

POST OFFICE & MAIL SERVICE

The Chief Post Office in New Plymouth supplied the following information:

The Purangi Post Office opened on 1.8.1892, in the store, with Herbert N Silk, Store Manager for C O Smith of Inglewood as Postmaster. Mails were received from Inglewood. The store and post office were destroyed by a fire on 13 October 1892, and, included in the loss, was the mail seal. The office was continued and went back into the rebuilt store to which on 20 February 1892, the New Plymouth Chief Post Office issued a new seal, 33, and a datestamp. The telephone facilities were added on 8 November 1905, and the call sign was PRI.

The Inglewood Record ran the following advertisement on 9 May 1910:

The time for closing mails at Inglewood on and after 1st April will be as follows:

Kaimata, Tarata, Taramauku and Purangi 12.30 pm daily.

The store and office was moved 200m further east on 3 July 1914 to the boarding house. In July 1921, the Post Office served only eight settlers and its closure was being considered, but the Post Office decided to leave it open in view of the isolation of the district.

In 1948, the storekeeper/postmaster for the past twenty years, Henry Watkins, decided to go to England on a three months holiday and to close the store down. The office was operated by his daughter-in-law, until moved 21 September 1948 to a residence 50m from the store. By this time the office was open only 11 am - 1 pm and 7 pm - 8 pm daily. In view of the small amount of postal business it was decided to close the office completely - this took place on 31 August 1959, and the four households affected were served by an extension of the Inglewood-Purangi Rural Delivery.

The Postmasters were:

1.8.1892 Herbert N Silk, store manager
1.7.1912 George Hanover
1.10.1918 Henry Watson
5.6.1928 Henry Watkins
1.9.1948 Mrs Sadie Watkins
21.9.1948 Mrs Queenie Bertrand
16.9.1953 Mrs Margaret Bertrand

The salary paid to Mr H N Silk the Postmaster at Purangi:

1.6.1900 £14 (\$28)
8.11.1905 £19 (\$38)
1.4.1908 £24 (\$48)
1.4.1911 £28 (\$56)

THE TELEPHONE

One of the most important developments in the district was the extension of the telephone from Tarata to Purangi and Matau on 15.7.1909. This was a single wire circuit on sawn totara poles. Very short cross-arms were used. The service was not 100 per cent satisfactory and weather conditions sometimes caused so much induction that it was almost impossible to carry on a conversation.

It must not be thought that all these amenities came without efforts by the settlers. Letters were written by Mr H N Silk to the paper, to the Minister of Public Works, and deputations to Ministers whenever one came within miles.

Frederick Nelmes Silk remembered that his father seemed to be a leader in these efforts but certainly had the backing of the local people. Mrs Chapman was really vigorous in demanding facilities. Petitions for this and that used to be at the store for signing.

The first party line was erected in 1930 and was shared by R Mounsey, W Bertrand and J S Fletcher. The toll circuit from Inglewood was converted to a rural automatic line and the telephone office facilities were withdrawn on 16 July 1959.

The Tarata Automatic Telephone Exchange was opened at 9.00 am on 1.2.1956 and Purangi subscribers were serviced by the Tarata exchange. From 1.9.1959 until 23.4.1990 the Purangi subscribers were all on the same party line. In 1990 the subscribers were Cleavers on Mangaoapa Road, McGarveys on Pukemahoe Station, Webbs (Frank and Peter), and Georges and Aitkens on Junction Road.

In 1983 the Tarata-Purangi subscribers were switched over to the New Plymouth free calling area; until then every call outside the district was a toll call.

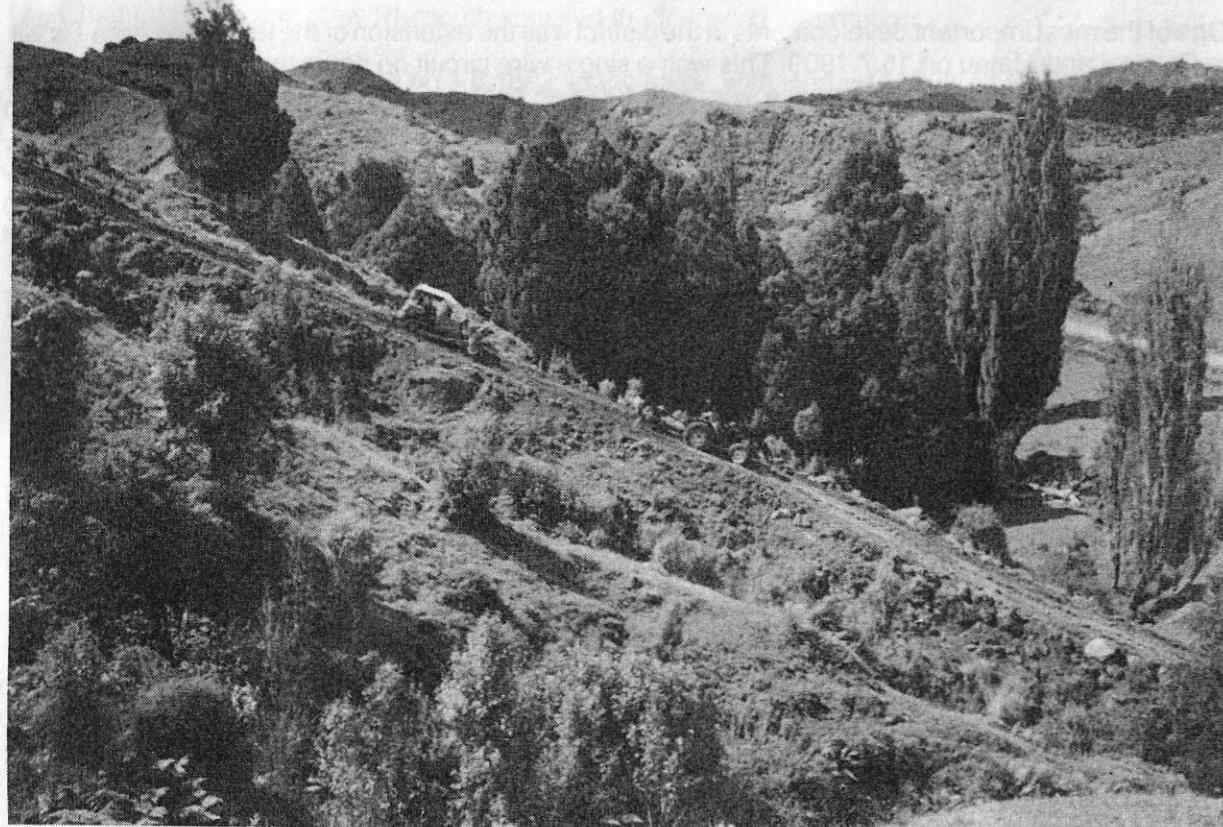
The Daily News dated 8 May 1990 report included the following information:

Tarata and Purangi people had been using the black bakelite phones, with a handle on the side, eight people to a party line, every number allocated a different ring and the rural greeting, "Working?"

But late in May all that changed, because Telecom had materials to upgrade the system and local people had the machinery and enthusiasm to do the work. The project could have cost Telecom more than \$410,000 but work by locals - clearing ridges, surveying property, working out a path through their respective farms and then laying cable, may have saved up to \$50,000. Now the district had one of the most up-to-date telephone systems in the world, with enough lines into the district to serve 450 consumers.

Much of the credit has to go to Mr Frank Webb of Purangi, a local farmer and member of the Inglewood District Council, (now known as the Inglewood Community Board.) Over the years he made regular trips into New Plymouth and spoke to various engineers. In December 1989 he asked if the community could do anything at all to hasten improvements. He was told to go back to the community.

At a public meeting on 30 January 1990 the community met and gave a commitment to provide equipment and labour. Cabling started on 20 February, using a hired moleplow that sliced into the ground and laid the cable at the same time, leaving the ground to be closed over the top. Farmers had already cleared the bush-covered sections of the track, and on very steep hills one bulldozer would back up a hill in front of the plow while another followed close behind, to stop it from rolling if it slipped. The most cable laid on one day, was 2km. In all a total of 25km was laid, replacing over 50km of phone lines, and it took only a few weeks. The lines and power poles were donated to the community for fundraising.



March 1989, laying telephone cable. Webbs' farm with Junction Road on the right.



Laying telephone cable on Pukemahoe Road.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

The Clifton County Council Ngatimaru Riding has been represented by:

Steve Kennington

F B Hutchinson 1889-1893

E R A Haworth 1893-1899

F J Webb 1899-1905

L F Laurent 1902-1905

G E Bishell 1905-1908

H Sander 1908-1919

H Waite 1919-1920

H Harrison 1920-1921

R Mounsey 1921-1923

R Mounsey 1926-1929

The Inglewood County was formed and Purangi became divided. West of the Waitara River was to be in the East Riding of the Inglewood County and east of the river remained in the Ngatimaru Riding but was part of the Stratford County.

Councillors representing the East Riding were:

M S Cameron

W Topping

J W Grieve

D E L Rose

A J Webb

F R King

K Watson

F R Webb

On the Stratford County Council representing the Ngatimaru Riding were:

R Mounsey

J Wallace

G Jensen

W N Bertrand

L Carver

D Hannah

C Ericksson

M Mills

Purangi is still divided since the new District Council areas were formed in 1989. West of the river is part of the New Plymouth District Council and east of the river is the Stratford District Council. It is worth noting that three generations of the Webb Family have participated in local government.

For many years Mr W N Bertrand looked after the roads in the Purangi area for the Stratford County, and Mr Henry Nuku, who also lived in Purangi, was a road surfaceman for many years for the Inglewood County.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS - CHURCH - SPORT AND RECREATION

The social life of the settlers in Purangi was limited in the early days as there was no public building in which to hold social functions. After the boarding house was built in 1901, the large front room (used as a school room) was also used as the venue for socials and farewells for families leaving the district. Music for these functions was usually provided by the locals playing the piano, violin and accordian.

Later, in 1909, the new school was built and it became the centre of social activities. School concerts and school picnics were held regularly. After homes were established and families arrived, visits to neighbours and dinner parties at one another's homes were frequent occurrences.

On 13 September 1928, a general meeting of the Purangi Ladies was held at Mrs W Bertrand's, to form a church committee. The main purpose of this group of ladies was to raise money for church funds and a lot of their time and energy went into running dances and euchre evenings. Some details of a dance that was held in the school (cost 5/6 to hire) on 21 September 1928, comes from the minutes of that first meeting.

Euchre from 8 pm to 10 pm - dance to follow. Euchre to be conducted by H Watkins and W Bertrand. Music - W Bertrand, MC - J S Fletcher, Doorkeeper - R M Mounsey.

Dance Programme

Novelty dances

Waltzing competition, ladies prize donated by I E Bertrand, gents by R Mounsey

Judge for waltzing competition - S George

Spot waltz, ladies prize donated by Mrs A Webb, gents by Mr A Webb.

Committee provide supper as follows:

sandwiches - Mrs A J Webb and I E Bertrand

scones - Mrs A Campbell

Cakes - Mesdames Watkins, Bertrand, Fletcher and Misses Campbell, Stewart and R Mounsey.

Admission: ladies 2/-; gents 2/6; committee ladies 1/- and basket.

Ladies to supply the following goods, etc:

Mrs Watkins - milk, rug, wood and 2 packs of cards

Mrs Bertrand - candles, rug, towel and 3 packs of cards

Mrs Webb - sugar, rug, teapot, 1 pack of cards

Mrs Fletcher - tea, rug, 2 packs of cards

Miss Campbell - floor powder

Miss R Mounsey - kerosene, rug, towel, 2 packs of cards

Miss Stewart - rug, towel, 1 pack of cards

Notices to be posted to Kiore, Matau, Pukeho, Tarata and Purangi.
(In 1932 extended to Huroa and Te Wera).

Notices to read:

Programme as follows

FUN GALORE

Euchre and Dance

To be held in the Purangi School on 21 September in aid of church funds.

Waltzing Competition - Novelty Dances

Good Prizes Good Supper

Admission: Euchre - Ladies 1/-

Gents 1/-

Dance - Ladies 1/-

Gents 1/6

This was typical of the dances that were to follow on quite a regular basis although later dances included the following programme: Waltz, Lancers, Onestep, Spot Waltz, Ladies Excuse Me, Schottische Competition, d'Alberts, Veleta, Chain Waltz.

Enough money was made to allow them to purchase 4 yards of white linen for an altar cloth and 8 yards of white sateen for a large curtain at the back of the altar, also in October 1929, a psalm book and a surplice.

At a meeting in the Purangi Hall it was decided to have a combined working day on 28 October 1930 to paint the church. Mrs Fletcher was to purchase the paint from McNeils. The paint, two panes of glass and one paint brush cost £1/6-. It was also resolved 'that one end of the church fence be left open to let Reuben's horse and Mrs Gray's calves in to tread down the fern'. Also they were to procure a Bible and hymn book for use in the church.

Later on, the committee sent invitations to people in surrounding districts asking them to 'render songs at our social and dance', and mentioned that the singers 'not be charged their door money'. Recitations and sketches were also performed. Mrs A J Webb often lent her piano for these socials.

Mr Press ran a 'free bus' to bring dance patrons from Tarata, for which he was paid 10/- by the committee. Later Mr Cyril Drake ran the 'free bus' and was paid between 10 and 15 shillings in 1932. The socials moved from the school to the hall which was initially hired for 10/-, then later it rose to 15/-. In 1933, a suckling pig donated by Mr Bertrand was raffled at a dance for 6d a guess.

On February 16th 1935, a Sunday School picnic was held at the home of Mrs Mathews, the chairlady of the church committee. In the same year the church committee became the Ladies' Guild. Two pounds of lead headed nails were bought for the roof, and Mr G J Webb donated 9ft posts to repair the wire netting fence. The roses were transplanted.

The 1936 Sunday School picnic was held on 15 February at Mr Fletcher's where the ladies provided lunch and afternoon tea, and each child received a gift and sweets. In 1937 the picnic was held on 3 April at Fletcher's.

Informal and irregular meetings were held as the number of ladies in the community was seriously depleted due to families moving out of the district.

On 8 May 1940 a meeting was held in the Purangi Church to reform the committee. Four ladies of the district attended and decided that they would be called the Church Social Committee. They immediately began making arrangements for a dance later that month. Mackie Bros were asked to supply the music and Mr Bennett Bertrand asked to give a yodelling item. A further meeting was held on 17 July 1940, and that was the last for a long time.

On 31 July 1957, a meeting was held at the church with six ladies in attendance. They decided to form a Guild. The vestry floor needed urgent attention and Mr M Rawlinson donated the necessary timber for the job, Mr S Watkins did the work fitting the floor. He also rehung the gate. Mrs Devine's goats were tied up to eat the fern, grass and blackberry around the church. Tea coupons were collected to raise money.

In November 1957 members of the Matau Guild presented an altar frontal and drapes to the Purangi Guild for use in the church. They also presented a parcel of material which was used for a mat and hangings in the vestry.

In 1958, the altar rail kneelers and a few cushions were also made and the vestry floor varnished. Posts were purchased for the church fence.

In 1959, the members each paid a subscription of 2/6. They took turns in helping Mrs Watkins clean and prepare the church for the service each month. The minutes also recorded that members were reminded of their meeting by automatic telephone which began operating on 15 July. Work on the new fence was completed and a carpet-sweeper acquired.

Mr Bertrand erected a stile for easier access to the church in 1960.

The final meeting was held on 28 September 1961 with only three members attending.

**Tarata - Purangi Settlers' Association.
HOME INDUSTRIES COMPETITION.**

To be held in the

TARATA HALL,

On THURSDAY, JUNE 16th, 1927

JUDGE: MR. G. YOUNG, INGLEWOOD.

SECTION I.

Class.	Prizes.
1st	2nd
1—Loaf of Home-made White Bread, about 2lb., made with home-made yeast ...	5/- 2/6
2—Loaf of Home-made Brown Bread, about 2lb., made with home-made yeast ...	5/- 2/6
3—Rich Fruit Cake, about 4lb.	5/- 2/6
4—Sponge Cake	5/- 2/6
5—Sponge Sandwich	5/- 2/6
6—Cream Puffs, not less than six	5/- 2/6
7—Home-made Shortbread	5/- 2/6
8—Plate of Mixed Small Cakes, six varieties, two of a kind	5/- 2/6
9—Home-made Scones (six), plain, oven ...	5/- 2/6
10—Plate of Pikelets, not less than six	5/- 2/6
11—Collection of Mixed Sweets	5/- 2/6
12—Collection of Jams and Jellies, 4 varieties	5/- 2/6
13—Collection of Bottled Fruits, 4 varieties, one bottle of each, in syrup	5/- 2/6
14—Collection of Pickles and Sauces, 2 varieties of each. First Prize 5/- (donated by Mr. J. Smith), Second Prize 2/6.	5/- 2/6
15—Novice Class of Home-made White Bread. Special Prizes donated by Mrs. Muir of: First 10/-, Second 5/-, Third 2/6.	5/- 2/6
16—Pound of Home-made Butter. First Prize 10/- (donated by Mr. Standish), Second Prize 2/6.	5/- 2/6

SECTION II.

(For Girls under 17 years.)

17—Home-made Scones, six, plain oven ...	5/- 2/6
18—Sponge Sandwich	5/- 2/6

SECTION III.

(For Girls under 12 years.)

19—Home-made Scones, six, plain oven ...	5/- 2/6
20—Sponge Sandwich	5/- 2/6

Mrs. Macrae, Miss Wicksteed and Mr. Simmons have each donated 10/- for Prizes for School Children's Classes, which will be allotted later.

SECTION IV.

Prizes.

1st	2nd
21—Best Collection of Vegetables. Special Prize. Entry, 1/-.	5/- 2/6
22—Three Best Carrots, table	5/- 2/6
23—Three Best Carrots, field	5/- 2/6
24—Two Cauliflowers, best	5/- 2/6
25—Two Cabbages, heaviest	5/- 2/6
26—Two Vegetable Marrows, heaviest	5/- 2/6
27—Two Pumpkins, heaviest	5/- 2/6
28—Three Beetroot, best	5/- 2/6
29—Six Parsnips	5/- 2/6
30—Eschalots (one plate)	5/- 2/6
31—Six Leeks	5/- 2/6
32—Three Swedes, heaviest	5/- 2/6
33—Three Swedes, best	5/- 2/6
34—Three Soft Turnips	5/- 2/6

All Exhibits in Section IV. must be grown by exhibitor.

Three entries or no second prize.

Five entries in Class 15 or no third prize.

All entries are sixpence and close on June 11.

Exhibits will be received at the Tarata Hall from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., or may be left at Mr. R. Paterson's Store.

The Committee request Exhibitors to pack their exhibits in boxes, as they will not be responsible for lost or broken plates.

Entries may be left with Miss Paterson, Tarata; or A. J. Webb, Purangi.

The Show will be open to the Public from 7.30 p.m., when a Grand Dance will be held (McNeill's Orchestra in attendance).

A Challenge Rose Bowl will be given for Most Points gained in Classes 1 to 13. To be won twice in succession or three times at intervals.

A. J. WEBB,

Hon. Secretary.



Meryl Webb with daughter Susan, Mrs Queenie Bertrand, Myrna Bertrand, Sadie Watkins, Rene Watkins, with Rowena Bertrand in front of Purangi Hall 1955.



Celebrating at christening at Bertrands' Property, Purangi in 1955. Back: Frank Webb, A J Webb, Brian Watkins, Mrs Lesa Webb, Terry Devine and baby Jennifer, Dave Bertrand, Mrs Meryl Webb and baby Susan, B Hudson, Peggy Kay. Front: Rene Watkins, Tom Kay, Mrs Sadie Watkins, David, Lindsay and Chris Watkins, Carolyn Webb, Mrs Margaret Bertrand and baby Kay, Bruce, Charles and Terrence Devine.

SETTLERS ASSOCIATION

The Tarata-Purangi Settlers' Association was formed in 1919 when the old Tarata-Purangi Turnip Competition organisation name was changed so that other matters could be attended to as well as running the turnip, root-crop, maize and hay competitions. An annual Smoke Concert was held and the occasional ball. Later a Home Industries competition was added to the programme. Meetings were held at Pukeho and Tarata, and the first committee consisted of two members from Tarata, two from Pukeho and one from Purangi. Mr A J Webb was Secretary for many years from 1922.



Gaustad, Marlow & Co Ltd, Waitara, Agents for Webb & Sons' Farm Seeds. A Testimonial from F J Webb of Purangi, in part reads, "I had some very fine Masterpiece Seeds, although not sown till 21 Jan..."

SMOKE CONCERT

In a 1927 newspaper a very comprehensive report on the Annual Smoke Concert appeared.

Prizes were won by:

- A Muir, for best two acres swedes, (49 tons 6cwt 3qrs 4lb)
- R Mounsey, for best acre of maize (G Burr Cup) (23 tons 3cwt 3qrs 4lb)
- H W Laurence and J W Simmons, equal, for best quality stack of hay
- W Ludeman, for best quarter acre carrots, (25 tons 14cwt 4qt 4lb)
- A J Webb, for best two acres or more of swedes on old ground (Blackburne Cup).

Speakers were Messrs F M Standish, R Mounsey (Clifton County), FMB Waite (engineer to Inglewood County Council), L Rea, R McRae, H W Lovell, J Garcia, J W Simmons (Chairman), A J Webb, A Corkill, H W Laurence, A Muir, J Burgess, H Higgins, E Crowe, G Burr, W J Topping, P Chapman, W F Smee, W Fletcher, N B Fletcher, F Julian and D Winfield.

Items were presented by Messrs F Julian, R Mounsey, R McRae, F Gable, D Paterson and B Thorne.

SPORTS MEETINGS AND HORSE RACES

Sports meetings were held as early as 1901, and attracted large numbers of competitors and spectators. Chopping seemed the most popular event and various races were well contested. Horse events were held which included a trotting race (no harness though). Mr Arthur Candy from Inglewood rode his horse, Sirringa, bareback out to the Purangi sports meeting one year, and was still able to win the trotting race. Mr Candy's son has in his possession the trophy which was presented. As well as flat races there were many novelty events such as nail driving, tossing the sheaf, thread the needle, etc, on horseback.

For a short while horse races were held in Purangi, and the story is told of Mr Gerald Bonnington of Irish Moss fame, who fell from his horse during a race. The horse disappeared and was found five days later hooked up in the scrub. The race course was a circuit around the hill between the Domain and Mangahau Pa.

BOXING

Boxing was organised for a period and was particularly competitive when a Public Works Camp was on the Mangaoapa Road (shell rock quarry). Contests were held in such places as Mounsey's woolshed, Mangaoapa Road and the school. The money raised was for the Purangi Hall Building Fund. Spence Fletcher, Dick Watkins, Art George and Tommy Teika, were well known local participants. Spence Fletcher went on to win the Taranaki Lightweight Championship at Eltham in 1923.

CRICKET

Cricket was played although no record of a club has been found. It seems that Purangi was invited to field a team to compete against a thriving club at Whangamomona, as a paragraph in a 1940 "History of Whanga" informs us. "A strong club of 33 members, including some first-class players was formed, (approximately 1900) and a good, perfectly level pitch of boards on scantling, covered with coconut matting was prepared. Matches were played against Strathmore and Purangi. The outfield was not stumped and as the balls were liable to fly off these stumps in any direction the fieldsmen had to be very alert. Naturally that added to the fun of the game, for the spectators if not for the players."

TENNIS

Tennis was a popular game among the early residents and a club was operating during the time Mr Hanover ran the store (1914-1918) because an account for the Purangi Tennis Club records that he sold whiting 1s, 2 racquets 35s and balls 25s. A grass court was made by Mr Bill Bertrand at his Puketui home and a clay court was made beside the boarding house. The soil was ploughed off and the clay consolidated with a very heavy roller. The tennis was mainly social but the occasional match was played against Pukeho.

HOCKEY

There was a strong team which played regularly around the districts. The Purangi Club played on a flat paddock behind and to the right of the boarding house. Among the players were Mrs Queenie Bertrand, Mrs Violet Crowhurst, Mrs Nellie Webb, Mrs Whare Grey, Mrs Burkhardt, Miss Dorothy Watkins, Miss Una Webb and Ms Puata.

RUGBY

Mr and Mrs W N Bertrand's youngest daughter, Myrna, was one of the first women in New Zealand to qualify as a rugby referee.

For many years rugby was played and a strong club existed. Rugby was occasionally played in a paddock just through the Domain on what is now Phillip George's hay paddock, and on Ngakorako where Bertrand's airstrip was situated. Mr F J Webb's diary records a match played between Purangi and Waitara in 1913 at Purangi, probably not in any competition but on a 'friendly' basis. In later years a team was fielded in a competition for the Sneider Shield. In 1924 it seems the team consisted of Matau and Purangi players and a team photo includes the following names: Bert Rolfe, Ivor Webb, C Corkill, W Rolfe, S Clark, J S Fletcher, L Burke, Crowe Brothers, Joe Puata, S Smillie, Dick Hodge, Luke, Arch Lambert, and Sid Crowhurst.

On 21 June 1928 it was reported that Tarata defeated Purangi. Flu was very prevalent in the district at the time. Perhaps it could be cited as a reason for Purangi's defeat! On 29 July 1931, Purangi beat Tarata and held the Sneider Shield.

BILLIARDS

Billiards seemed to be a popular pastime and the saloon was situated next to the Maori Hall. It was later sold to Mr W J Campbell who dismantled and re-erected it on his property as part of a woolshed. In recent years Phillip George has built a new woolshed on the same site. An extract from the Clifton County history dated 7 July 1922, said "W Campbell, Purangi, was advised that a billiard room licence was required."

The large front room of the boarding house which had been used as a school and a store also at one time housed a billiard table which was eventually bought by Kevin O'Brien of Te Wera.

THE RIFLE CLUB

Early in the present century the government decided to sponsor rifle clubs in country districts. Rifles and a certain amount of 303 ammunition was made available to members at very reasonable rates. It was decided to form the Purangi Rifle Club. To get to the rifle range members would proceed down Tumai Street, turn left on to Paton Terrace and follow the river for approximately 200 yards. The Maori name for this section of river flat was Te Araputaputa. The rifle range was opened on 5 May 1905. Miss Pennington fired the first shot; a bull's eye was marked. Bill Pennington was elected Captain and held the position till the family left Purangi about 1911. Club shoots were held every Saturday and a number of trophies were competed for. For long distance shooting they would fire from across the river. The Club was wound up on 1 June 1912.

Shooting contests were held between Matau and Purangi and on Empire Day 1909 the Matau team won with a team comprising:

C W Ryan, W Campbell, J Graham, V Long, Ross, Saxton, Wolfsbauer and C Dowman. The defeated team was B Field, L Pennington, W Dowman, P Dowman, J Thomas, H N Silk, Violet Pennington, W F Dowman and F Webb.

However on 20 November 1909, Purangi got their revenge against Matau. Purangi team members were W Pennington, Silk, Barnett, P Dowman, Webb, W Dowman, Allen, L Pennington and Powell. Matau members were S Kennington, Langman, Graham, Long, Ross, Hogg, Evans and Ayers.

Purangi: 200 yards 243 points, 500 yards 325 points
Matau: 200 yards 240 points, 500 yards 304 points.

DOG TRIALS

Residents of the Purangi district have been strong supporters of the Tarata Dog Trial Club since its inception in 1908. Mr F J Webb was a member of the original committee and was President for a number of years. He was a keen competitor and won the President's Cup in 1908. Mr P Webb (Frank's father), held the office of President until his death in 1956.

The name of Philip Cleaver appears in a list of top performers in more recent years with his huntaway dog, Josh, and heading dogs, Chief and Cody. In 1991, Philip, with Cody, competed at Mangamangi and was placed fifth in the North Island Short Head and Yard and third in the New Zealand Short Head and Yard. In the same year he was invited to compete in Western Australia as part of a three man team including Bernard Murphy and Les Knight. They won the Trans Tasman Trophy. Philip was Club Secretary from 1983 to 1991. The current Secretary is Rod Smillie and the President is Bill Leake.



In the "early days" when sheep were "sheep", mixed aged wethers were driven from the Webb property on Mangaoapa Road (now part of Pukemahoe Station), down Pukemahoe Road to Junction Road, then to the dog trial grounds at Tarata, and used in competition at the trials.

The Club's present boundaries include all the Inglewood County plus the area from the Kiore Tunnel, and all of Matau to the top of the Pohokura Saddle.

The Purangi Annual Sports results appeared in the local paper in 1930.

April 10. - In spite of overcast and showery weather there was a good attendance at the sports held on Mr J S Fletcher's farm at Purangi today. The sportsground is ideally situated, with the river running round, and a hill in the foreground forming a natural grandstand in terrace effect, from which an unrivalled view of the grounds could be obtained. Visitors were present from all the outlying districts, including several cars from Stratford and Inglewood.

The officials for the day were as follows:- Judges, N Lawrence, S George and L H Lovell (chopping), W Good, L Bunn (horses), handicappers, R Mounsey (horse events), A J Hansen (chopping); stewards, C H Larsen, R Bates, W Bertrand, M Browning; J Mounsey (chain stepping); H Maingay (nail driving); H Watkins (sheep guessing), A J Webb (gatekeeper), J Caldwell and T Kirkwood (children's races).

The Secretary, Mr J S Fletcher, had a busy day directing and organising the events and the success of the day was in no small measure due to his energy.

Results of the sports events were:-

Chopping

Maiden Chop - J Dravitzki 1, E Rodgers 2, J Ford 3.

Open 12 inch Chop - First heat: J E Shewry 1, J S Fletcher 2, L Schreiber 3. Second heat: W Bertrand 1, J W Mounsey 2, S Anderson 3. Final: J S Fletcher 1, W. Bertrand 2, L Schreiber 3. Very close finish.



Chopping event at Purangi Sports Day. Date unknown.

Horse Events

Maiden Handicap Trot - Miss D Jensen's "Prince" 1, Mrs Hobbs "Zondola" 2, Mr F Hasler's "Lady Wilde" 3. Ten entries.

Open Handicap Trot, one mile - C Hasler's "Prince Lochinvar" 1, Miss D Jensen's "Prince" 2, Mrs Hobbs "Zondola" 3. Ten entries.

Open Handicap Trot, 1½ miles - M J Hasler's "Blackthorne" 1, Mrs Anderson 2, E Hasler's "Prince Lochinvar" 3. Nine entries.

Maiden Hurdles - F Haster's "Springfield" 1, R Watkin's "Rangi" 2, Mrs Welsh's "Silvertown" 3. Six entries.

Open Hurdles - J O'Neil 1, Mrs Welsh 2, A Old 3.

Other Events

Miss R Mounsey 1, R Watkins and Miss D Watkins 2.

Miscellaneous Events

Married Ladies' Race, 70 yards - Mrs Anderson (5 yds) 1, Mrs W McCracken (7 yds) 2, Mrs J S Fletcher (scr) 3.

Single Ladies' Race, 70 yards - Miss V Sattler 1, Miss N George 2, Miss A O'Byrne (scr) 3.

Bending Event - F Hasler 1, E Hasler 2.

Ladies' Walk, 220 yds - Miss A Coyne 1, Mrs Anderson 2.

Mrs W Bertrand and Mrs J S Fletcher won by about 44 yards, but were disqualified for breaking.

High Jump - George Franks, 5ft 2in, 1.

Hop, Step and Jump - W J O'Byrne 1, George Frank 2.

Ladies' Nail Driving - Mrs W Bertrand 1, Miss Schreiber 2.

Chain Stepping - R Mounsey 1.

Sheep Guessing - W L Carver, 175½ lbs, correct weight 176 lbs.

At the conclusion the president Mr N B Fletcher, Stratford, presented the prizes and Mr T Kirkwood spoke on behalf of the Athletic Union.

A sports dance will be held in a few weeks' time, when a big turn-out is expected.



Mesdames Frances Mounsey (nee Webb), Fay Fletcher (nee Larsen) and Lesa Webb (nee Mounsey), at Purangi Sports Meeting.



Watching the sports.
Photo taken by F J Webb c1900.

We do not know the name of the publication in which this report first appeared.

HOW, WHEN AND WHERE TO SPEND A DAY THIS EASTER

Tourists, Business Men and Others desirous of spending a never-to-be-forgotten day's outing should underline the date, Friday, April 11, 1924, in their diaries and calendars.

Leaving the town of Inglewood at 9 am by car, via the Main Junction Road (which leads right to our destination) we pass through the township of Kaimata. Here the road is bounded on both sides by thriving dairy farms right up to the foot of the famous bush-clad Tarata Zigzag.

The gigantic tree-ferns or Mamaku are here seen in their perfection, growing right to the edge of the road itself. The road winds in and out through this lovely bush for about two miles, and on emerging into the clear again at the foot, we cross the ever-winding Waitara River. Near the bridge which spans the river is a small Native Settlement. Round the next corner we run through the township of Tarata, quite an old English village, settled as it is amongst English trees and plantations.

As this is not yet our destination we pass on through various changing farm scenes, past the Tarata Dairy Factory, through the country hamlet of Pukeho, after which we enter more into the grazing sheep country of Taranaki's hinterland, where one now views a thousand sheep on a hundred hills. After a nice level run over one of the best motor roads in Taranaki, we strike the foot of the Purangi Saddle, another snake-like bush-clad road, the beauties of which must be seen to be appreciated.

On mounting the top of the saddle we find it necessary to call a halt in order to view the wild grandeur of the large bush-clad farm covered valley opened to the gaze. Through the centre of this valley we again see our old sinuous friend the Waitara River. A short run down hill and we cross the Waitara bridge into the old Native Settlement of Purangi, which was once the site of one of the first Mission Stations in Taranaki. Passing this and proceeding for another quarter of a mile we see a sight that now compels us to decide to make this our destination for the day.

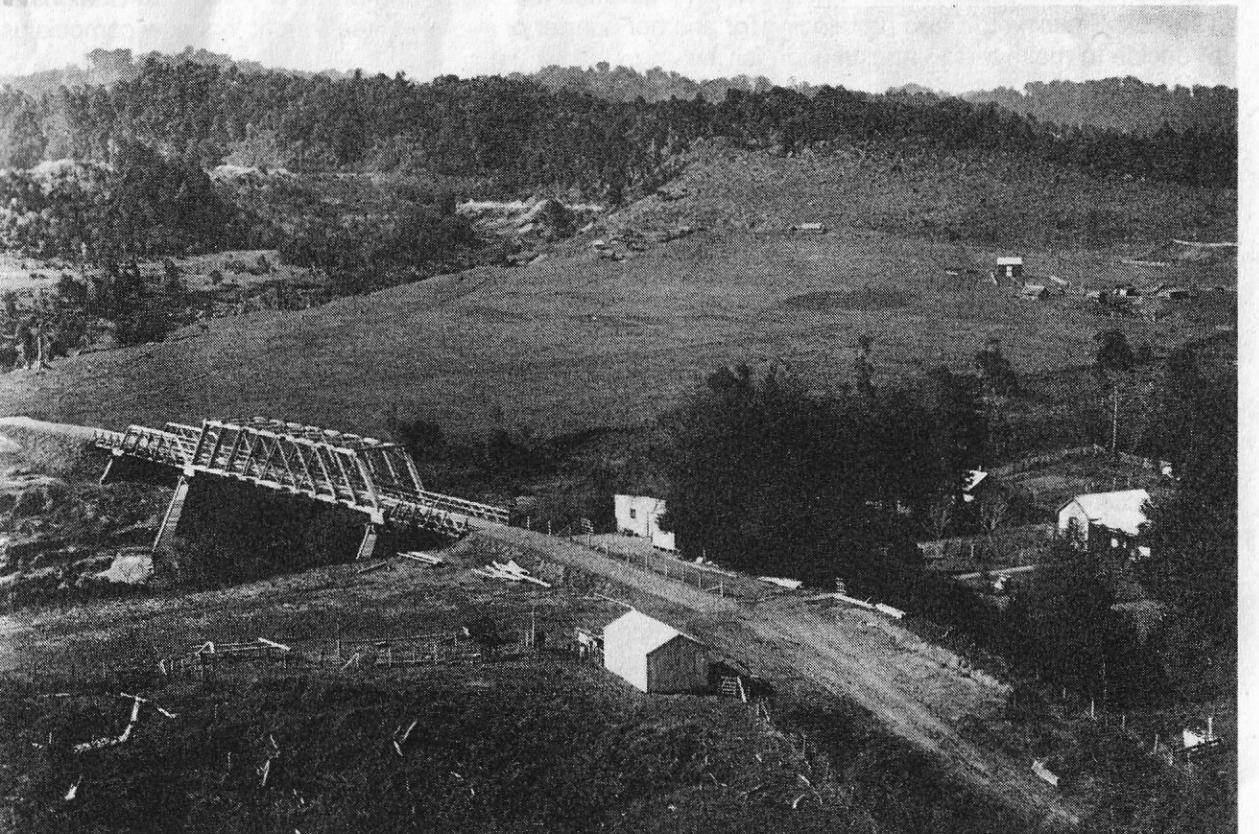
Leaving our car in charge of the gatekeeper at the entrance to Alfa Park, to whom we pay toll, our nerves tingle with delight and excitement at the scene before us. On a large flat paddock, bounded on one side by the willow-covered banks of the Waitara River, on the back by the Mangahau Stream, and on the front by the Junction Road and a forest reserve in all its wild grandeur, here we have a natural amphitheatre with a small hill covered with seats for a grandstand. Overlooking this across the Waitara is a large Native Rahui or Cemetery where Rangatira have been laid to rest for many years. Both rebel and loyalist natives have found this a last resting place, and what a history one could write if some of the old fast decaying totara headstones could speak. This same ground was once also used in the very early history of New Zealand as a Native Fort, for which purpose it was well adapted, being partly shut in by high cliffs above the river. Our attention is now completely attracted to the flat itself, on which the Purangi Sports' Club are holding their annual gathering.

In one corner we see the pick of the back country Axemen and Sawyers, varying from elderly men with fast greying hair to lads of 17, all holding axes and saws ready and eager to try their skill against one another. On the main course are both old timers and young untried trotters, hurdlers and stock ponies pawing at the ground and the champing bit hardly restrainable in their eagerness to get into action. Mingling in the crowds are excited men and boys in their running clothes, and children ready to win their prizes. On the same elevation as the natural grandstand is a large Native built Wharepuni, laden with all the good things necessary to the wants of the inner man, and presided over by the happy bustling wives and wives-to-be of the district. Here one can sit, rest and eat whilst viewing all the various contests.

From the time the bell goes at 10.30 am the fun is fast and furious right throughout the day. Not one dull moment, not even a spell for your laughter-aching sides until late in the afternoon, when, after a refresher at the Wharepuni you start homewards after one of the most pleasant, never-to-be-forgotten outings in your lives.



Mangahau Pa. October 1989.



Purangi 1899. Opened in 1899, this bridge is reputed to have been the longest single-span wooden bridge in the Southern Hemisphere. C O Smith's Store, managed by Silk, is beside the bridge and Silk's house is on the right. Visible in the centre of the photo, is a group of whares on Purangi Pa, where the school is now situated. There is a small, low fenced building to the right of the Pa, where the church is now. The fenced area on the right of the photo is an orchard and it is thought that the shed with the white door and roof could be a stable. To the right is another group of four whares. A more detailed photo of this area appears on page 8 in this book. (McAllister Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library).

REMINISCENCES OF A PURANGI SCHOOL BOY TO 1912

Written by Mr Frederick Nelmes Silk

Among my earliest memories are watching bullock teams passing our front gate drawing block drays with two yards of metal. Another memory is logging up in the stable paddock, also forming "Fred's Road" from the house to the stables and wood heap. This was just a track along the top of a bank beside a row of pine trees. I have hazy recollections of the Boer War but they are probably from hearing people talking. We had books and magazines depicting Queen Victoria's funeral.

I can well remember great interest being taken when Inglewood had electric power. 15 February 1905 mother and we children stayed a night in the Inglewood Hotel. The light was on all night as mother knew nothing about how to switch it off, she slept badly! Next morning I wanted to know what this brass thing was on the wall, "don't touch it", but too late, I had pushed the little brass nob and the light went out. My first experience with electricity!

The store used to buy Plumb and Kelly axes by the case. Bushmen would inspect each case and pick out two or three which they considered true tempered and sufficiently thin to require a minimum of grinding to make them into a real axeman's axe. Often as not the handle would be removed because of faulty grain or not being in properly. Then hours would be spent turning a grindstone by hand till the desired thinness was obtained. I have turned a grind stone for Percy Dowman.

Cutting chaff was another job done by hand. I can remember Maoris cutting from oats grown at Ngakorako. Once oaten hay was stored in the loft above the stable until it was cut for chaff. We had great fun chasing the rats out and then the dogs would chase them on the ground.

Stones and river boulders were spauled and knapped by hand for road metal on a per yard contract.

It seemed that we always milked a few cows. One of my jobs was to carry hay across the "wobbly bridge" while father did the milking. Milk was set in pans. These pans were about 18" in diameter and 4" deep for the cream to rise, which was skimmed off and made into butter. Sometime later I used to milk and carry two buckets full home across the "wobbly bridge", turn the separator, wash up, have breakfast and go to school. Perhaps this was only in the summer.

The "wobbly bridge" was a suspension across the creek behind the house, a short cut to the Pukemahoe Road. This had three No 8 wires on each side to which 4 x 2 bearers were attached. These bearers supported 12 x 1 decking which was tarred and sanded. In the course of time the wires stretched so that the bridge had considerable sag. No matter, we children thought it great fun to run full tilt across. One day Phyllis fell off into the water. I ran down to pull her out, wet and frightened but not hurt. During floods the water backed up and the bridge floated, the deck sank a few inches when one walked across.

I used to take on jobs in the school holidays cutting ti-tree, clearing slips on "Kruger's Retreat", cutting cocksfoot on the roadside and on an Education Reserve. I would then thresh it for seed. I never made much money out of these jobs though. Another job that came my way was the delivery of an occasional telegram though this did not happen often.

Oil Wells in New Plymouth.

Shares were being sold at one pound each. A certain amount sold on application, the balance on calls. I was being paid for sweeping the school and was able to finance five shares out of my income. The company never paid a dividend and was eventually wound up. In 1923 I received a postal note for one shilling and threepence - being all that was left of my fiver!

Speaking of "fivers" (five pound notes) about the only notes handled were ones and fives. Incidentally each Trading Bank issued their own bank notes till the Reserve Bank was established in 1934. I remember father used to fold fivers lengthwise several times and tie a knot in them. He wasn't going to give a fiver for change as a pound! I recollect a man paying an account with father's own cheque. He gave the man some change and then tore the cheque to pieces. Poor little me knowing nothing about banking wondered "Why on earth did he do that?"

Horses were kept in the stable paddock - Rosie, Nancy and Barney. Our horses were scared of motor cars. On one occasion Peter Webb and I had ridden over the saddle to Drake's. On returning we met a car on one of the sharp corners, the ponies shied violently, we both came off (bareback of course, although we may have ridden with a chaff sack thrown over the pony.) The ponies were off at a gallop and the car stopped and took us aboard and set off after them, nearly to Pukeho before someone saw them and turned them into a yard.

I used to ride to Pukemahoe every Saturday for half a sheep (mutton) in a split sack, one-quarter for us the other for Barnett's. For Christmas they gave me two "Deerfoot" books by E S Ellis.

Life was not all work and no play by any means. There used to be family picnics with visiting uncles and aunts. Summer time meant swimming either in the creek where we built a dam below a spot where the water was already reasonably deep or in the river above a ford.

There were never enough boys at school to enable us to have a football team. The best we could do was to kick and run with a ball. Cricket was quite unknown. Prisoners' Base and marbles were played with both boys and girls taking part. We had bows and arrows, even cross bows and shanghais.

The highlight of the school years was the school concert and the school picnic where each pupil was presented with a book from the school committee; there were also races for which winners received a toy again provided by the school committee.

The opening of the school building was celebrated in 1909 by a concert and a dance. This was a very important event.

Sports meetings were held in Purangi and Matau. These meetings attracted quite large numbers of competitors as well as spectators from far and wide. Races, 100, 220, 440 and 880 yards. Chopping and sawing of 12, 18 and 24 inch blocks. I can remember on one occasion a school inspector visited the Purangi School on his annual surprise visit on the day of the sports meeting. Intense indignation among the pupils. Why can't he read the newspaper?

General elections were always interesting. Father was a staunch supporter of Bill Massey and the Reform Party. There used to be discussions and arguments in the store on Saturday nights. On election night a blackboard was placed behind the counter on which local results were posted as received from the Inglewood Post Office.

We had an old gramaphone with a bell mouthed trumpet and cylindrical records which fitted over a revolving drum; these records all started with the name of the song then "Edison Record". Father had ordered some new records to play in the store on Christmas Eve. One was Harry Lauder singing, "I Love A Lassie"; this was very popular.

Father used to visit the warehouses in New Plymouth fairly regularly always staying at Arrowsmith's Coffee Palace. This entailed a four hour drive with a horse and gig to catch a train at Inglewood. Sometimes he would take me, rather boring for a small boy visiting Sargood Son and Ewing, Burgess Fraser or Newton Kings. On one occasion we went to the Education Board where I sat on the floor much to the amusement of the official being interviewed! We always visited the Breakwater (as it was known then) by horse-drawn bus. We would be away for one night. The evening's entertainment would be a visit to see silent, black and white moving pictures. Sometimes we would be in New Plymouth when a J C Williamson Touring Company had a play. One evening I read in the paper that King Edward VII was ill. Next afternoon by the time the train reached Inglewood, the flags on public buildings were flying at half-mast.

For the Coronation of George V and Queen Mary there was a school holiday. The school assembled to salute the flag and each pupil received a Coronation Medal. This was of aluminium, 1-1/2 inches in diameter with the profile of the King and Queen on one side and the New Zealand Coat of Arms surrounded with the words "To commemorate their Majesties' Coronation June 22nd, 1911", on the other. I still have my medal but the striped red, white and blue ribbon has disappeared.

In 1911 pupils from surrounding country schools were required to attend the Inglewood School to sit their Proficiency Exams. I was the only one from Purangi. Father and I drove to Inglewood the previous day and went on to New Plymouth. Next morning on the "mail train" back to Inglewood it was wet and

windy. Shy little me sat in the back row at the Inglewood School and was unable to hear whatever instructions were given. Being last in line I asked "Where am I supposed to go?" I feel to this day that he snapped my head off. During the ordeal of the exam, probably during arithmetic, in which I could hardly add two and two together without getting a wrong answer, the inspector called "Silk, recite The Charge of the Light Brigade". Nervous and shy I started on the third line! "Start him off somebody" said the inspector.

After this ordeal I only recited half a dozen lines when he told me to stop. Perhaps it is needless to say that I only got a Competency Certificate. However as there was no intention of applying for a position in the civil service it didn't matter much. I never liked school. Used to get the cuts for arithmetic, writing, spelling and drawing. This left little that I shone at doesn't it?

Boys and girls went bare-footed most of the time. Our feet naturally had soles like leather. We did have boots for Church on Sundays; boots not shoes.

Silk's general store stocked quite a variety of merchandise. Cigarettes, tobacco, soap, candles, kerosene, axe handles, spades, picks, shovels and slashers. Working boots with both sprigs or hobnails were hanging from the ceiling. Sugar, and flour bought by the ton. Condensed milk, jams, tinned peaches, pears, pineapple. Dried fruits. Apples, peaches and apricots. Cases of cabin-bread biscuits as well as tins of biscuits - cream crackers, arrowroot, sultana. Tins of sweets, boxes of chocolates, a certain amount of soft goods - blue denim dungaree working trousers, saddle tweed trousers, men's felt hats, socks, even ladies stockings, ginghams, calico, cretonnes. Books of patterns of materials for men's suits with order forms for measurements to be filled in. Hardware also included blacksmiths rasps, files, Cheyney claw hammers, nails, staples; these came in kegs from England.

Personal Service

Good old Herald! The store was open every evening after the coach arrived from Inglewood but customers would come to the house after closing. Wet winter nights and a knock on the front door. Father would say, "Why can't people come at a decent hour?" He would go to the door and greet the caller like a long lost friend!

By the turn of the century there were not very many Maori living in Purangi and Ngakorakou. Some I can remember are Big Peter, his wife Nina and Rueben who was implicated in pulling up survey pegs. He was sent to the Chatham Islands where the boat capsized and Rueben was the only survivor. He seems to have been regarded as an outcast. Hinga and Puti who had tattooed chins and lips lived in a ponga whare where the school now stands. Children I remember were Tahe, Reihana, Bill Bertrand, Tu Kapua, Mae Tohe, Hora, Hine. Some men and their wives were Tutanuku, Apu, Whetu. There were two brothers Ngaira and Rangi Kauika. The former was sent to Te Aute College for his education but unfortunately he became ill and died. The body was brought back to Purangi and buried in front of the church.

Nina owned the first bicycle in Purangi and Jimmy Graham had the first car. It was parked in front of the boarding house for some time but was eventually towed away.

THE HALLS

The first hall was built in 1913 adjacent to the billiard hall on Junction Road about where Bertrand's old house now stands. It was sometimes referred to as the Maori hall. It was dismantled in 1918 and the material used to build the woolshed presently owned and used by Philip Cleaver on Mangaoapa Road.

The second hall was built opposite the first hall. The totara piles were supplied by Ivor and Peter Webb. Mr Bill Bertrand was the foreman on the building project. The hall was built in 1930 but in 1971 was sold for removal by tender for \$300; The floor was of matai and the frame of rimu. There was no bracing and once the iron cladding was removed the building collapsed like a pack of cards when given a gentle tug with the tractor. It was bought and demolished by Bill Leake who used the materials for different projects on his farm, including a three-bay implement shed.

Members of the hall committee at the time of its demise were Messrs F Webb, R George, T Devine, W N Bertrand, D Bertrand and D Hannah and W Leake.



The second Purangi Hall on the occasion of the opening of the concrete bridge.
8 March 1956.

MR J W (JACK) MOUNSEY REMINISCES

I arrived in Purangi in June 1916 with my parents, Richard and Sophia, and my brothers and sisters. It was my first experience of ever seeing a Maori but I soon got over that as there were more Maori pupils than Pakeha at school. There were lots of settlers and Maori here at the time.

The store and post office were in the boarding house. There was the school, billiard room and hall close together near the bridge. There was an old store beside the bridge and a blacksmith's shed later. I think it was about 1917-18 that my father bought the hall and I helped my brother Steve pull it down carefully, as we used the timber to build a woolshed. Although it has been added to, the shed is still used by Philip Cleaver today 1990 (on the Mangaoapa Road). Even the nails were used again. I spent hours straightening them on an anvil. The shed was built by Mr Drumgool and his son, from Strathmore.

We used to have Sunday School in the school and also the Methodist Service was held there monthly. The Anglican service was in St Peter's.

During my first years at school we had several teachers, a Miss Hamerton who had taught for many years left, and then a Miss Tiplady and a Miss Blewman. Miss F Webb taught for many years. We used to walk to school until my father bought a few hacks. We mostly rode two to each horse and sometimes four of us rode a half-draught mare. We had very cold winters in those days and you would see icicles up to three feet long hanging from the banks on the roadside. The ponds would be covered by ice.

We had a school picnic at Ngamotu Beach once a year going by train from Kiore via Stratford to New Plymouth. We travelled to Kiore in the brake driven by my father. The train left Kiore at 8.30 am and arrived back about 7 pm so it was a long day for the children who lived in Purangi. On our trip to New Plymouth we would be given a bottle of soft drink and an apple, coming home we would be given an orange.

Everybody had a good orchard and a good variety of plums, peaches, nectarines, pears, quinces, apples, gooseberries and walnuts.

There were a lot of cows milked in Purangi, about 350 or more. My father carted the cream by brake (wagon). He would pick it up at the Purangi bridge and take it to Kiore where it would go by rail to Wanganui, to two creameries, 'Freshfood' or 'Maoriland'. Later the cream went to the Tarata Dairy Factory and then when the Tarata factory closed, by bus to Inglewood.

After the First World War dairying increased when four returned soldiers settled in the district, Messrs Fairhurst and Jury together near the bridge and Messrs Heath and Mitchell up the Ngatoto Road. Money was scarce and so the locals began dairying too, as it was a means of getting cash monthly. Most of the cows were milked by hand and the milk separated on the farms; the skimmed milk was for the calves and pigs and the cream went to the factory.

The first milking machine was a two cow plant peddled by the operator but it didn't last long as it was a bit like hand milking; you could milk an 'easy' cow quickly but if she was hard to milk it was hard peddling. For many years Mr F Webb (Frank Webb's grandfather) was the only one to have an engine drive his milking plant.

In the early years there were more short-horn cattle bred, some were Holsteins. The Holsteins were big cattle and the steers were kept as bullocks to draw the wagons and haul timber and metal for the roads. In fact an interesting story is told about a bullock team that was carting the first metal for the Awakino Gorge. A particular bullock in the team had distinctive markings and was recognised by its owner as one he had lost about 12 months previously. After some enquiries, a court case established that the bullock did belong to the complainant, who farmed on the Upper Waitara River, and that it had been sold to the contractor by the complainant's neighbour. The guilty neighbour had to pay for the beast.

While there were no bullock teams in Purangi there were two within six miles. One was owned by the Drake Brothers, Robert and William and the other by Mr Harry Lambert. Both were engaged in carting all the timber for the three bridges on the Mangaoapa Road (about 1920). The bridges were built by Mr Walter Dowman.

About 1920, calves were inoculated for black leg for two years.

During the period when there was a lot of bush being felled and burnt, one could tender for a stretch of land alongside the railway line between the mile pegs, maybe one mile or one-and-a-half. Then you could cut the grass, usually cocksfoot, with a reap hook and lay it in small bundles to dry for a few days (usually two if the weather was good). You would collect it on chaff sacks that had been split open and carry it to where it was to be threshed. Next it was laid out in a small bundle on a big ground sheet and with one person on each side it would be threshed with a very simple gadget. A flat piece of timber was joined by a small length of rope to a pole. It wasn't hard work but needed a good rhythm. Lastly it was sieved. Cocksfoot seed was about a shilling a pound to buy, a man's wages were £1/10/- and keep, so one didn't have to thresh much seed to earn one's wages.

Often, after the autumn rain, followed by bush felling and burning, fungus used to grow, mostly on tawa, whitewood and ribbonwood. It would be collected and dried then taken to Stratford and sold to Mr Chong. If it was good and dry it would be worth 1/- to 1/3, which was very welcome cash.

When all the farmers were getting their bush felled a large labour force was needed. The bush was felled in the winter and spring months, burned late February or early March, then grass seed was sown by hand. Sometimes soft turnip seed would be mixed with the grass seed before sowing. There was an area to be fenced so the felling was only the first step to pasture. There would also be tracks to put in and bridges to build. When there was not much bush left to fell, the work folk moved away from the district and as some farms were too small to make a living, they were sold to a neighbour to increase his viability.

Stuarts, who lived on the Mangaoapa Road, took their plough and chain harrows down the Waitara River one or two miles in a canoe to plough a five or six acre block for swedes. They left the plough and harrows there until it was put back in grass.

I don't know the year that the five day week came in to being but we were used to working six days a week. Sundays for many was for pig-hunting. One didn't have to go far to find pigs - from the top of the Purangi Saddle, up the Ngatoto Road, over the Waitara River, down the Ngakorako Road or over to Matau. After the war (about 1923-24) they were so bad that Mr W McCoard hunted almost full time on Mr George Rawlinson's, down the Matau North.

Mr Rawlinson paid him 1/- a snout and the County or Government I expect, paid 1/- a snout. A Mr Sid Cuff who was employed by the County as a noxious weed inspector, dog tax collector, issuer of driving licences, etc, would come out to the Matau sale and meet most of the settlers and issue them with their dog collars at 2/6 per collar, and he would count the pig snouts and arrange payment on the county's behalf.

The pigs were so plentiful and hungry that they could be shot eating the dead pigs the next day. Mr Rawlinson couldn't run ewes on that part of the farm as the pigs would eat the lambs that were born at night. It was quite common to find 8-10 lambs that had been eaten. The pigs would leave the skins clean, apart from the head and the legs from the knee down.

If you were lucky you might have a kerosene lamp for the main room to play the piano by, but the main source of lighting was candlelight. If you wanted to go outside and didn't have a Hurricane kerosene lamp the next best was to cut the bottom off a bottle and put the candle inside the bottle. It was very effective. Candles for gigs and courtlands were the only lights ever used. Later there was a white spirits lamp with a mantle which was a big improvement, but one had to be careful not to touch the mantle, or else!

Camp ovens were used for cooking in the early days. Bread was made in camp ovens (cast iron). The oven was suspended by a wire over the fire coals and embers were placed on the flat lid. The bread was delicious. The ovens were used in the bush camps as well as in homes. The billy was used for boiling water and for cooking rice. A billy was often made from a large tin with the top cut out and a wire handle attached so it could be hung over the fire.

When the boys used to practise boxing in the house or woolshed we made a square with number eight wire, about six to seven feet wide, with a candle in each corner. The wire square was suspended from above. It was good enough for Spence Fletcher to train under and then go on to win two Taranaki titles in two years.

Most families played card games. In my diary dated 7 September 1932, I have recorded that 31 players attended a cooncan evening in the Purangi School, and on 14 September there were 37 players!

Life was quiet at times as we only went to town (Stratford) on Christmas Eve in the courtland (four wheeled vehicle like a mini-brake, with two rows of seats), pulled by two good horses. There were no cars so all vehicles were horse drawn.



Mr Jack Mounsey.

During the Christmas holidays we would often have cousins from town to stay, usually three boys but sometimes two girls. They would enjoy the farm life. We boys would chase goats, dig caves, make sledges and carts and go for plenty of swims in the river, and eat plenty of fruit.

My sister Rene and I used to go to Patea during the May holidays and stay with my aunt and uncle and we would go to the 'silent' pictures about five times in the two weeks. So we saw a bit of town life.

There would be sports meetings nearly every Saturday from March until early May. They were held at Purangi, Huiroa, Matau, Strathmore, Makahu, Whangamomona, Tarata and finally Waitui where the big meeting was held. Later Purangi and Matau combined their meetings. The sports included chopping,

running, hurdles, nail driving, sack races, and apple bobbing. There was a race of 100 yards for married ladies and for the gents they ran 100 yards and 220 yard races.

Horse events included trotting, thread the needle, tilting of the ring, potato race, rescue race, bending, one and one-and-a-half mile trotting races, and jumping events over hurdles.

Football before the 1914-19 war was played on what is now Phillip George's hay paddock beside the domain (formerly Dick Watkins'). After the war football was played on Ngakorako (now Bob Lobb's farm).

There was keen competition among the axemen as there was a lot of bush being felled especially between 1920 and 1930. Gangs would try to better their acreage cut in a given time. The bush felling was an ongoing job. There might be a few weeks when work was scarce but there would be shearing from November - December, then haymaking (no tractors). It was a common sight to see six or seven men turning hay by hand, then put in rows with the horse-drawn tip-rake, stooked and carted in on a cart or brake to where the stack would be built, and later dragged in with a rope around the stack. Then came the V sweep, also the gate sweep, then the tumbler for many years. Then there was the stacker which was a labour saving device.

FLOODING

Floods in hill country are quite common but as we all know some are worse than others. Mr Webb recorded in his diary that there was a high flood at Purangi on 9 November 1916.

The Daily News ran a comprehensive report of the flood which occurred on Saturday 24 February 1940. The river rose 40 feet and the Purangi residents had to leave their homes and take shelter in the school. The flood exceeded the highest previous record known of 35 feet in 1905 when flooding reached the skirting boards of Paton's House on Ngatoto Road. (known as Ngatoto Flat).

The river started to come over the road on the Inglewood side of Purangi about 3 pm on Saturday when a lorry loaded with sheep was just able to get through. When the mail bus arrived from Inglewood late in the afternoon, the driver, Mr Blackwell, left his bus in a safe place and trekked with the mailbag around the hills arriving in Purangi quite safely. The flood did not subside until 6 pm on the following day and it was then that he was able to drive his lorry across and deliver the weekend meat and bread.

About 9.30 pm on Saturday Mr W Bertrand noticed that the water was running across the road in the township. He took Mr and Mrs P Brown and family up to the school. Mr and Mrs Watkins in the boarding-house had water entering the store before they realised it, and had no time to put things out of the way of the flood because they had to get themselves up to the school as well. (The water reached the keyboard of their piano). Meanwhile Mr Bertrand was taking Mr Nuku and his family, including Mrs Watu to the school, but unfortunately Mrs Watu died on the way. She was a native of more than 70 years of age and had been ill for some time.

The water rose to nearly four feet in the store and residences where it caused considerable loss. The flood peaked at 3.30 am Sunday. Mr A J Webb lost two haystacks which floated down the river. Two or three haystacks from higher up the river were seen to float down. Mr R Blackwell's shed was washed off its foundations and he lost numerous posts and battens. His flat land in common with that of other farmers was coated heavily with silt. Amon Bros had their hay paddocks ruined, and on the Pukemahoe Road the Inglewood county grader was completely submerged. Dick Watkins and his wife and family were marooned down on Alpha Farm.

There were numerous slips cutting the roads all round the district and the telephone line was carried away, which added to the problems.



Waitara River in high flood, 10 March 1990. Philip George's woolshed on Pukemahoe Road.

Mr Webb's diary records: 6-7 December 1968, heavy rain, 6.66 inches fell in the period to 9 am. Widespread flooding, slips on road. Culvert on the Hoehoe washed out. 32 lambs dead. Phones out. Swept silt off Ngatoto Road the following day.

25-26 February 1971, the river was in high flood. Culvert on the Hoehoe washed out again. A lot of timber was brought down the river and caused many log jams, diverting the river. One jam of logs and trees was over five chains (100 metres) long completely damming the river until it cut a fresh track and allowed the water to return to its normal level. There were seven separate log jams between Te Nau and Purangi. Slips blocked Purangi Saddle. The Mason Family at Pukemahoe were isolated as were other families in the district. No power or telephones. The Minister of Agriculture came out and surveyed the damage.

12 November 1978 water over road. Big slip on Purangi Saddle.

New heights were reached by the 10 March 1990 flood on Taranaki Anniversary weekend. After days of rain, 365mm in Purangi, the river flooded through haysheds, woolsheds and across roads. Its path of destruction would be talked about for years and some of the damage would be obvious for years. The slips on farmland took away fences and bridges, culverts and tracks, not to mention pastures and stock.

Sam and Paddy Gooch watched with trepidation as the water rose and reached the steps of their home on Ngatoto Road when the flood peaked at 6 pm on that Saturday. Peter Webb and Phillip George lost stock as well as hay and wool. Bruce and Mary McGarvey had no access to and from their home as slips and water blocked Pukemahoe Road. Philip and Liz Cleaver and family were isolated on the Mangaoapa Road by slips and water across the road. At one stage Philip rowed his aluminium dinghy along the road trying to herd his rams to higher ground but was unsuccessful.

The river swept across the main road on both sides of the Purangi Bridge. It went through Bertrand's old house and the boarding house where the front door was pushed in. The water built up inside and forced an interior wall and the back wall away from their foundations out on a lean. The water covered farm tractors, bikes and machinery with silt, and ruined almost six tons of cement stored in a shed at Aitkens'. Eddie Ngeru's bulldozer was covered, and the water was about two feet from the roof of his hut up Ngatoto Road.

For the farmers taking stock of the damage it was heart-breaking. However being the realistic and hard working folk that they are they got stuck in to try to restore the running of their farms. Help arrived three months later when a gang of six workers were brought into the area. They were employed under the flood relief scheme and their assistance was very welcome and much appreciated.



Waitara River - highest level ever recorded. 10 March 1990. Purangi Bridge centre right.

Late in 1990, water level monitoring systems were installed in the Waitara River with automatic warning devices to notify of a possible emergency situation. Very recently the Taranaki Regional Civil Defence placed a CB radio at Frank and Meryl Webb's house for the use of locals in an emergency. This radio is the first of a series of six to be installed in the hill country, and provides 24 hour emergency communication. The money for these vital new links came from donations from the public.

In 1991 Mrs Meryl Webb received a 'Weather Observers Merit Certificate' from the New Zealand Meteorological Service in recognition of observing and recording the weather over a period of 33 years.



February 1971 Flood. (Acknowledgement to Taranaki Newspapers.)

NOTABLE TREES

In pre-European times the area was covered in a mantle of dense forest consisting of enormous podocarps - rimu, totara, kahikatea, matai and miro, and a mixture of broadleaf or hardwood trees such as tawa, maire, rewarewa, mahoe and many others.

The area is sheltered from strong winds and enjoys a high rainfall especially in the summer months which is very conducive to good tree growth.

The kauri tree beside the school was planted in 1935 on the occasion of King George and Queen Mary's Silver Jubilee and the rimu beside the kauri was planted in 1940 to mark New Zealand's 100 years of nationhood.

There are many examples of kauri trees in school grounds throughout the province because in the 1930s a New Plymouth plant nursery donated many to the Taranaki Education Board.

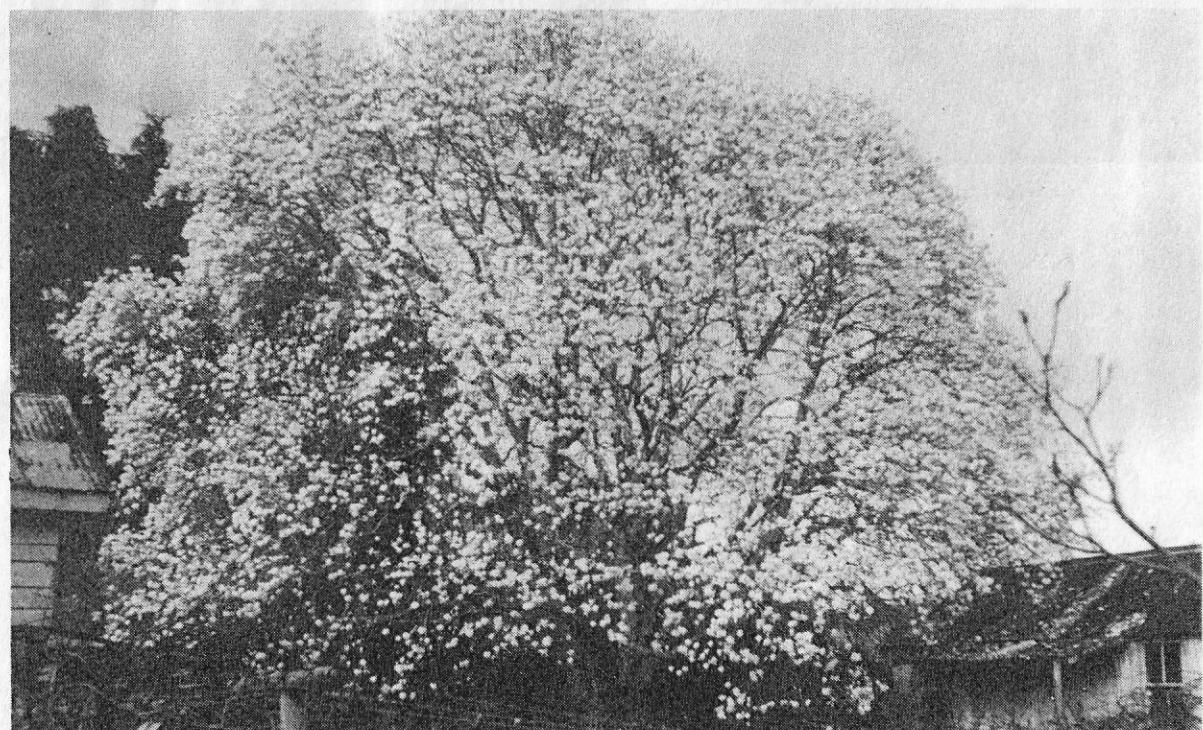
Exotic trees of note in the area are the oaks at the old orchard on Ngatoto Road along with some planes, larches and poplars.

The chestnut trees at Pukemahoe Station are fine examples as are the walnut trees near Phillip and Alethea George's house. The one behind the house bears good crops of nuts.

A large magnolia campbellii tree behind the old Bertrand house, was planted by Mrs Queenie Bertrand about 60 years ago. It never fails to put on a beautiful display of large white flowers for two weeks every spring. Mrs Bertrand's son Dave, can remember a time when electric lights were strung up in the flowering magnolia and the beautiful display at night, a welcoming sight when returning home over the Matau Saddle.

At the Purangi Domain there is a stand of 21 douglas fir trees which are said by the New Zealand Forest Service to be the best examples of this species in Taranaki. The largest one measures 900mm in diameter. Douglas firs will not grow in areas such as the Taranaki ring plain because they are very wind and salt tender.

Over the last 15 years there have been many hectares of forestry planted in the area. Most of the farms now have substantial wood lots of pine planted. Ian and Laurel Aitken have planted over half of their farm in forestry plantations, mainly of radiata pine. At the last count there were more than 60 different species of timber, fruit, nut and amenity trees planted on the property.



The magnolia tree planted by Mrs Queenie Bertrand about 60 years ago. Photo taken 18.8.1990.
The cookhouse/washhouse nestles on the right.



Large Kahikatea brought out from Mangapita Area in 1990. Pictured in photo on truck are Matthew and Samantha Webb, Simon, Tristan and Damon George. In front are Philip, Kerrin and Alethea George and Frank Webb.



R Watkins, Logging Contractor, Purangi. Phone 1s.

MRS RUBY WINTERS (NEE WOISIN) WROTE IN 1989:

Both my brother Vernon, my sister Ina and myself started school in Purangi in the early 1920s. My stepbrothers Bill and Cliff Hancox also attended. We lived in an old house by the bridge (Bevans' old house). Across the river from us was an old Maori lady Ngaro. We used to take her milk and whenever Dad killed a beast we would take her some meat. She used to make lovely feather kits and she made me one to put my Sunday School book in. She was a dear old soul and lived alone. I remember one wet and windy day, my brother and I were coming home from school and we were quite frightened by the winds howling along. The old lady came up to us, she didn't speak English, and took us both and lifted up her skirt, put us under and marched us across the bridge. How could one forget such a thing. She then left us to run home. Kapuas lived on the corner where the river turned and along further was a stand of old oak trees where we made bubble pipes from acorn caps where Una Webb lived. Behind our house there was a swing bridge which spanned the gully and creek.

Vosolka Brothers lived up Pukemahoe Road and used to come and get bread from Mum.

My father's name was Carl Woisin. He used to play the accordion at dances and loved to sing. I remember him acting at a school concert. He was drowned while *floating timber downstream. I remember Miss Webb on her big ginger horse and also washing our teeth with salt and toothbrush as our first thing before going into school.

*According to a local identity the accident happened downstream from the Purangi bridge while Carl Woisin was retrieving totara logs from a flooded Waitara River. His body was found quite a while later approximately half a mile downstream.

I REMEMBER by Frank Webb

My first memory of school was of Fergus Bertrand taking care of me as I was afraid of the big boys. My sister Pat, and I rode ponies to school, sitting on a seed sack without a surcingle. Pat's horse was named Tony and mine was Rangi, a black, willing pony. We just put the sacks on the horses, hopped up, and away we went. I used to take the cows to the day paddock on my way to school and bring them home after school. I was expected to arrive in reasonable time providing I did not spend too long playing marbles with Mick Nuku and Percy Bevan on the corner of Ngatoto Road. Mick was a master at shooting marbles on a sloping surface and described his technique as calculated.

In later years at primary school I rode a push bike. I still remember the thrill of the speed and sliding on the metal road. Looking back on my days of motor-cycle riding on those roads I thank goodness there were so few cars and trucks on the road.

Like most children our pocket-money burnt a hole in our pocket if not spent, and the store in the boarding house so close to the school was irresistible. But we used to pick our time because if Mr Watkins was in the shop he gave us considerably more boiled lollies for our penny than Mrs Watkins, who only put six in a bag. True value.

I believe the frosts were harder in winter in the 1930s as icicles formed on the banks of the road, growing bigger each morning and sometimes lasting for up to ten days. The school committee provided plenty of manuka firewood and the teacher always had a good fire burning in the classroom for the pupils to get warm.

During the summer we had swimming in the river. A suitable place, no bad holes or cross currents, was at the end of Tume Street. It was 25 yards across and I still remember swimming across and back without putting my feet on the bottom to qualify for the 880 yards. Being a small school we took no part in competitive team games although we competed in appropriate events in the Inglewood District Athletics. For me the climax of each school year was the concert and prize-giving in the hall where Mr W N Bertrand, the school committee chairman, signed and presented a book to each pupil.

I remember Mrs Mathews of Aukawa Road. Just before she left the district in about 1935, she walked to the church daily until she had varnished the pews, floor and other woodwork. She also made cushions and new curtains which hung behind the altar.

Farming involved heavy manual work and the hours were long - horses, stumping jacks, along with a lot of digging to remove stumps from paddocks prior to sowing crops of swedes and/or choumoellier. After two crops the field was sown down in grass. All the paddocks around our woolshed and the Hoe Hoe Valley were done by manpower. I remember Roy Corkill and Dad working long, hot days. Prior to Mr Bertrand's airstrip being formed we sowed phosphate on the hills. I sledged the fertilizer out on narrow tracks for Dad and Mick Nuku to sow by hand.

The aeroplane made a big job so much easier and the first time we used it was in 1956 from Mr Bertrand's strip at a cost of £5.15.0. The fertilizer, super phosphate, cost £12.10.0. For economic reasons we formed our own strip in 1966, the sowing costs thus being reduced to £2.12.6.



Tiger Moth Topdressing Planes at Bertrand's Airstrip 1955. L to R: Bill Bertrand, Dave Bertrand, Terry Dutton, Brian Watkins.

One day in early 1955 Dad and I arrived home on horseback from down the river to be greeted with the news that the wire rope that crossed the river to Henry Nuku's had broken and one of the boys, Clarence Campbell, had drowned. His body was found about five chains downstream late the next day.

From some of the kauri timber salvaged from the old wooden bridge I made a writing desk. I remember helping to dismantle the old bridge. First the kauri stringers were cut part way through then the end trusses were loaded with gelignite complete with electric detonators, then the wire rope was cut. The explosives sent the tangled timber into the river and we locals salvaged and shared the timber as we removed the balance from below the new bridge site.

The opening of the present Purangi Bridge was a great occasion. It was followed by local hospitality, both light and strong. Dave Bertrand and I led one another astray and not much work was done the next day. Following the completion of the bridge and the approaches, the Inglewood County Council had the road from Pukemahoe Road corner to the bridge approach raised, to try to make the road above most flood levels. I well remember riding my motor-bike through water level with the petrol tank. I used a cow cover wrapped around the motor and my legs to keep the motor dry.

The distance from Amon Brothers' woolshed to Junction Road was one mile 60 chains, accurately measured by Howard Adams, the Inglewood Engineer, and Peter Webb, Councillor, counting the steps as they walked the road. Prior to metalling the Pukemahoe Road in 1956, the formation work was done by Frank Walsh on his bulldozer. Brian Walsh metallised the road and over each chain he spread five cubic yards of crushed metal and five yards of pit metal.

A great day for Purangi was when the seal on the Purangi Saddle was started at this end. The road had been widened on all sharp corners as some problems were being experienced by trucks towing trailers. I feel we gained our first seal by the wisdom and generosity of Keith Watson, County Chairman, and Harvey Wellington, when new seal was transferred from Mangaone Road. The seal on the saddle was completed by working back over the hill towards Waitara. Keith Watson was a very sound County Chairman and looked at all aspects of County needs before expressing an opinion. I had the privilege of representing the East Riding of the county following Keith's untimely death.

We talk about work today but how the early settlers worked! I never saw grass cut for hay with a scythe but just a little cleaning up around the orchard was enough for me. My first job helping with haymaking was being the boy on the dumprake. After the hay was cut the swarth would be turned by hand with pitch forks, then I came along with the dumprake.

Around 1936 we graduated from the hay being pitched up on to a dray and then on up to the top of the stack. Horses were used to pull gate sweeps to the stacker until Dick Watkins purchased a sweep to fit to the front of his truck. Mowing was done by a mower drawn by two horses - an eight acre paddock took all day to cut but now we sit on a tractor, cut the eight acres in two hours, turn the hay with a haybob in about one and a half hours, then bale and sweep it into the shed. If only our fathers could see how easy things are now.

I had the first tractor in Purangi and used to cut everybody's hay for several years. We decided to crop all the front paddocks for winter feed and rejuvenate the pastures. We had some great crops. Being keen, we won the Tarata Competitions Swede Crop one year with "Crimson King" and "Superlative" swedes averaging 56 ton per acre. Modern technology and rotational grazing deprived some of us of our cultivating pleasures.

Lighting has seen great progress from the candle to the kerosene lamp to home lighting plants. My father had the first electric lighting plant in the district, installed about 1936 by Mr Bill Ritchie of Inglewood. We used a generator to charge the batteries while the cows were being milked. The plant was expanded to drive an electric 32 volt washing machine. I became interested and helped set up several units and wired up houses in Purangi for electric lights. A kerosene fridge was a modern amenity installed by Mum and Dad in 1950.

As time went on we were encouraged to develop our land to make the budget balance. Brownie and I had cut scrub with axes, until in the late 1950s, the chainsaws became so much better.

In the early 1960s after we had purchased the farm we used Marginal Lands money to develop our hill country. Vic Gaskin and Jack Moratti did our first block of 80 acres. Russell Waite did several blocks for us and some bush on the Peninsula. In all we cut, or had cut, just over 800 acres which included the land we purchased from Ivor Webb. The scrub and bush was cut in the winter or early spring and left to dry for burning in the autumn.

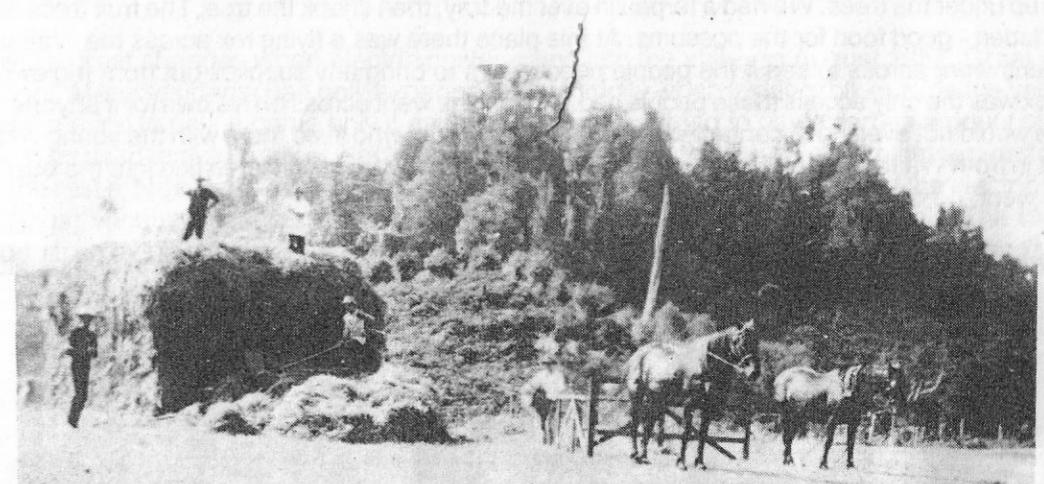


"Smoko" - resting by haystack.

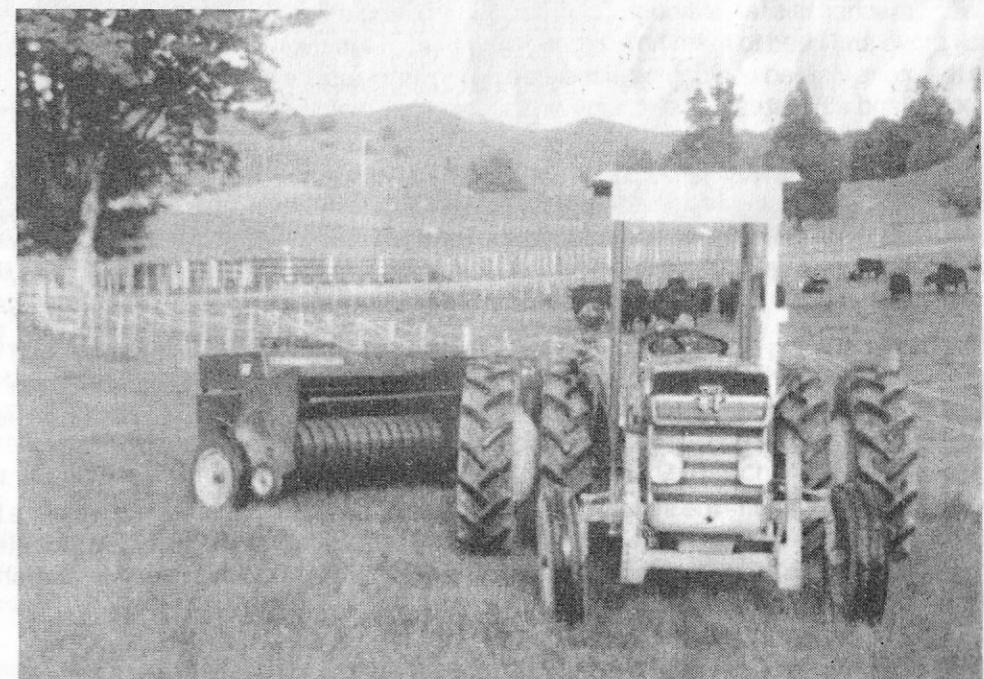
The fire was very important as a good burn meant cleaner ground, so you watched the weather and hoped. A clear day and not much breeze was best and a good fire in dry manuka or tawa bush produced a large column of blue smoke. Black smoke indicated too much green growth, fern, etc. The grass seed in most cases was sown by aeroplane with a spreader fitted to the fertilizer hopper giving an even spread of one chain wide. In early morning conditions grass seed could be sown accurately.

In the days of the Cessna aircraft, I, at times, was a passenger during the sowing - quite exciting!

It has been great to be in the district and to have been around for the 100 year celebration. Looking through the land titles section 7 where Peter's house, the woolshed and the airstrip are, I see only three names on the title - all Webbs. It has now changed to the fourth generation of our family.



Haymaking c1935.



Haymaking equipment 1976 model.

RAGWORT

Written by Mrs Trixie Neil (nee Julian)

In 1942 owing to the shortage of manpower caused by the war, Mr Jenkins County Overseer for Inglewood, recruited three women for cutting ragwort. We went to Tarata and Purangi, Trixie Julian, Thelma Skellern and another, whose name eludes me. We were given an old blue bomb, an Austin I think.

Most places we went to the ragwort was just the usual found on farms, but one place Mr Jenkins took us to in his pickup as the road was so poor, had ragwort like young trees. It hadn't been cut for years and the stems were at least as thick as our arms and so tall that although we were standing and cutting in a straight line three abreast, we could not see each other. Our slashers were like razors when we started and needed a lot of sharpening to keep them sharp on those acres.

One time we went to an abandoned farm at Purangi where the fruit trees were laden. Mr Jenkins drove the pickup under the trees. We had a tarpaulin over the tray, then shook the tree. The fruit trees were very heavily laden - good food for the possums. At this place there was a flying fox across the Waitara River. Mr Jenkins went across to see if the people needed him to bring any supplies out from Inglewood. The flying-fox was the only access these people had. Mr Jenkins went across on his own for if anyone else had gone he would not even have contacted the elderly Maori man who lived there with the young wife he had brought in from Waitara. They had several children but as the wife and children fled into the bush and hid until he went, he didn't know how many there were.

Our wages were five pounds (equivalent to \$10) a week which was very good wages for those times but we certainly earned it. A lot of married men didn't earn so much at that time.

MRS MERYL WEBB - PURANGI 1950 - 1960

My first impressions - the narrow metal roads, the winding Purangi Saddle with grass growing up the middle of the road.

Pedestrians only, could cross the Waitara River at Purangi as the bridge was unsafe and closed to all vehicular traffic. The decking had been removed except for a narrow strip only suitable for walking or cycling.

Electricity hadn't reached this far, although it was near - just over the 'saddle'. Cooking was done on a wood-burning black stove and I had to learn how to gauge the heat of the oven by feeling the door knob. Boiling the kettle on the stove instead of plugging in the electric jug, firing up the copper and handwashing clothes (scrubbing board and all) instead of switching on the washing machine.

The toast was made with a toasting fork in the coals - a delight that I never tired of - much nicer than the electric toaster variety. Learning to light the primus was a frightening exercise. I never got used to it. If it hadn't heated enough it would flare up dangerously and one debated whether one should throw the whole thing out the door. At least we had electric lights, a 12 volt system run off batteries. Lights at the flick of a switch, providing someone was around to start the "Iron Horse" which kept the batteries charged.

Agreement over cost sharing between Stratford and Inglewood Counties was finally reached and so in 1956 the new bridge was opened. A great celebration was enjoyed by all in our local hall (now non-existent). Fraternisation with Matau was now possible without the necessity of cars coming over the Matau saddle to meet us on their side of the bridge.

In the same year - consternation - the school bus, a 12 seater was filled to capacity and we were told there wouldn't be a seat available for our five year old daughter. "She couldn't go to school". Fortunately for us, the problem was solved by a family leaving the district. Purangi children had attended Matau School since 1947 when the Purangi School was closed.

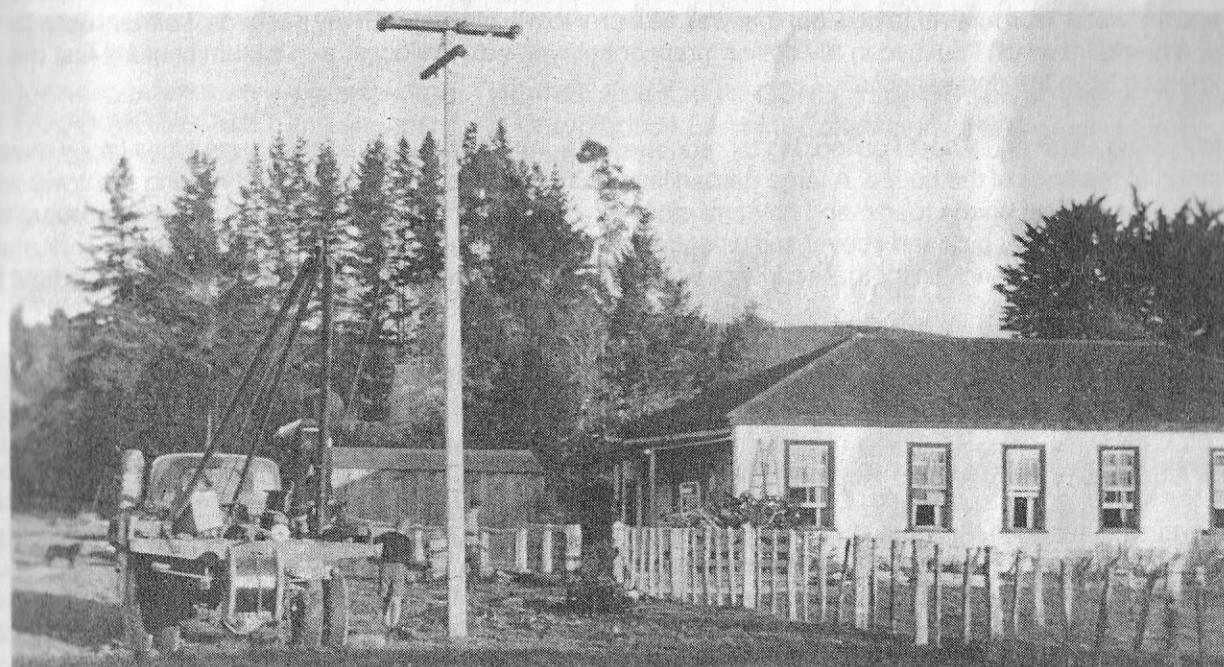
By this time I had become accustomed to the wood stove and irons which were heated on the same stove along with the continuously boiling kettle. The house was swept with a broom and mop as the vacuum cleaner wouldn't run on the 12 volt system. The kerosene refrigerator was always cold enough to make home made icecream. For years one of my children would eat only the home made variety because he didn't like the taste of the bought icecream.

The telephone was a privately owned party line. One single line connected to an exchange which opened only three hours during the day - from 11 am to 1 pm and for an hour in the evening for toll calls - 7 pm - 8 pm. An opening fee of one shilling was charged for calls outside these hours.

A family and friends' conference could be held by just lifting the receiver at some pre-arranged time. It had its benefits. When a local residence caught fire in the middle of the night the owner gave one long ring on the phone, then raced for the first bucket of water. On his return he gave a second long ring. By this time locals had been awakened by the shrilling phones and the words "fire at Webbs" was soon passed around.

All hands turned out as quickly as any well trained fire brigade and the chain bucket brigade got into action. The fire was successfully put out with only minor damage to a cupboard and some roof rafters. The cause of the fire was thought to be mice chewing on wax matches and igniting them. In 1959, automatic phones were installed - still on the party line system - linked to the Tarata exchange and 'open all hours'.

There were great changes when electric power came into the valley in August 1957. Great was the excitement. Many residents had only experienced electricity when visiting folk outside the valley. But there was a price to pay. It came only if each resident guaranteed to pay a certain amount of money whether they used that quantity of electrical units or not. But by this time we were determined to catch up with the rest of New Zealand and all accepted the Power Board's terms. In went the electric ranges, electric jugs, vacuum cleaners and of course the all important washing machine. The bliss of a refrigerator run by electricity - one that wouldn't go 'on the blink' and smoke up the walls and ceilings.



Electricity came to Purangi in 1957. Erecting a power pole outside Watkins' house (ex boarding house).

I remember the advent of aerial topdressing. Heart in mouth as we watched these 'daring young men' swooping along the valleys and skimming the hilltops. So easy to cover the hills now. No more laboriously tramping the hills and spreading the fertilizer by hand from a sack like garment which hung from the shoulders. Both man and pasture equally covered in superphosphate.

The worries when the first tractor arrived on the farm, though only to the womenfolk I have to admit. "Tractors were never meant for hill country farms - its horse country", the old timers told us. But the years proved their worth and the worries grew less as better farm tracks were constructed.

Haymaking changed radically in this decade too. From the haystack in the middle of the paddock, built with a horse powered stacker - tall pole and boom, lots of guy wires, ropes and pulleys etc, with all the neighbours helping, to the mechanical baler method where the hay is baled into neat packages and stacked into sheds. As it still is today, although the large round bales with plastic wrappers are proving popular.

Mention of haymaking brings to mind a serious accident that occurred in Purangi in 1967 when young Mark Vickers aged 8½ years, slid from a haystack onto the prongs of a hayfork. The prongs pierced his heart. He was rushed to hospital in a private car. It was 36 miles to New Plymouth hospital and a distraught parent gave mouth to mouth resuscitation as Mark's condition deteriorated. Doctors say it was a miracle he survived to be leading a normal life as he does today.

This type of accident brought home to us our isolation in times of emergency. It would be dealt with by helicopter these days. It also brings a greater appreciation of the courage and self-sufficiency of our early settlers who dealt with numerous emergencies and hardships with no telephones and only horse transport over very basic roads - often only bridle tracks.

MARGARET DE GONNEVILLE (NEE MOUNSEY) REMINISCES

What wonderful memories I have of Purangi right up to the time in 1956 when my sister and I sailed for Australia which we were dying to see as our Mother had been born in Sydney and then left with her parents as a young girl for New Zealand. There were the early sunsets and the silhouettes of the neighbouring hills over the river, so sharply etched in the fading light, and so often an early mist covered the valley, and coming back from the cowshed over the Waitara River it made a welcoming sight with the smoke from the chimney rising bravely into the cool night air. How happy were those early days at "Clashnevin", the house in the hollow, and so close to an often dripping bank which was very handy for the little cave not far away where Mum stored her delicious home made ginger beer. No fridge of course and all water boiled on the stove in kerosene tins.

Wash morning in winter always commenced with Mum using a big stick to break the heavy ice on the copper, and the water took forever to boil, but that was no worry to me playing with my pet birds. I either had a thrush or a blackbird which I pushed in my dollies' pram or I played with the dogs, and if Mum couldn't find me she knew I'd be in the dog kennels.

My young sister and I would go looking for tadpoles; all summer there would be a large glass jar on the tank stand at the back of the house. A large garden kept Mum very busy as well as hand-milking the cows when Dad was working on the roads, and he earnt more by using his horse with some of the work, and what hard work it was. Mostly pick and shovel and wheelbarrows. He'd leave in the dark and return in the dark and I'd always look in the lunch tin for that sandwich which he left me to eat. There was something special about that sandwich.

What fun Audrey and I would have collecting the little green beetles which abounded on the manuka by the hundreds, and we'd stuff them in jars, take them to the house and then let them go.

When I started school it was a big day for me and I thought nothing of the long walk on my own to Purangi. I was too young for a pony and of course there was no bus. My cousins, the Webbs, rode their ponies as they travelled further and then they drove the cows home for milking. It was always fun walking to school as there were birds' nests to look for. When Audrey started school we'd put our faces in the cobwebs heavy with dew in the early morning and woven between the wires in the fences. If we were lucky we'd see a few goats, but with so much of the countryside not cleared and they were nowhere near as numerous as they are now, it was a treat to sight any.

Then came the flood of 1940, and I well remember Mum and Dad wading to the hen shed down near the creek and rescuing the poor hens as later only the roof was above the level of the water. An unbelievable sight. And then the long walk to Purangi, and we had to walk a long way up the valley to find where the creek was low enough for us to cross over. I had to walk and that was no effort as I was 6 but Audrey, 4½, and Selwyn, 1½, were carried. All the people from the flat had had the night in the school, including an elderly Maori woman who came to Grandma's shop and had given me a small woven carry bag beautifully decorated with poultry feathers which I had for many years. She was small, white-haired and tattooed on her chin. What I mostly remember of the day after the flood is my little brother sitting in the silty water with a singlet on, and with a jam tin, pouring water all over himself.

Grandma had a large biscuit tin and we all ate lovely wine biscuits and not much more. The adults were very solemn as they went about cleaning and moving furniture. The piano was ruined and cost 80 pounds to be repaired, a huge sum in those days, but it played beautifully, and Mum and we girls all played on it.

I remember Dad saying he'd never see another flood like that at Purangi but then 50 years later and almost to the week a worse flood occurred.

School was fun. The walnut tree had abundant nuts for us to share, and we all crawled under the school for marbles. We had flower plots, and calf day was well attended with lots of calves and lambs. A peach tree at the bottom of the paddock always yielded a few fruit for the students. Lunch, I often had at Grandma's, and many a happy holiday was spent with them. Even when very young it was my Saturday morning job to sweep the long hall, shake out the goat skins, and daily clean out the hearth of the open fire. How I still remember the job I had daily of peeling the dry potatoes, and then they were washed of course for cooking, but water had to be carried indoors and so wasn't wasted.

What a cook Grandma was, like all the early women with their wood fires, and what a variety of dishes. Quail, duck, hare, rabbit and trout as well as turkey, gosling and chicken for Christmas Day. The arrival of barrels of mutton birds was a big event with the Maori, though it was many years later that I tasted my first bird. Of course Grandma made all her own butter and many a time I churned the cream and helped make the butter pats.

During the winter Grandad sat with his ear to the not too clear radio, and Grandma always knitting, while I sat ever so quietly.

Part of Mr W Bertrand's house was two-storied and some happy nights I spent upstairs with Myrna their youngest daughter with whom I went to school. I was madly in love at 12 with one of her brothers - Fergus, a sailor who sailed on the Achilles, well known for its outstanding service during the war. After Fergus returned from the war he told an amazing story of how in extremely rough weather a huge wave swept him off the ship, and then an oncoming wave placed him back on the ship.

I very much treasure a totara walking stick given to me by Mr Bertrand. It is carved with Maori legend.

The following articles were extracted from THE INGLEWOOD RECORD, THE TARANAKI HERALD and the TARANAKI BUDGET and are now part of the Florinda Lambert Collection at the Taranaki Museum, their inclusion is acknowledged with thanks.

14 September 1892

A party of pig-hunters were at Purangi the other day when one of the party shot a pig whilst his dog had hold of it, but the bullet passed through the pig and the dog, and killed both. The dog cost £2 a short time ago.

20 January 1894 A REPORT ON PURANGI

Some of the settlers in our district (Inglewood) are occasionally given to growling about the state of the roads and the distance they are from (comparative) civilisation. If they wish to be cured of any feeling of dissatisfaction with their present lot just let them take a trip out to Purangi and see what settlers there have to put up with. Be it remembered that Purangi is situated on the Waitara River, 22 miles from Inglewood by the Junction Road, about five are good metal road, 13 are formed dray road, the remaining four being an eight foot track only, which stops at the Waitara River, a cage on a wire rope being the only means of crossing to the settlements on the farther side, these settlements extending some three or four miles beyond the river. The road is in grand order now, but must be very different in midwinter. The settlers on the Ngatoto Road, which runs, or rather ought to run, up the other side of the river, have at present no means of access to their property except a rough track through standing bush - crossing creeks which in wet weather are waist deep - and climbing steep ridges over fallen trees and slippery roots. To remedy this they have actually now raised a loan to form a five foot track a portion of the way. Surely there are women out there, and comfortable homes, rough, it is true, but neat inside, with clean earthen floors and white window curtains, and gardens teeming with vegetables of all sorts, marrows, one of which would be as much as a man could comfortably carry any distance and flowers and fruit trees, most of which were sent through the useful parcelpost from the far-away plains of Canterbury.

6 May 1899 INTEREST IN PURANGI

Mr Frank Sutherland, who engaged to walk against time to Purangi, started from Inglewood on Thursday last. He left Inglewood at 7.10am arrived at Tarata at 8.44am, arrived at Purangi at 7½ past twelve pm; total time on the road, 5 hours 57½ minutes. Total walking time, 4 hours 50½ minutes. He had to stay at Tarata three-quarters-of-an-hour owing to not being expected there so soon, and had to wait breakfast. The above time has been certified to by the following gentlemen: Inglewood, Messrs H Evans, E Julian, R H Frewin, W Feek; Kaimata, Messrs D Lettley; Tarata, J P Clifford; Purangi, H N Silk JP. Mr Sutherland, about two months ago, had one of his knee caps injured and it was expected that he would break down and would be unable to accomplish the task. Coming back, and within a few miles of Inglewood, he felt the effects of his injury. The walking was within a fraction of six miles an hour.

8 November 1921 Reported by Taranaki Daily News Correspondent CASE OF SUICIDE

On Sunday November 7, a young man, Walter Lange, of Purangi, died by his own hand. The tragic event was reported to the police and Constable Longbottom, with Mr J R Sutherland JP, today journeyed to the scene. Mr Sutherland as a JP acted as coroner. The evidence, given chiefly by Messrs Webb and Rawlinson, showed that the young man, only 22 years of age, had been so deeply affected by the death of his wife (to whom he was passionately attached) about eight weeks ago that his mind had become unhinged and that he had shot himself whilst in a state that rendered him practically irresponsible for his actions. What makes this sad event even more sad is the fact that he has by his rash act left two young children.

24 March 1934 Taranaki Daily News DEATH AT AGE OF 96 YEARS

The death of Waingarunui Wikitoria at the age of 96 years has occurred at Purangi. The grief of the Maoris has been great, and there has been a constant influx of visiting Natives to the tangi.

The death severed the last connecting link with the Ngatimaru tribe. She lived at Purangi from the time she was 16 years old, and could tell many an interesting tale of the early days. To the time of her death she possessed all her faculties and carried all her own wood on her back from the banks of the Waitara River. She spent all her spare time in weaving, at which she was particularly expert. One of her last pieces of work was a very beautiful belt made of flax, dyed by herself in various colours and woven into an intricate design.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev RSC Fussell at the Maori cemetery at Purangi on Sunday.

LAMBTAIL RECIPE

It is very likely that this recipe for cooking lambtails was used in the early days of this community:

Pick out the largest. Clean by placing in boiling water for two minutes and then plunging into cold - skin with hand. Soak overnight in cold water with about 1/2 teaspoon salt to a quart of water. Next day thoroughly wash in clean water and place in two layers in a pie dish. If wished, place finely chopped onion between the layers. Sprinkle each layer with salt and pepper and flour and top layer with dripping also. Cook in moderate oven two hours. Serve with mint sauce and eat with fingers.

ONLY THE OAK & THE APPLE REMAIN by Margaret Penwarden

"I've finished with the sea. It's a dog's life!" James strode back and forth across the tiny room; the lamplight flickered and china tinkled faintly on the dresser. "Hush, you'll waken the little ones." Annie's voice was low. "Well lass, it'll do no harm. Why, it's three months since I last saw them. The wee one, she'll scarcely know me." James bent over the cradle and stroked the bright ringlets with a stubby forefinger. "But you'll not find work at the Port. Some men have had no more than a day or two all summer." Annie knew the families; the women looked gaunt, they went short of food so their children could eat. "Aye lass, there'll be a job for me somewhere. I'm strong and healthy, and I can write and figure with the best of them." James stretched out his thick arm where tattooed tracing showed amongst the fuzz of golden hairs. "However, Annie, I heard talk down at the public house. They say there's land to be had in the North Island, good Taranaki land. Our mayor has been to see it and now he's forming a Special Settlement Association. Men around here are hungry for land but there's naught for them in Canterbury. I've a mind to join the association. If I drew a section we could take our children away from the sea and our sons would grow up to earn a living at better things" "But we can't leave Lyttelton - or go to Taranaki! That's where Uncle Joe was killed." To Annie the North Island was a place where savages lurked in densely-bushed valleys and ravines ... her mother still spoke of Uncle Joe's death during the Land Wars, in a hushed voice. And, if having her husband ashore meant leaving the snug cottage from where she could look down on the broad roof of her parents' home, well then, Annie would rather he stayed at sea.

However, six months later James and Annie were on their way north to take up land in a valley on the eastern side of the Upper Waitara River. It was good land, Mr Milsom, the mayor assured them; land that had been confiscated from the Ngatimaru Maori and was now being offered to men who were unable to procure land in the South Island.

The family travelled by boat to New Plymouth, then by train to Inglewood, and from there inland towards the bank of the Waitara, by 'shanks's pony'. You see neither James nor Annie had ever ridden a horse and as the independent Scottish sailor muttered, 'Darned if he was prepared to make a fool of himself in front of any Taranaki teamster.'

So through the heat of that eighteen-ninety summer James and Annie, walked for 26 miles along a dusty pack-horse trail. James carried his youngest daughter, the one with the blue eyes and red-gold hair so like his own, on his back and the teamster took the other two children up on his horse. Annie clutched her long skirt in one hand and the hand of her oldest child in the other as they walked the clay road towards their promised land over the Waitara. On the way friendly surveyors met them at the Waitara River and helped them to erect the tent that was to be their home until James could build permanent accommodation over the river.

Annie wept as she looked across the sullen mud-bottomed river, and beyond it. There was nothing welcoming anywhere - ragged bush-covered ranges, an unsatisfactory bush burn had left blackened trees standing amongst the charred logs. She wept for the familiar homes at the foot of the Port Hills. And when she found her nearest neighbours were the Maori who lived at the Purangi Pa, her homesickness turned to real fear.

However, hard work and common sense were Annie's remedy for most problems and the struggle to keep her family clean and well fed left little time for self-pity or regrets. Soon Annie's camp-oven bread equalled that of the surveyors and rarely did the snowy petticoats of her daughters go unironed, or were their unruly curls without a fresh ribbon. A garden, planted from seeds and cuttings she had brought north from her old home, soon flourished, and it was harvested and planted again long before a slab whare was built on their land over in the valley.

Over the river James worked with pick and shovel for nine hours a day forming roads - the Government paid for this - then James spent the remaining daylight hours felling timber on his own section. He built a ponga whare and stayed over the river for days at a time. If the river came into flood he was sometimes unable to cross for long periods.

Maoris from up-river occasionally drifted down in their canoes and silently appeared near the tent. They offered peaches and kumara in return for coals to light their pipes, or for a look at the white-skinned red-headed children. Old Simon, often stark naked, was usually the spokesman. Annie recalling stories of the Taranaki Land Wars was terrified so James acquired a watch dog. Yes! he was assured it was good with women and children, but left loose it would keep everybody at bay.

And Tweed was a good watch dog, if a canoe came down the river he never failed to raise the alarm. Annie had to tie him up before anyone could approach the tent. Now the Maori resorted to climbing trees and silently watching the children from a distance. Soon even James couldn't approach his family when the dog was loose, nor could he walk beside them along the track to the stores depot - Tweed shepherded the family along keeping him well behind.

One night James arrived home unexpectedly and tried to enter the house without rousing the sleeping family. He was badly bitten and the dog was destroyed. Shortly after this the family returned from collecting stores to find smoke rising from the burnt out remains of the tent. Had old Simon been along to light his pipe? They never knew.

Now they possessed only the clothing they stood in and the few cooking utensils at James's whare across the river. So the move over the river came sooner than expected and Annie became the first white woman to live on the eastern side of the Waitara at Purangi.

Luck was against the family. The ponga whare, too, caught fire and its contents were destroyed though the walls remained standing. But now across the river was another family. The man had served in the Indian Imperial Army and he'd married an Indian girl; after the second fire this family bedded down Annie's children until they could get more blankets. Four heads covered with bright auburn curls stuck out from one end of the bed and four heads with straight dark hair from the other. The children often played together and one day the boys brought out a well sharpened tomahawk. When the older children denied two year old Lizzie her turn on the vine swing, she raised the tomahawk and neatly severed her brother's finger. He raced for his mother, a trail of dark and blonde children following. In the rear came a tearful Lizzie carrying the finger on a piece of bark.

James was far away working on the road and Annie walked several miles to get help from the surveyors. When she left her son she said, "Keep whistling and you'll be alright". And as she and the surveyor returned over the hill they heard a feeble quaver; he was still whistling.

James was sent for and at first light he left with his son for the doctor at Inglewood; the doctor was away so on they went to the New Plymouth hospital. Leaving the lad there, James turned for home. He hadn't sufficient money for a night's accommodation in New Plymouth. But the surveyor's first aid had been good, a message asking James to collect his son followed almost immediately. So James turned again at the river crossing and went back to collect his son.

The years passed so swiftly that their number went almost unnoticed and although the settlers of the Special Settlement often felt ill-used and neglected as Central Government turned deaf ears to their pleas for better roading, and Provincial Government, finding the district an embarrassment, shuttled it back and forth between the counties of Stratford and Clifton, the settlers did, despite repeated setbacks, gradually bring improvements to their valley.

The road, hand-carved from the papa hills, was widened and extended, a 'zig-zag' climbed out of one valley and led to the next, the wire rope and cage used for transport across the river was replaced by a bridge. A school was built, a teacher taught here for three days of the week, then rode over the hills to teach three days at another school.

And through all their school days the children heard the ring and thud of the axe as it bit deeper and deeper into the virgin cover of the hills. They never forgot the autumn smell of burning off or the night-time sight of glowing logs and showering sparks. Their playground was the hillside patterned by a maze of blackened stumps and fallen logs, or the sawpit with its rough, pungent dust.

The passing years brought faint lines to Annie's face and turned James's bright crown a sandy grey, but they took quiet pride in their growing sons and daughters and in their success as farmers. Then, quite suddenly, a restlessness crept into the homely atmosphere. When the boys rode to the river flat to swim or talk, their sisters longed to accompany them, but their father would have none of this and his stern eye kept watch on their comings and goings. Only when they walked over the hills, and fled on their barebacked and unbridled ponies did the girls evade his watchful eye . . . but the day came when he caught them at their wayward pranks.

"What harm can it do?" their mother reasoned. "They need friends of their own age". "Bushmen! Horsebreakers! Friends for my daughters, the descendants of Montrose!" The outraged Scot drew himself up to his full five and a half feet. His full fury was unleashed one evening when a tall slim youth stood at the door asking if he could take the girls to the Axemen's Ball. The father grabbed his gun; the boy left hurriedly as a shot rang out. Back and forth across the gully went the ringing echoes, then from a distance came the drum of hooves as the boy headed his horse away into the night.

James stumped indoors with the gun. He swung it again onto the pegs above the fireplace. His blue eyes were steel cold as he faced his daughters and when eyes, as blue and as stubborn, stared back rebelliously he shouted "Yes miss! If I catch you talking to that long-legged ruffian again he'll not live to see another day."

The evenings of that winter were filled with bitter silence. The lines on Annie's face deepened as more than once she suspected that the girl with the copper curls had defied her father and spent a brief hour away from the farm. And James; he became more dourly submerged in his books. No longer did he chuckle over Punch or guffaw over the humour of Steel Rudd. Now he hinted morosely his womenfolk would do well to read some of the more educational books in the house.

Then rumour swept down the valley. James's farm was up for sale - he was finished with the clay roads, the treacherous river, and the papa hills that never ceased to slip - he was taking his family away to a kinder climate where life would be less demanding - and if no buyer came forward James was walking off his land.

The rumours were confirmed, and stoically Annie commenced to pack. Again she was leaving people to whom she was deeply attached; men who had aided the family in times of emergency, women with whom she had sat during sickness, childbirth and family deaths. She was leaving too, the Maori people who she had once feared but now counted among her most loyal friends.

When the family moved from the valley the heavy frosts of winter were over. On the road the shaded corners had all thawed out, among the trees the starry clematis frothed and cascaded and by the river flat, pigeons cooed and courted in the golden kowhai. Annie, aloft in the wagon which carried all their household possessions, again shed tears. Now she loved the valley as deeply as she had once loved the hills of the south.

James, worried about the muddy road, went ahead to arrange for extra horses to help the wagon up the steep pinch, near the recently opened Kiore tunnel. And the girls, finding Haggis the cat had escaped, lingered hoping to entice him from hiding. But when Haggis refused to come, Lizzie, the lass with the red-gold hair, grasped her opportunity and turned her horse towards the river flat. Haggis would need a friend when he came from hiding; what better friend could he have than a lonely bushman . . . It was late in the day when Lizzie, on her sweat darkened horse, overhauled the slow moving wagon.

When the family settled again it was near the sea. Here the daughters found a new way of life and their social opportunities increased but Lizzie had little enthusiasm for gaiety or outings. She was content to churn the butter and tend the garden or do the family sewing on her little hand machine.

A year passed. Another summer came and went, then, on the morning of her twenty-first birthday Lizzie's room was empty and her mare was gone from the stable.

In the chill hour before dawn she had crept from the house and with her clothes in one saddle-bag and her sewing machine in the other she had ridden through the sleeping village to a distant wayside station. The first blackbird was scarcely awake when she led her horse into the station yard. No one questioned the young woman as she loaded her horse and prepared for the journey ahead. Two full days she spent on the train before she arrived at Stratford.

Then back to the valley Lizzie went. At the valley there was much rejoicing and a flurry of arrangements . . . Everyone said how lovely the bride looked as she stood with her tall bushman husband before the altar of Tu-Ki-Te-Arero, St Peter's, the tiny church on the eastern bank of the Upper Waitara. Lizzie's Maori friends too, joined in the excitement for this was one of the first European marriages to be celebrated in their church - 29 April 1912.

And there was more rejoicing when Oliver and Lizzie arrived at the cottage which Oliver had built for his bride; fat old Haggis was waiting on the step for his share of Lizzie's love.

The years have passed, roads have been built and the river bridged. Down there on the tiny river flat a tall oak and a squat, gnarled apple show above the manuka scrub; nothing else remains of Annie's garden or the pit-sawn cottage that housed the family for over 30 years.

James and Annie Graham were Mrs Penwarden's grandparents and Lizzie her mother.

BITS AND PIECES

Some young men considered it "good fun" to jump off the top of the old bridge framework into the river below.

A funeral was in progress down the long acre to the Purangi Cemetery. The school children were watching, their attention being drawn by the wailing of the mourners. The horse jibbed, the horseman produced a stick and after several wacks the horse bolted with the sledge leaving the coffin on the ground. The procession continued with the bearers performing their duties a little sooner than expected. When the children were overcome with unseemly mirth the teacher quickly ushered them back into class.

When Ian and Laurel Aitken bought their Purangi property in 1981 they found a rusted metal object out in a paddock. After a few years went by Ian decided to prise this object apart, thinking it might have been used in the old Purangi Post Office Agency. Imagine his surprise and delight to discover it was a company seal which read **Pennington & Son, Land Agents, Inglewood NZ.** Of course he has restored it to working order. The Pennington's referred to were Joseph and Frederick; Laurel's great-great-grandfather and great-great uncle.

NZ METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

PURANGI												LAT	39	09S	LONG	174	31E	HT	206 H.
MILLIMETRES																			
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC								
136	114	35	307	228	110	134	57	42	100	126	191	1580							
122	36	118	127	179	218	423	121	133	170	288	68	2003							
125	76	79	178	155	225	185	251	146	240	403	94	2157							
31	80	63	179	171	87	362	193	225	199	53	146	1789							
152	110	160	99	195	352	171	153	332	261	191	208	2384							
158	41	144	31	59	169	140	150	110	89	100	46	1237							
244	271	139	310	90	199	81	112	197	321	148	141	2253							
60	37	156	104	96	170	216	162	141	266	90	185	1683							
82	71	213	113	79	77	98	200	83	183	272	84	1555							
297	83	129	37	189	230	62	99	124	174	102	151	1677							
112	180	158	253	136	172	151	119	172	146	182	246	2027							
102	172	91	104	213	201	240	130	250	117	98	107	1825							
90	70	106	88	385	98	264	205	100	480	247	160	2293							
80	99	216	123	261	131	203	209	136	81	209	92	1840							
0	38	59	141	217	98	133	186	366	248	126	196	1808							
45	28	123	105	149	354	215	150	170	106	235	271	1951							
239	123	27	150	63	51	115	206	150	188	212	20	1544							
220	81	33	146	84	191	310	198	205	108	210	129	1915							
95	54	56	200	199	178	25	229	51	214	64	60	1425							
150	185	98	163	285	106	185	166	96	90	102	96	1722							
109	76	107	142	106	164	184	138	66	218	81	76	1467							
226	174	165	116	230	237	127	226	121	298	169	108	2197							
213	227	102	213	68	70	214	247	186	151	244	135	2070							
105	273	81	99	174	112	116	27	112	58	136	109	1402							
131	138	51	232	89	163	113	190	80	122	137	163	1609							
79	13	28	213	40	243	126*	283	181	76	75	160	1517							
293	370	71	67	130	64	59	141	263	207	84									
133	75	255	59	122	203	165	163	220	294	219	227	2136							
217	64	216	131	256	36	280	156	265	198	162	116	2097							
112	413	55	94	73	329	257	147	274	226	184	127	2391							
52	127	127	196	101	197	197	140	144	196	164	278	1919							
191	101	208	229	195	120	144	261	194	304	85	169	2201							
115	28	178	193	160	233	194	312	226	315	128	194	2276							
111	90	30	228	90	442	163	134	245	243	44	133	1951							
134	46	116	299	537	138	357	222	106	337	165	88	2048							
131	168	148	153	135	350	383	149	77	168	138	173	2173							
93	169	41	130	121	296	131	177	170	175	123	291	2117							
53	146	139	177	124	130	189	141	56	412	320	187	2078							
172	189	34	228	247	494	94	201	76	169	489	178	2871							
173	132	152	123	306	196	249	195	226	201	172	157	2181							
149	136	163	94	147	210	272	405	174	69	189	160	2108							
39	325	43	216	576	269	167	254	172	302	159	153	2153							
208	91	57	461	165	485	235	293	135	257	269	174	2140							
91	194	232	198	305	89	159	127	102	376	344	244	2177							
192	216	134	61	412	142	288	206	35	171	98	576	2111							
174	151	153	271	183	103	133	51	147	112	113	2108								
96	283	293	32	309	209	313	168	331	123	174	29	2100							
186	137	135	143	119	194	293	110	165	100	162	73	1817							
421	81	227	172	262	232	268	338	110	462	246	97	2116							
26	203	99	108	213	161	122	236	122	32	141	101	1504							
200	76	182	75	170	112	391	198	344	138	99	212	2109							
168	133	113	90	156	123	184	187	80	110	430	152	2152							
130	142	178	253	154	276	250	80	203	81	199	204	2150							
138	163																		

The conversion from Pounds Shillings and Pence to Dollars and Cents occurred in New Zealand on 10 July 1967.

CONVERSION TABLES

POUNDS SHILLINGS AND PENCE TO DOLLARS AND CENTS

£	s	d	\$	¢
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\$2 = £1 = 20s (20/-) = 240d (240 pence/pennies)

\$1 = 10s (10/-)

100¢ = \$1

10¢ = 1s (1/-) - 12d example £1.15s 6d = \$3.55

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Linear

12 inches (12")	= 1 foot
3 feet (3')	= 1 yard
5½ yards	= 1 rod, pole, or perch
4 rods	= 1 chain
10 chains	= 1 furlong
8 furlongs (5280 feet)	= 1 statute mile

Square Measure

144 square inches	= 1 square foot
9 square feet	= 1 square yard
30¼ square yards	= 1 square rod, pole, or perch
160 square rods	= 1 acre
640 acres	= 1 square mile

Cubic Measure

1728 cubic inches	= 1 cubic foot
27 cubic feet	= 1 cubic yard

Liquid Measure

2 pints	= 1 quart
4 quarts	= 1 gallon

Wood Measure

16 cubic feet	= 1 cord foot
8 cord feet	= 1 cord

Length

1 inch (in)	= 2.54 centimetre (cm)
1 metre	= 100 cm = 39.37 in = 3.28 ft
1 foot	= 30.48 cm = 0.30 metre = 12 in
1 yard	= 91.44 cm = 0.91 metre = 36 in
1 kilometre	= 0.62 miles
1 mile	= 1.60 km

Area

1 hectare	= 2.47 acres
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Mass

1 ounce (oz)	= 25 grams (g) approximately
16 ounces	= 1 lb
1 pound (lb)	= 0.453 kilogram (kg)
1 kilogram	= 2.204 lb = 1,000 g
1 hundredweight (cwt)	= 112 lb = 50.80 kg
1 metric ton	= 22.04.62 lb = 1000 kg = 19.68 cwt = 1 tonne = 0.98 ton
1 long ton	= 2240 lb = 1016.05 kg = 20 cwt = 1.016 tonne = 1 ton