rodney, Neville and Kay. During Philip's time the farm was enlarged with the buying of Archie Sinclair and Roy Sole's farms. The Sinclairs took an active part on the school committee and other district events. Philip and Ngaire built a new house on the farm for their retirement. Neville married Angela Van Wynbergen on 20th April 1885 and they have two girls, Rachelle and Lisa. Half of Hynford and the Sole property has been taken over by Neville and Angela. Farming on the other half of the property is in the capable hands of Graham and Jo Laursen.

grassland and the fences. Luckily it came onto rain before the fires had travelled far. The fires, though stopped from travelling, were not put out, smouldering and ready to spread again by the first strong wind and on the 3rd March, a strong south easterly came. For several days before the air was full of smoke, like a fog, but on the Sunday the smoke got so dense that you could not see the sun. About 3pm I got one glimpse of the sun. I then saw heavy black clouds travelling at a great rate and knew for certain that the country to windward of our farm was burning, and it would soon be down on us sometime during the night.

I must begin to prepare to meet it; so I went for the cows so as to get the milking done early, but the smoke was so thick I could not see them. It was also very painful to the eyes. The cows had got frightened and run home. While we were milking, one of my neighbours came to see if he could see any flames to windward, for up to this time we had seen nothing but smoke. While he was speaking to me we saw a dull, red glow to windward, this was another neighbour's seven roomed house, haystack and dairy in flames.

As this time we did not know how far the fire was from us, shortly after we could hear the crackling of fire and my neighbour said, "My God, look, my land is all in flames." The fire was travelling towards us at great speed and at a height of fifty or sixty feet. Leaving the rest of the cows un milked, I said to my wife, "Come Mary, quick, we have no time to lose, the fire will be down on us directly." I had previously planned how to save our house and barn and Mary helped me nail sheets of 8' x 2' iron to the walls. A hill between us and the fire gave us about ten to fifteen minutes as we worked for life.

Then the fire arrived with the strong wind increasing, the flames had flattened out and covered about sixty feet. The smoke from the green trees was suffocating and very painful to the eyes. In the intense heat and smoke our task seemed hopeless as we only have five buckets of water and what milk we had in the dairy. Our well, like all wells in the district, was dry and we had to go 400 yards for water and because of the fire, could not go to the river. The hayricks and carthouse caught fire, then an old house, later the cowhouse and stockyard was in flames.

Mary and I worked all night to save our house, nearly blind, getting too tired to fight any more, we noticed that the worst of the fire had travelled past. Our baby was in bed sleeping and if the

house had caught we would have rushed into the house and carried her to a ploughed clearing. With the air full of smoke and falling sparks, I collapsed and Mary found me exhausted laying on the ground and not able to speak. Somehow she got me into the house as she was afraid I would be burned to death. It is of no use me trying to tell you of our feelings and the pain of this ever to be remembered night.

Mary could see a little the next day but it was thirty hours before I could open my eyes. When I could see, I found the fire had destroyed the orchard, roasted fruit was hanging on the trees. The destruction of the orchard was my greatest loss and I felt it the most, there being years of labour gone and it will take years to replace it. I also found all the fences down, wire destroyed by the heat, posts burned to the ground, all my crops destroyed. We are buying potatoes to eat, this being the only vegetable we have except some watercress that we got out of the small river. Our cattle were all over the country, some of them badly burned and so frightened we could not milk them and no place to drive them into.

The night of the fire, although we had saved the house by some miracle, was heart-rending. The bellowing of distressed cattle, some of them burned to death. Almost all our grass was destroyed so we had to sell a lot of our cattle and what we have in milk we have to buy food for. It will be several months yet before the fences will be made good again. I had sown 35 pounds worth of grass seed and nearly all of it got killed with the dry weather after coming up. Everyone is in the same fix, my next door neighbour sold 43 two year old cattle for the small sum of 28 pounds the lot. It will be twelve months now before the land will be in grass again and two years before it is like it was, as we cannot plough the land until the timber that fell during the fire is removed.

After the great bushfire, friends of ours picked up some of those trout, dead in the river (Mangaoraka) four pounds in weight, the fire had made the water so hot that it had killed eels and trout.

On August 11th 1928, Frederick Earp died in Auckland. It is recorded that "he was a man outstanding among the pioneers of this district, regarded as one of the finest types of settlers who laid the foundations of Taranaki's farming industry. He was a tireless worker, a most trustworthy and honest man, whose passing is mourned."

The monthly entertainment took place in the school on July 24th. The weather being fine, a large gathering was the result, in spite of the bad roads.

The following items were gone through without a hitch. Overture, Mr G. Marsh (violin) and Miss M. Olson (piano); song, Mr S. Hill; song, Mr Beadle; song, Mr J. Houlahan; song, Mr F. Martin; reading, Mr Hill; song, Mr Houlahan; violin solo, Mr Henry Olson; song, Mr Beadle; duet, Miss M. Olson (piano) and Mr G. Marsh (violin); reading, Mr S. Hill; song, Mr H. Taylor; song (Dutch), Mr Peters; song, Mr J. Houlahan; song, Mr A. Turner.

Mr G. Marsh and Mr Beadle rendered the accompaniments in their usual masterly style. Encores were frequent and were responded to by the vocalists. A dance followed the entertainment, which was well patronised, the music being supplied by Messrs G. Marsh, J. Taylor and Beadle.

The long talk of a hall is on the eve of becoming a fact. I hear that the committee intend to call for tenders in a day or two, voluntary labour being offered for fencing the site and for supplying piles for the building.

In another month the creamery will open again, but farmers will find it tough work getting along the roads with their milk carts, unless the weather improves greatly. The question of roads is an all absorbing subject just now. Most the districts are getting in for loan money under the Government

Loan to Local Bodies, which means, in most cases, heavy rates. If cattle and dairy produce should come down as low as it was two or three years ago, settlers will find that road making is quite equal to bushfelling and fencing as regards to layout, if not more expensive. Just fancy!

I saw today one of our Inglewood storekeepers coming to Egmont Village with pack-horses to deliver goods to his customers. He says that the Junction Road is so bad that wheel traffic is almost impossible.

Mr W. Wilson had one of his bullocks nearly drowned in one of the mud holes on the Junction Road between here and Inglewood. One of the settlers of the Moa Block, who lately came to grief on the Junction Road, is now liable for a heavy doctor's bill, besides loss of business. He is advised by a friend to sue the Taranaki County Council for damages, making the following reply. "What is the use of going for the Council, they are worse off than I am. I shall be able to get round again but they (the Council) never will."

Another case of a cow having three calves, belonging to L. Meier, Lepper Road and all are doing well.

I was told a man passed through our district the other day with a large assortment of revolvers, "second hand, but almost new" which meant he was offering at a very low price. He said that he got the lot cheap at New Plymouth as the citizens had no more use for them.



Egmont Village Hall - built in 1893.

The Thomason Family

James Ingram Thomason attended Egmont Road School - renamed Hillsborough. Difficult times necessitated him leaving school in Std 2 to assist in earning money to buy food for his five sisters and two brothers. He later became a contractor with his heavy dray and 10 bullock team.

In 1911 he married Bertha Chard, whose family resided on Upland Road.

The farm in 1913 was a mass of partially burned logs and stumps covered by the dreaded 'blackberry', introduced to New Zealand by the English settlers for the purpose of shelter hedges and luscious fruit. They also brought the blackbird to spread the seed. In its new environment the blackberry grew 20 ft long dippers in a single year. At this time there was only enough grass for six milking cows and the removal of the blackberry became an urgent priority.

With the use of a two horse team, stumping jacks, plough and disc harrows, the land was cleared but blackberry persisted, growing on the grassland. In February each year, this had to be cut by scythe and horse mower. In inaccessible creek banks, pine trees were planted to smother this obnoxious weed.

Opposite Dixon's Store was the Egmont Village Butter Factory. Here, the surrounding farmers took their milk in 20 gallon cans, conveyed by horse-drawn carts. The milk was separated and the skim milk taken back to farms for pig food. Home separation caused the closure of the Egmont Village factory. Cows were milked by hand and a separator operated manually until 1927 when electric power came to the district.



Thomason Road and State Highway Junction.

What a revolution, electrically driven milking machines, separators, electric lights, stoves and the wonders of a wireless (radio). The home separated cream was collected at the gate and transported to the Mangorei Butter Factory. The Great Depression was now at its lowest ebb - butterfat payout reached an all-time low of 6d (5 cents). A baconer pig (180lbs) was worth only 2 pounds, 5 shillings (\$4.25).

In 1940 the farm was sold and Jim had a house built on the divided portion of the farm. He and Bertha lived here until his tragic death in 1944. Bertha was farewelled from Egmont Village and was paid the compliment "The Mother of Egmont Village had left." She lived another 40 years. At the 100th Jubilee celebrations of Egmont Village School, Bertha Thomason (nee Chard) was the eldest ex-pupil. The four Thomason children - Alfred, Mary, Frederick and Esma - had all attended Egmont Village School.

Frederick Cowan Thomason was the top road and track amateur cyclist in Taranaki. He joined the NZ Police Force and served in Wellington and the Fijian Police Force. He returned to Egmont Village, bought the family home and operated the Egmont Village school bus for 25 years. He lived with his wife, Margaret, at Egmont Village on part of the old farm. They had two children, Stuart and Heather.

Fred was a great historian, his articles are an integral part of this book. The Kent Road - Waiwakaiho realignment project facilitated the naming of a portion of the old state highway as Thomason Road. This was approved in October 2003, and is a fitting memorial to this amazing man.

Mr Stan Longstaff - Egmont Village 1913

Interview with Mr Stan Longstaff from 1983, 'The Village Press' School Publication by students.

Mr Stan Longstaff came to Egmont Village in August, 1913. He was 8 years old at the time. At the end of World War 1 he was a volunteer messenger boy to tell the local people that peace had been declared.

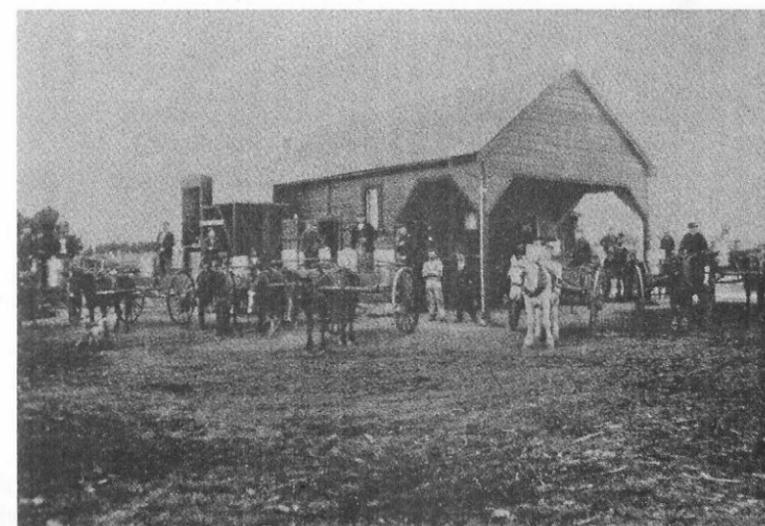
Egmont Village was set up to serve the local farming community. The farmers carted their own milk to the Creamery. The factory had one manager and one assistant. Farmers were paid on the sample they took and paid out on the 20th of the month, the same as now. They were paid 7 pence per pound of butter fat. After the milk was separated, each farmer took skim milk home to feed the calves and pigs. The farmers brought the milk in from 7.30 to 9.00 am. The cans were mainly 20 gallons, and 2 - 7 cans were carted by each farmer. The largest suppliers were the Chards, Marshes and Mortons.

The Creamery was located opposite the present store, by the Araheke Stream. This stream had a tunnel dug from the Waiwakaiho River to increase its flow. This was on the Morton's property on Upper Egmont Road. The Creamery was the biggest branch of the Mangorei factory. This main factory had the cream carted by teams of horses from all its branches. Kaimiro and Albert Road carted their milk to the main road. As the Egmont Village Creamery Manager came past with his cream, he loaded this milk onto his cart which was pulled by a team of three heavy horses, on his way to the Mangorei Factory.

There were no sealed roads. In 1913 there was one car in Egmont Village owned by Mr Arthur Morton who lived in a house at Eureka Gardens. A BSA motorbike was owned by Jack Morton. The 1920s saw the change to motor vehicles. Until the 1920s most of the milking was done by hand. Three of the earliest machines were driven by water-wheels. Later machines used kerosine motors.

Other services the district provided were the Store, Butcher, Blacksmith and Saddlery. The Blacksmith's building used to be on the site where the store petrol bowsers now stand. The Blacksmith would come from Inglewood when needed. Horses were shod and carts fixed. The Saddler was on the opposite side of the road, a part division of the butcher's shop. Mr Burrows owned and operated the butcher's shop and the store. He also had a small dairy farm behind the store. The farm went from Egmont Road along Junction Road to the Waiwakaiho River and back up to Olson Street. The butcher's shop catered for the district meat supply with a delivery twice a week throughout the district, delivering just about as far as Kaimiro. The creamery was sited where the garage paint shop is. That building used to be the engineers shop which came after they pulled down the creamery. The creamery went out of use when motors started carting whole milk.

Electricity was supplied to the Village around 1924. Mr Longstaff can remember the gang of nine men and one horse that put up the line between New Plymouth and Inglewood. A tripod trestle was put under the pole then a higher tripod until the horse could be used to pull the pole straight.



Egmont Village Creamery. Ref Te Moa by R.W. Brown.

The Bowens of Runnymede

Article by Fred Thomason 'Egmont Village Newsflash' April 1993.

John Henry Bowen was born at Egham, Surrey, England in 1878 and emigrated to New Zealand at an early age. He worked as a baker at Stratford and later as proprietor of a fish shop in Inglewood before realising his ambition as a dairy farmer. His dream was reality when he purchased the "Runnymede Farm" at Egmont Village in 1919. A wide picket gate on Junction Road, approximately 100m towards New Plymouth from the Albert Road junction was the entrance to the farm. Two wheel tracks across a green field led to an imposing two storey house that overlooked the beautiful farm of some 92 acres.

The name of "Jack" Bowen's property may be related to his old home near Runnymede Field where the historic Magna Carta was signed in 1215. The farm was bounded on the east by the Thomason farm, on the west by the Wasley property. The New Plymouth Borough Council bought this property and planted radiata pine at the time Lake Mangamahoe was formed. On the north boundary flowed the Waiwakaiho River, it's clear waters harbouring magnificent rainbow and brown trout.

The New Plymouth Borough Council, by arrangement with Jack Bowen, formed a road that serviced the tunnel that was being formed to carry the waters of the Waiwakaiho through to the Mangorei Power Station and onto the borough water supply. This road is still used to service the intake screens.

Jack Bowen was small of stature but together with his wife Alice Maud (nee Best) from Lyell on the West Coast in the South Island, displayed a remarkable strength, tenacity and courage in farming during the 1920s. Low butter fat payouts (although for a short period a boom was experienced) of 2/6 (12 cents) were paid. There was always the threat of blackberry, gorse and ragwort to combat and before the days of weed killers, was a never-ending job.

At the time Alice and Jack moved onto their farm they had seven children, later increasing to ten. Some of the children attended Egmont Village School, later working in the district and becoming very well known. The Bowen farm, finally cleared, became the home of the beautiful and well performing Runnymede Pedigree Jersey Stud.

Horses were an integral part of farming and were used with the family gig for outings, for hay mowers, hay rakes, harrows and carts.

An amusing story was related to me by the late Tilly Dodunski. Her husband Andrew, owned the Mona Mona Pedigree Jersey stud and was conveying his milk to the Egmont Village Creamery when he noticed Jack Bowen approaching with his cart-load of milk from the opposite direction. As there was often a queue of milk-laden carts awaiting their turn to unload, Andrew decided to beat Jack by cutting across in front of him. Unfortunately Andrew's cart capsized and milk from the 20 gallon cans spilled on the roadway. As Andrew did not suffer an injury, I could imagine a fleeting smile on Jack's face as he pulled into the factory.

An interesting exploration was carried out on the Bowen's river boundary. Test bores were made with the intention of building a high dam that would retain billions of litres of water from the often flooded Waiwakaiho. The profit from this venture, if carried out, would have been astronomical and kept the Mangorei Power Station, already established, generating full time. The dam venture did not proceed because the bores did not establish a satisfactory result. At this time the Mangamahoe Dam was constructed and one wonders how the foundations could be so different from the suggested Waiwakaiho Dam.

The Bowen family grew up in an environment of a natural paradise, shared by their near neighbours, the Thomasons. The stoney creek separating the two farms was live with eels, fresh water kura (crawlers) and cocka bullies, a beautiful multi-coloured small fish. In those far off days when we had long, hot summer days, the river with its life-giving crystal clear water, its emerald green moss and myriads of aquatic life was also used for swimming. The Bowen's Pool at the end of the Intake Road was always well patronised. A large orchard below the big house, with its excellent crop of apples, pears and plums was always a most popular place to visit.

The Bowen family worked as a happy family unit, some of the older members worked on the farm until their late teens before moving away.

A pine forest now covers the old Runnymede Farm, a gap in the hedge where the picket gate once stood is a lonely reminder of those happy days.

The O'Byrne Family

The O'Byrne family originated in a small town called La Trove, Tasmania. It was here that Richard O'Byrne was born in 1863. Little is known about his life in Tasmania except he was a professional boxer before immigrating to the South Island of New Zealand. This is where he met his wife Mary-Ann O'Rourke from Gore.

The O'Byrnes came to Oakura where Richard opened a boxing gymnasium. They moved to the Inglewood district where Richard was involved in bridge building. From Inglewood they moved to a 200 acre dairy sheep farm on the Kaipoi Road, where they worked under terrific hardship, hand pumping water, hand washing clothes, not ever knowing about electric power.

It was on the farm that Mary-Ann raised seven sons and five daughters, who all attended Egmont Village school with an excellent conduct record.

The sons went on to have an unparalleled sporting history mainly on the Rugby fields of New Zealand.

Trevor O'Byrne whose father was Ernie O'Byrne recalls his Dad taking the family to school by horse. He would drop the milk cans off at the factory. He remembers getting a message from Mr Lovell, who owned the Egmont Village Store, to go tell his Dad that he had twin daughters. They didn't have a telephone at home. An Egmont Village pupil Ian Barnes remembers the O'Byrnes pet pig - it went everywhere with the children.

At the time of the 81st Jubilee the O'Byrne family was the largest family that had attended Egmont Village School. They made a great contribution to the district.



Taken c. 1920s. Back (l to r): Ada, Muriel, Steve, John, Walter, Evelyn, Ernie. Front (l to r): Lily, Richard (Father), Ron, Bert, Mary-Ann (Mother), Eileen, Alf.

Article by Jean Jones (b) 24-7-1913 (daughter of Mabel Olson and Robert Morton).

When I was quite young I remember standing with my sister Mary in the drawing room at Egmont Village at what is now Eureka Gardens and seeing what we thought were huge birds flying over the northern side of 'Woodlands' farm. They were sheets of iron from the roof of Nan's home on Egmont Road during a cyclone. At that time Nan lived in a house just south of the school house and had a housekeeper Mrs Fitzgerald who made luscious bread. She always put it out on a stool in the sun to rise and one day the pet lamb got loose and had a fine time devouring the rising dough. Unfortunately I can't remember whether he rose or slept off the affects of his greed.

One of my earliest memories goes back to the influenza epidemic of 1918 when our home was the depot for medicine for what I think must have been all of Egmont Village. I can still see the chiffonier in the dining room with the rows and rows of bottles of medicine. Maybe this was because our phone was the only one in the village besides the one at the Post Office which was located in a small corner of the store kept by Mr Burrows. Before that I think it was owned by Uncle

Article by Maurice Henderson (b) 1927. Son of Emily Marsh (Mother Ada Olson) and Henry Henderson.

In discussion with my mother (Emily) Mary Henderson (nee Marsh) about the early 1900s, her memories as a small child, among other things, were the constant fears of bush fires and the pall of smoke filled skies, fields with burnt trees and stumps.

Her father farmed on Egmont Road and milked shorthorn cows. Her mother Ada Marsh (nee Olson) and her older sister May, did a considerable amount of milking, all by hand. May had 10 cows to milk before and after school. In later years my mother was expected to milk also and she remembered the times dawdling home from school, so as to do as little milking as possible, while her brother Gordon shook his fist at her for not hurrying to help him milk. My mother thought that being the youngest in the family she was spoilt particularly by her father.

George Foster who was married to Mum's younger sister Clara.

Being so much younger than the rest of the family I can clearly remember saying, "Mum, what can I do?" However quite often on Saturdays I set sail with the dolls pram and played with Gwen Olson. The excitement of having a ride on Bob the horse was great. One of the thrills at the time was go to Inglewood in Uncle Willie's gig. When I was quite small I remember the crowds we had on Sunday afternoons as Dad had invited his eight bowlers all through the summer and there were always plenty of tennis players alongside. Twenty-plus people for tea were common place and I can still hear Uncle Willie saying "no-one makes scones like Mabel does." My mum of course.

As I reached the tennis playing age I enjoyed the Sundays but Marjory, Mary and I did not enjoy the Saturdays when we had to mow, roll and mark the court. We would have been pleased to see some of the young men on Saturdays as well as Sundays, but of course they were all working on farms and there was no such thing as a 40 hour week then. One bonus was that they all went home to milk but came back in the evenings and what a wonderful sing-song we had around the piano - we all loved it.

She was mildly critical of her father and his great love of music, which took him away from home leaving the work to her mother. I think my mother must have had music lessons in Inglewood because she was a very proficient piano player. She played for the silent movies in Inglewood and at the dances and indeed in later years for many functions.

She spoke many times of the hard work the women of those days had preparing hot dinners for haymakers and guests, at any time, with very primitive facilities.

Mum spoke often of early travel. The visit to a wedding in Auckland by coastal boat. The early travel to Inglewood to picnics and dances by gig. She remembered the awful old cars that Dad and she had owned, in particular the Chev that had developed shimmys in Devon Street, New Plymouth one day. I gather it was fairly violent and the only way to stop it was to put the front wheels against the kerb in the gutter.

Article by Fred Thomason 'Egmont Village Newsflash' August 1995.

On March 25th 1995, The Daily News recorded the death of Joseph Sydney Bridger, known as Syd throughout his life. This was due to a dislike for the name Joseph which he inherited from his grandfather, Joseph Swan.

Joseph Swan was a soldier, fighter and pioneer colonist. In 1861, after 22 years and 9 months of soldiering, he was allowed to resign on a reduced pension.

Surviving a ship wreck on the Boulder Bank, Nelson where he spend two days and two nights without water before being rescued by a police boat, he took up his soldiers grant, in 1872, living on the Upper Egmont Road. He finally settled on a farm 200m down from the Village where he lived the rest of his life, a sturdy and respected farmer.

This land was later farmed by his daughter, Elizabeth Jane and her husband Frederick William Reginald Bridger, an English immigrant. Joseph

Sydney Bridger was their son. He resided in Egmont Village on the family farm until the beginning of the Second World War.

Fred Thomason tells of their special friendship. Fishing for trout from the Mangaoraka Stream, climbing Mt Egmont and tramping the Egmont National Park. They were both members of the Egmont Village Senior County Cricket Team. In 1935 they both worked on the new Waiwakaiho River bridge. Below is a quote from Syd's friend, John Waite's eulogy, given at Syd's funeral at the Mangamahoe Chapel.

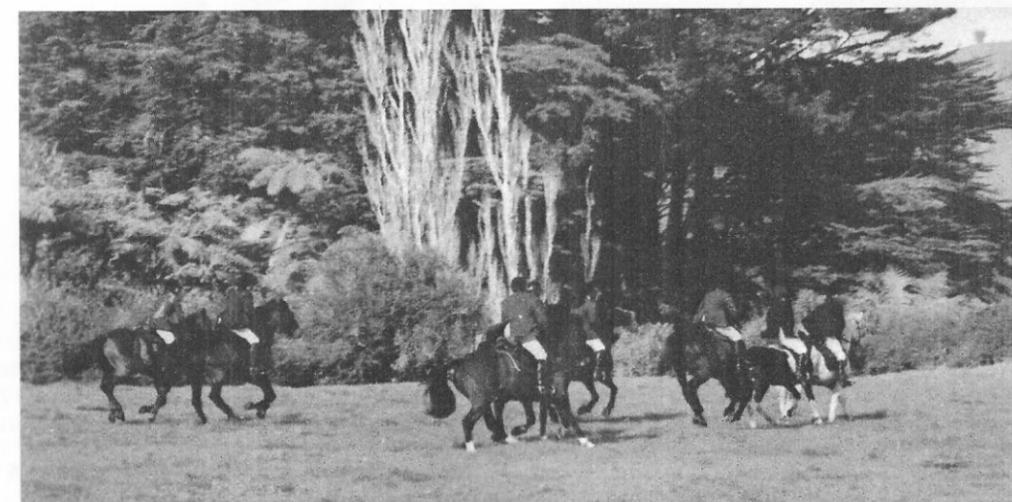
"Syd and Emily were married in 1947 and raised four sons - Murray, Keith, Robin and Graeme, while living at Norfolk Road. He continued to work at the Makatawa Factory and around the district until 1952 when he joined the Inglewood County Council as a bridge building foreman. Syd will always be remembered in the back country of Tarata and surrounding districts where evidence of his work is everywhere, from tunnels, culverts and bridges, not built by modern methods but by pick, shovel and crowbar."

The Adamson Family

John and Susanna moved to Egmont Village in 1927 where they had four children - Esther, Ian, Loma, Alethia. Ian took over the family farm and he milked a Pedigree Jersey herd. He married Phyliss and they had six children - Errol, Delwyn, Julie, Leonard, Daryl and Kathryn. Errol left school at sixteen years of age to work on the family farm. He married Viv and they had five children - Kevin, Stephen, Craig, Richard and Jenny. All three generations attended Egmont Village School.

In 1976 Errol bought the adjoining farm and then purchased another two blocks on Egmont Road. He runs this farming operation today with help from his son Craig. Part of this land has been subdivided to son Kevin and his family, and they have built a new home on it.

In 1945 the Taranaki Hunt Club came across Adamson land for their Annual Hunt of the Monday of Queens Birthday weekend. Today, Egmont Village farms are still used for the Annual Hunt.



As recorded in conversation with Ian who now resides in New Plymouth. Ian attended the 125th Jubilee Celebrations.

Ian Barnes family came to New Plymouth on one of the first ships called the Essex. In 1932 George Barnes (Ian's father), brought Ian and his mother to Egmont Village. He taught as head teacher for five years. They lived in the School house, which is now used as the Egmont Village Community Centre. Ian has fond memories of his time in Egmont Village. There were no swimming baths, the children went to a swimming hole on the Mangoraka Stream.

Children walked barefoot or rode bikes to school. The bridge by Eureka Gardens (on the Mangaoraka Stream) was one way. One morning when walking to school, children found a car in the river. The car had flipped during the night, killing the occupants who were all members of a band.

The Drydens brought their cows down Egmont Road to their cowshed which was situated where Kauri Cottage is now, to be milked. A favourite pastime for Ian and his friends was looking for bird nests in the Boxthorn hedges of Dryden's property. They even tried cooking the eggs to see what they would taste like. Murphy's had their homestead next to the school. Ian remembers their pigs wandering through the school grounds and across Junction Road. In his memories, there were no accidents because of their wanderings.

Ian played in the school rugby team against schools - Kaimiro, Dudley, Waitoriki and Norfolk. Ian scored the only try of the game when Egmont Village won the trophy pictured below.



Back (l to r): Cedric Marsh, John Murphy, Nelson Upson, Stan Lister, Jim Beard, Trevor Hinz. Front (to r): Ian Barnes (scored only and winning try from scrum), Ian Adamson, Colin Dodunski, Alan Meuli, Val Dodunski.

During the 125th Jubilee Celebrations, Ian told an interesting story about school life at Egmont Village. Mr George Barnes put an abrupt end to some boy's laughter. They thought putting the girl's basketball down the long drop toilet was a great joke, until they were told to retrieve it. Yuk!!!

Woodwork classes were held in Inglewood. Ian remembers the great penny pies they got as a treat from Nelson's bakery. They would bring them home with them on the bus. (1 penny = less than half a cent!).

Ian mentions how a toll gate was on the North Egmont Park entry. He and another village resident, Allen Smith, recalled that once in the 1930s snow fell as low as the village. This heavy fall caused the roof of the Kaimiro Hall to collapse.

At Egmont Village school there were three holes where the children played marbles. The best marbles were from the soft drink bottles. Children made their own fish hooks out of wire. Cricket and hockey bats were made out of the branches, whittled away with a boy's best friend - his pen knife. Balls were hand made. Aeroplanes were powered by rubber bands.

Across from the school master's house that Ian and his family lived in, was an area that was used by the headmaster/mistress for gardening, grazing etc. Ian's father wasn't interested in the land so Ian set himself up with an agricultural enterprise - growing carrots to supply local farmers. This land was later sold by the Educational Board.



Egmont Village School was also the winners of the Agricultural shield for the whole of New Zealand. This was judged at the school. Ian is pictured holding the Shield.

Written by Don who now resides in New Plymouth.



The Morton Family, 1910 from left Mable (nee Olson), Arthur (jnr), Jack, Marjory (sitting), Mary, Arthur.

I was educated at Egmont Village Primary School, in my time a two-teacher school of about 50 pupils. The "Little Room", Primer 1 to Standard 2, and the "Big Room", Standard 3-6. Two teachers I remember were Miss Olson who taught me in the little room and then Mrs Balsom in the big room. In the little room as it was called, we did not have exercise books; instead we all had allotted blackboard space and a slate to learn to write on. Every morning we lined up outside weather permitting, the flag was raised, the National Anthem sung, and our shoes and hands were inspected. Mrs Balsom lived up Mangorei Road and used to drive to School in a little Ford Ten. Miss Olson (Molly) lived with her father up Egmont Road on the right above Olson Street, where Heardons later lived. We were all confused after one holiday because we had to call her Mrs Wilson instead of Miss Olson, she had married!!!

The boys played soccer and the girls basketball in the winter and tennis, cricket and rounders in the summer. As there was no swimming pool at the school we used to swim in the Mangaoraka Stream at the back of Meuli's farm (Olsons old farm). Later we were taken up to the Kaimiro school baths on the back of Roy Hurlstone's truck. (Roy Hurlstone was the local carrier, and the school committee paid the transport costs).

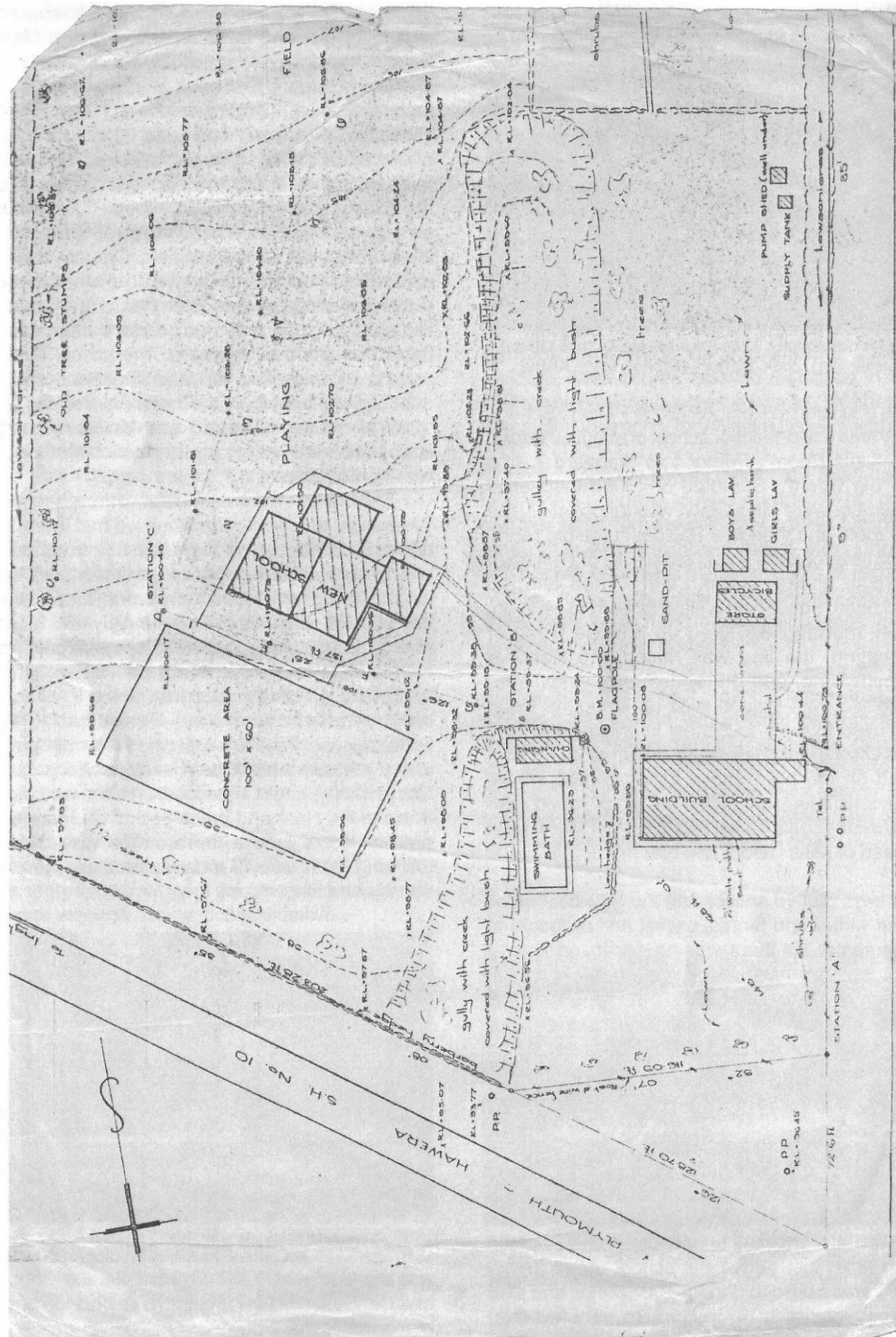
The first swimming pool was built about 1943, in the head of the gully, just to the east of the old school. It seemed a good idea at the time but the ground was uneven and the baths settled and cracked and eventually new baths were built in the 1960s, just above the school gates. Every family was asked to donate 100 pounds and also to work voluntarily on the project, very few men declined to work on it when asked to.

We were all encouraged to have a school vegetable plot and to have school calves. Mrs Balsom had one problem - if she got angry at you she would throw a text book at you. We used to have bottles of milk delivered every day to the school, in the summer they used to go sour quite often before they were brought inside. Yuk! And then we also had cases of apples delivered to the school; "an apple a day keeps the doctor away," was the story. There were some big pine trees along side the football field. One day it was either Cedric or Lesley Marsh who climbed to the top of one. Another time Stan Beard and Trevor Hinz had a fist fight up behind the shelter shed, there was blood everywhere. The school nurse used to call every so often, and she always spent a lot of time looking at the head hair for nits. In 1943 Mrs Balsom retired and Mr Heyes was appointed headmaster, a very staunch Methodist with very set ideas.

We walked to school, and when we had learnt to ride a bicycle, we were allowed to ride to school - only on a very wet day did we get taken to school by car. Up Egmont Road there were Russell and Lorna Meuli, my sister Barbara and myself, Janet, Marian and Peter Morton, and Shirley, Valerie and Bill Marsh. One of my favourite past times on the way home was throwing stones at the insulators on the telephone poles. Periodically Ted Ladbrook, the Post & Telephone fault man gave us a lecture about our expensive game. Occasionally, one of the oldest children would go down to the store and buy a packet of cigarettes and we would smoke them on the way home, throwing them away if a car came along. I have not smoked since those days.



Don Morton's family homestead (pictured above) was situated where the Egmont Canine Centre and Cat Resort is now located. Don built the brick home that is there now.



By Alan Messenger, Chairperson of our School Committee - Egmont Village Times School Publication 1984.

When I started school in 1942, World War 2 still had a big bearing on our lives, even at school. The committee of the day had dug trenches under the oak trees by the drill ground. We were formed into groups, led by a senior pupil and practiced leaving the classrooms and hopping into the trenches. Those of us that lived some distance from school had to have some way of getting home cross country and keeping off the road should the enemy arrive. Thankfully they never did!

Our school had two teachers, Mrs Balsom - Principal - taught the Standards and Mrs Molly Wilson the Primers. My brothers, sister and I walked two miles to school at first. Later on we rode bikes and I rode a pony called Jack. Others that rode to school were Geoff White, the Eichsteadts, the Northcots (Helliers) and the O'Byrne family - Trevor, Kevin and the identical twins Marie and June (Majors), came in a horse and trap. The horses spent the day in the horse paddock where the Millennium Garden is now.

The baths were built while I was at school. Before that children had to walk to the Mangaoraka stream in Mr Meuli's farm which is now subdivided into many small blocks. Sometimes they were taken up to the Kaimiro baths on the back of the Dodunski's truck. We had a very strong tennis club in the district in those days and the two courts were in excellent order and well used by the children during the week. There was a very thick hedge between the courts and the school and I remember failing to hear the bell one morning and arriving down at the school at twenty past nine. There was also a well kept bowling green but both these facilities fell into disrepair over the years.

The small staffroom was added onto the school while I was in Std 6 (Year 8). It was built by a Mr Priest and he asked if I would help him one Saturday morning. My job was to punch in all the nails around the outside of the building and putty

up the holes. For this I was paid 2/6 (12.5c) an hour. This was quite good pay as when I left high school I started working for 1/6 (7.5c) an hour.

Marbles was often played and the bare ground by the hedge, on the drill ground, was covered in holes. Some of the big boys played for keeps (if they won they kept the other fellow's marbles) so some of the better players could be seen walking around with pockets bulging. There were no trailers and very few trucks; most of the calves on calf day were led to school. I remember having a calf my first year. My sister Margaret and I leading them over to the school and after judging leading them home again. Imagine leading a calf along the main road today!

The English trees in front of the school marked on the plan were pushed out and cut up and burnt. Mr Longstaff, his bulldozer and working bees did that. (Refer to the plan on the previous page).

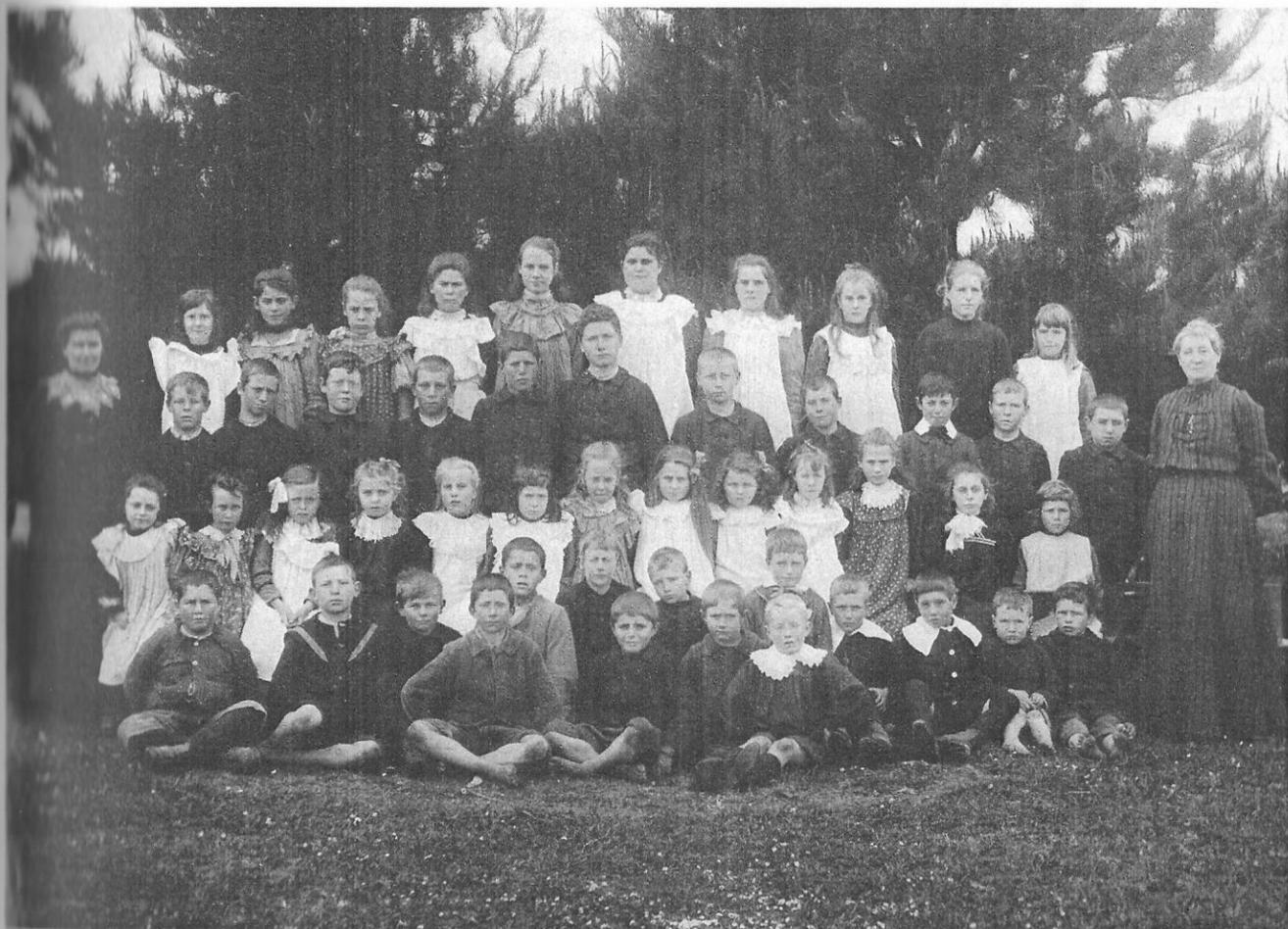
The pine tree stumps marked were in fact very large trees, felled during my time at school. All this was done by hand with crosscut saws, cutting the logs into 4ft lengths, and then splitting up with mallet, wedges and log splitting guns. The wood was then stacked to dry in cord lots, (a cord being 4ft high, 4ft wide by 8ft long). It was sold later or used on the school fires.

The Kauri tree above the adventure playground was about 6ft high when I was at school. Other things that are the same would be the sandpit, the oak trees, the old school house, (now the Community Centre), and the daffodils.

Of the families that went to school with my brothers, sister and I, the following still have children there. Adamsons, Bakers, Beards, Bishops, Dodunskis, Hurlstones and Sinclairs.

Free milk was delivered to the school each day. At playtime all children who wanted some took a bottle, some had two. Cases of apples were delivered from time to time and these were handed out, one per child.

Egmont Village School



1904

On March 5th 1877 an application was received by the Education Board from a number of residents in Egmont Village and its vicinity for the establishment of a school in their district. They pointed out the Egmont Blockhouse was available for school purposes and that Mr Cattley, a qualified teacher, was willing to undertake the duties of teacher providing the Board granted a subsidy.

A blockhouse was built in Egmont Village in 1868 when there was still fear of further trouble with the Maori, though in actual fact, all open warfare in the area was well over by this time. On September 3rd 1877, the Education Board agreed to set up a school in the blockhouse. Mr R. J. Cattley was appointed teacher with a subsidy of 50 pounds per annum. During this period of time more settlers lived outside the New Plymouth township than within, and Taranaki was one of the most densely settled areas in New Zealand.

Mr Cattley did not stay long. Mr William Collis was appointed on October 1st 1877. On June 10th 1878, Mr J. Hill was appointed subsidised teacher. At this time parents had to contribute something towards education; 26 shillings per annum (\$1.30), paid quarterly.

November 17th 1879, a resolution was carried to the effect that "a school house for the accommodation of 40 children be erected at Egmont Village, that it be provided with necessary furniture and that the present school house be converted to a teacher's residence."

In 1880 the number of children attending school in Taranaki increased to 1,159. Schools were the sole responsibility of parents. 44 teachers were teaching in a total of 31 schools. Absenteeism was a major problem at Egmont Village School, as it was country-wide. This was in part caused by the need for children to work at home. Weather combined with sheer distance and lack of transport playing another major part. Strict discipline and corporal punishment practised in the classrooms may also have been contributing factors!

Interesting Prices - The cost for the new school and for converting the blockhouse into a residence

is recorded as 358 pounds. 20 dual desks, 14 pounds. 14/6 a chain for fencing school site (later an extra shilling a chain was paid for heart of Matai posts to replace red pine).

The blockhouse was demolished. Further additions were made to the school in 1919. While these were being done the children were taught in the hall, the rent being 2 pounds a week.

Come the turn of the century, the 1900s saw the majority of children receiving free schooling. In 1914 the role of the Education Board changed with it becoming the local agent to implement departmental policy. The School Committee now had less responsibility and was asked only to maintain buildings and playgrounds.

A fire which appeared to have occurred during the 1908 Christmas vacation destroyed records from 1877-1909. This meant the records of pupils who attended the school on the first day in the Blockhouse were destroyed. Some of the biggest school rolls were in the early days, eg. in 1918, there were 69 children. It was necessary to place three children to a seat. In 1937 the roll stood at 67. In 1958 the roll was 71.

The Taranaki Education Board achieved much over the years until 1930 when it was recognised as one of the better-served districts, whereas in earlier days it had been educationally, very much below par when compared to other areas.

In 1936 a well was dug (sited where present day swimming baths are). A pump and tank were installed to supply the school with drinking water and water for the septic tank system. Ian Barnes, pupil at this time remembers this well - Mr Bridger blew a hole in the ground; he went down by ladder to set another charge. He miscalculated! The bottom blew off the ladder but he escaped without damage.

In February 1944 an appeal for the replacement of the old school was referred to an architect. In 1958, 14 years later, the new school was almost completed. This was when the 81st Jubilee was celebrated.

By Fred Thomason 'Egmont Village Newflash' June 1977.

When I started school at Egmont Village in 1923 we were fortunate in having two fine, highly qualified Teachers in Mr Fred Butler and Miss Florence Roberts. When Mr Butler moved to Te Tiko in 1929, we felt we had lost a friend who would be irreplaceable and we waited with some misgivings for the arrival of our new Head Teacher, who was Mr Harper.

Mr Harper and his ex-teacher wife Maude eventually arrived with their family of two young ladies, Ruth and Thora, two boys Innes (Jim) and Frank and young Nancy. Nancy and Frank became pupils of the school and "Jim", previously a pupil of Wanganui Collegiate attended the New Plymouth Boys School. Ruth and Thora, attractive and single were sought after by the young village men and Thora subsequently married Dick Baxter, who later became General Manager of MacEwans Machinery, New Plymouth.

Our first impression of Mr Harper was very good. He was impeccably dressed, tall and had the appearance of a successful Head Teacher. He had transferred from the Hawkes Bay and we did not realize at this meeting the terrific impact this man would have on our school. I was in Form 1 and had always responded well to leadership and it was soon realized by the Pupils of the "big room" that we not only had a very good Head Teacher, but a man with a mission and so it proved to be. In 1930, under the guidance of this quiet, totally dedicated man, our school reached heights unparalleled in its history. We had massive vegetable plots at school, kept meticulously weed free by enthusiastic children. Home garden plots were also encouraged, to be later judged, my plot of mangolds (vegetable) related to 80 tons per acre. Possibly an added incentive for growing vegetables at this time was lack of food and the total lack of money during these bleak days of the Depression.

During the late 1920s and early 1930s, the village had a strong seven-a-side rugby team and played in the Schnieder Shield Rugby Competition against surrounding districts. The Village team in colours of black and white were a formidable combination, made strong by four O'Byrne brothers. The Schneider Shield games were played on a Sunday. The ground was the Thomason's front paddock, later segregated by

the 1935 main highway deviation. I became the local grounds man, the grass mowers were our herd of Jersey Cows.

The North Taranaki Girls and Boys Club was very active at this time and inter-school competition in calf rearing and crop growing was very keen under the enthusiastic leadership of our very fine Headmaster. Egmont Village ran the other schools "ragged" winning numerous trophies and certificates, among them the prized Trimble Shield for the North Taranaki Schools. The winning of this shield led to further recognition of the high profile of the school culminating in the award of the most sought after trophy of all, the Henry Lane Shield. (A National award for both overall enthusiasm and academic achievement in any school throughout New Zealand).

Mr Harper transferred to Kiore in 1932 when Mr G. Barnes took over as Headmaster. He retired to Oakura at 83 years of age, this inspirational "friend of the people" died at New Plymouth's Barrett Hospital.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS EGMONT VILLAGE SCHOOL COMPETITIONS AND TROPHIES WON 1930
HENRY LANE SHIELD for the whole of New Zealand.
MARGARET CUP for championship calf (won by Connie Stapleton).
MONA MONA CUP for best calf, dairy type (won by Fred Thomason).
TRIMBLE SHIELD for North Taranaki.
WASHER CUP for champion Freisian calf (won by Jean Tebbutt).
TRIMBLE CUP for swedes (won by Connie Stapleton).



Back (l to r): Edgar Salisbury, Alf O'Byrne, Alf Dryden.
 3rd (l to r): Mr Harper, Jean Tebbutt, Margaret Bridger, Fred Thomason, Violet Dryden, Lily Riley, Mr W. Olson.
 2nd (l to r): Dulcie Guilford, Esma Thomason, Ivy Gyde, Connie Stapleton.
 Front (l to r): Betty Olson, Frank Harper, Betty Bridger (holding the Henry Lane Shield), Ian Morton, Lily O'Byrne.

An estimated 600 people were present on Saturday May 17th for the roll call. At 7.00pm, 324 ex pupils, wives and husbands attended the Jubilee Banquet at Mangorei Memorial Hall. Two of the eldest ex pupils, who had been taught in the blockhouse, combined to cut the Jubilee Cake.

Sunday May 18th, 200 people attended an impressive combined church service held in the Egmont Village Hall.

Monday May 19th a sports day allowed present and immediate past pupils to have fun, this was held in the school grounds. The climax was Monday evening when an estimated 320 people attended the Jubilee Ball at Mangorei Memorial Hall. The evening concluded at 2.00am with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.



Back (l to r): Roy Milham, Milton Bishop, Paul Hinz, Harold Olson, Fred Thomason, Ian Adamson, Jack Jones, Philip Sinclair, Dick Sinclair, Roy Sole.

Front (l to r): Mavis Milham, Jean Hinz, Jean Olson, Phyllis Adamson, Jean Jones, Ina Sinclair, Janice Sole.

From the 81st Jubilee Publication thought to have been written by Rita Atkinson.

Several old pupils have given me their impressions of the school as it was in their time. In the early days bracken fern and scrub pressed close to the school and there was no real playground. The children played hide and seek in and around this. I heard one tale to the affect that on one occasion at least, the big boys went into the scrub to a point about where the school house is now and one of their number taught them to smoke.

One pupil related how she had come along a bush track to cross the Mangoraka stream on a rata log to get to school. Later a fire almost destroyed the log after which a flood washed it away, so she had to go to Inglewood School from then on.

"We came to school along bush tracks that seldom dried out. I had between three and four miles to come," said another ex-pupil. "We used to walk or, in a few instances, ride horseback. I remember my family coming to Egmont Village. My father drove us in a bullock dray."

The same man told us about an early paper chase. The teacher gave the "hares" some old exercise books and sent them off, as he thought, to fill in the lunch hour harmlessly. Away went the "hares", laying paper trails, a little later followed by the "hounds". School was soon forgotten. They trotted along the bush tracks, crossed the Waiwakaiho and finally came out somewhere about where the Mangorei School now stands. The teacher did not get his pupils back to school until almost 5.00pm.

At about the same period it was usual for the teacher to send out a child to fetch a cane from the bush. To make sure it was a good one the teacher first tried it out on the one who cut it. One child decided it was hardly fair so he nicked the supplejack at each notch so it would break when used. It didn't save him, he was promptly sent back to get another.

One of the early teachers, so I was told, had a habit of questioning the pupils outside the school as well as in to make sure they remembered what

they had been taught. "We used to dodge into the bush if we saw him coming", said my informant with a grin.

Another ex pupil told me where the hall now stands was once a "convincing ground." When I appeared puzzled he went on to explain that any quarrels that sprang up between the boys at school were settled down the road. "The winner convinced the loser that he was right," he explained.

He also remembered a man bringing a dancing bear to the corner by the school. The school children paid a penny to see it.

At one time there was a sports ground where the school house now stands. There was a circular course where bicycle races, athletic sports, horse races and foot races were held. "The whole district turned out. Bookies were in attendance and there was a band playing. It was a big day," I was told. "Children's sports were held on the school property across the Egmont Road."

Walking long distances meant nothing to early pupils or, if it comes to that, to their teachers. I have been told that Mr Grayling used to walk from Egmont Village to New Plymouth for a game of chess.

Mrs Gow (who taught at the Village when she was Miss McDonald) also told me something of her experiences. She was 16 when she came to the village and often used to get very homesick. She would have liked to bring her pony so she could ride backwards and forwards but she could not get grazing for it. Nevertheless, every Friday she walked seven miles home and, on Sunday, seven miles back. "The roads were rough and muddy and not at all like they are now, but I wouldn't have missed my weekend at home for anything so off I went rain, hail or shine," she said.

During Mr Grayling's time those older people who had not had the opportunity of going to school were able to attend night school if they so wished. This was arranged between the adults and the teacher, from what I can discover, and those attending would pay their own fees.

Oldest living pupil at 81st Jubilee Celebrations. Article from the Taranaki Herald 17 May 1958.

Mr Swan flew down from Waiheke Island to attend the schools three-day Jubilee Celebrations.

His father was a roadman at Egmont Village, then called "The Ten Acres" because of the ten acres set aside for a blockhouse in the Maori War Days. The countryside had some big holdings but there were only small clearings for pastures.

His father bought part of the O'Reilly estate, near the village and took up farming. Soon after, the Maori became troublesome and many people left

the village to live in more closely settled places like New Plymouth and Inglewood.

Mr Swan recalled "my father refused to leave. He didn't have a rifle but he had a slasher, and he used to say that if the Maori's came too close he would fix them with the slasher."

The old school where Mr Swan senior studied the three R's under the first teacher Mr Cattley is nearing the end of its historic life. His son Mr Swan wandered around the old school for the first time since he was a pupil there in the 1920s "Its changed a bit, but I can still remember most of it," he said.



1931-1940 81st Jubilee

Back (l to r): Don Taylor, Cedric Marsh, Jack Murphy, Alfred Tippett, Clyde Hinz, Ian Adamson, Milton Bishop.
3rd row (l to r): Ivan Walsh, Lesley Marsh, Ian Barnes, David Marsh, Don Morton, Val Dodunski, Des Dodunski, Philip Sinclair, Barry Hurlstone.

2nd row (l to r): Margaret Messenger, Thelma Hatcher, Mavis Dryden, Gladys Guilford, Shirley Marsh, Barbara Morton, Valerie Marsh, _____, Nita Robinson, Lorna Benny, Cathy Nickson, Noreen Nickson, Shirley Roberts.

Front (l to r): Janet Morton, Doreen Longstaff, Elaine Hurlstone, Patsy Shallard, Kathleen Longstaff, Maxine Gush, Marion Morton, Maisie Oakley.

In perfect weather, Thursday 7th April, the teachers and pupils arrived at the school in period costume. In the afternoon, residents of the district paraded from the hall to the school in costumes depicting 100 years of progress. Included in the parade were horse riders, ladies riding side saddle, pack horses and a vintage truck, bus and fire engine.

The school committee with the help from the Centennial Committee had earlier planted the Centennial garden in the north-west corner of the school grounds, commemorating 100 years of education in the district.

After the parade, the Centennial Chairperson Ian Adamson unveiled a suitably inscribed plaque on a large boulder in this garden. (This is still in its original place). Afternoon tea and special treats for the children concluded an afternoon that was a fitting prelude to the celebrations due to commence on the weekend.

On Saturday 9th April, time was spent meeting old friends, inspecting the display of work by present day pupils, viewing old photos and museum articles, followed by afternoon tea. Saturday evening's social at the Inglewood Rugby Gymnasium was attended by 350 people. Dancing was the main feature with other entertainment by the Savage Club.

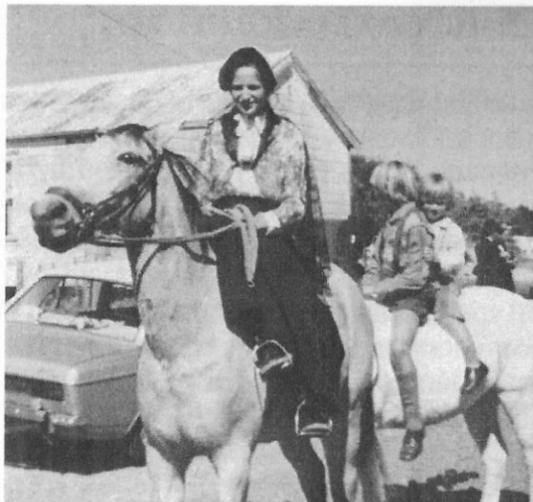
Roll call on Sunday was held in the Inglewood High School Assembly Hall due to heavy rain. The first decade of the century was called by Mrs. Pope, who taught at the school as a 15 year old pupil teacher in 1905. The centennial cake, kindly donated by Nelson's Caterers was cut by the oldest man and woman ex-pupils present, Mrs. Bertha Thomason (nee Chard) and Mr. James Taylor. Afternoon tea was served. On Sunday night 316 guests attended the Grand Banquet at the Inglewood Rugby gymnasium. This concluded the weekend.



Jean Pierce seated on a horse held by Joanne Marsh.



Mr Ian Jones and his students dressed in period costume.



Old hall in background.



Article from the Taranaki Herald dated 11 April 1977.

An eye injury didn't spoil the pleasure of the Egmont Village School Centennial for Mr Gordon H. Marsh (left) pictured with Mr W. James Taylor. Mr Marsh (85) Egmont Village, and Mr Taylor (86) Normanby, were among the oldest ex-pupils at the Easter weekend celebrations, which ended with a banquet last night. The successful get-together attracted more than 600 people.



Back (l to r): Wayne Milham, Colin Dodunski, Ian Jones (Headmaster), Bill Marsh, Clyno Baker, Don Marsh, _____,

Front (l to r): Jean Hinz, Joyce Baker, Gladys Marsh, Mavis Milham, Ian Adamson, Lynn Dodunski, Kathryn Adamson, Margaret Dodunski, Helen Baker.



Back (l to r): Ivan Walshaw, Ian Messenger, Jeff White, Ross Ferguson, Alf Tebutt, Don Taylor, Philip Sinclair, Don Morton, Jim Attrill, Don Marsh, David Marsh.

3rd row (l to r): Des Dodunski, Milton Bishop, Allan Fergusson, Ian Adamson, Keith Fergusson, Bill George, Trevor Hinz, Cedric Marsh, Jack Murphy.

2nd row (l to r): Maisie Oakley, Dawn White, Deidre White, Maryanne Morton, Elsie Tebutt, Joan Salisbury, Patsy Shallard.

Front (l to r): Elaine Hurlstone, Janet Morton, Valerie Marsh, Pam Hurlstone, Loma Adamson, Lorna Benny, Maxine Gush, Marjory Kilpatrick, Margaret Messenger, Shirley Marsh, Phylis Roberts, Shirley Roberts.



Back (l to r): Trevor O'Byrne, David Olsen, Alan Messenger, Tony Gilford, Lynlee Drinkwater, Morris Beard, Bill Hurlstone, Bill Messenger, Jim Ward.

Middle (l to r): David Sole, Bill Olsen, Bill Marsh, Eileen Longstaff, Margaret Shallard, Gwenda Sole, Clyno Baker, Peter Morton, Kevin O'Byrne.

Front (l to r): Jocelyn Jones, Ann Gilford, Lola Fay, Theresa Dodunski, Carol Hinz, Margaret Jones, Doreen Longstaff, Maree Leadbetter, Mary Leadbetter, Kathleen O'Regan, Mary Olsen, Jean Sinclair.

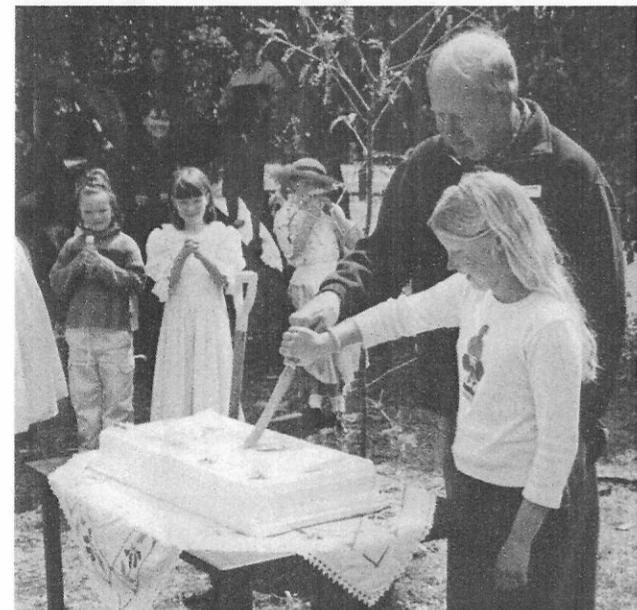
125th Jubilee Celebrations of 2002

The 125th Jubilee Celebrations were incorporated with the annual School Country Fair Day, on the 19th November 2002. Members of the staff, Board of Trustees, Home and School Committee and some school children, dressed in period costume.

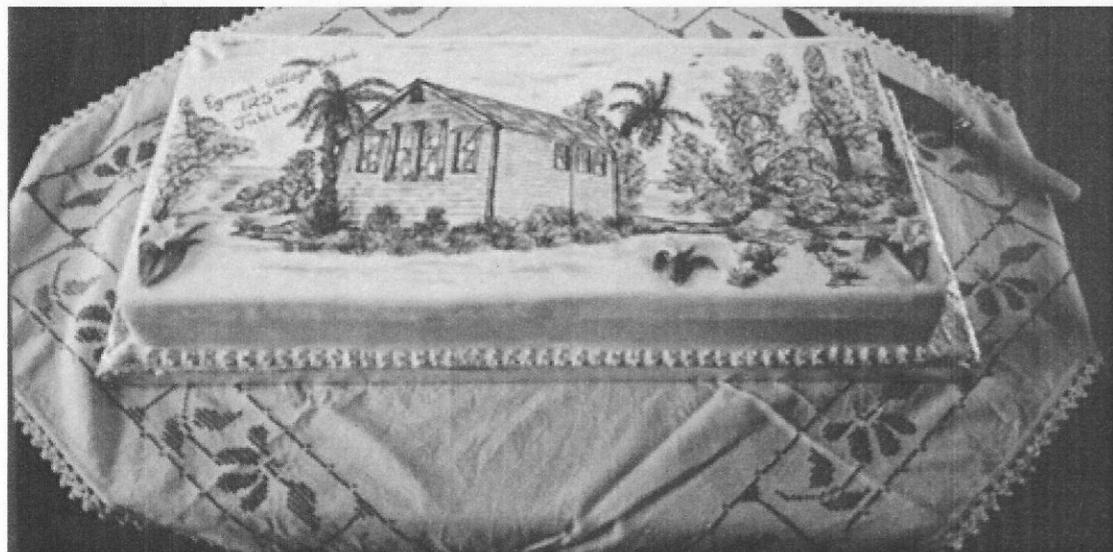
A Jubilee display of photographs and memorabilia were set up in the school hall, alongside craft exhibits by the current school children. Geoff Horton, Board of Trustees Chairman officially opened the celebrations. Three generations of the Messenger family planted a Kowhai Tree.



Derek, Alan and Harry Messenger.



Three generations of the Sinclair Family attended - cutting the Jubilee Cake are Philip and Lisa.



The Jubilee Cake was baked by Maureen Wakeman and iced by Linda Chamberlain.



Older Generation Photo.

Back (l to r): Trevor Hinz, Des Dodunski, Phyllis Gray (Roberts), Ken Roberts, Beverly Harvey (Roberts), Kath Warren (Sinclair), Phillip Sinclair, Jean Gaustad (Sinclair), Alan Messenger, Colin Dodunski, Don Morton. Front (l to r): Gladys Stanley (Gyde), Jack Hinz, Ivy Upson (Gyde), Roy Lovell, Edgar Salisbury, Imelda Dodunski, Marie O'Byrne (Roberts), Graham Roberts.



Younger Generation Photo.

Back (l to r): Mark Duynhoven, Stuart Andrews, Sarah Ohlson, Daniel Niederberger, Michael Horton, Thomas Busby, Jackie Meredith.

Centre (l to r): Abe Naus, Victor Verveer, Carolyn Mace, Jennifer Mace, Laura Duynhoven, Suzanne Duynhoven (nee Dodunski), Adam Goble.

Front (l to r): Rachelle Sinclair, David Hendry, Stephanie Dirksen, Maree Messenger.