

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

OPEN FOUNDATION COURSE

1989

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Signed V. A. Dillon.....

Date 8th September 1989.....

Interviewer Waud.....

THE 1989 OPEN FOUNDATION COURSE

ORAL HISTORY

SUBJECT

THE DILLON FAMILY OF DUNGOO

SUMMARY

C. R. WAUD

1.0PM - 3.0PM

TUESDAYS.

MARGARET HENRY

I first met Vincent Anthony Dillon over a beer at the Newcastle Lattersalls Club Senior Members Annual Dinner in April 1989. As mature men normally do we enquired into our current activities and how we pass our time. Vincent mentioned his interest in his 5th Generation family living in Dungoo. I told him about my pending project in Oral History for my Open Foundation Course. He agreed to be interviewed at a later date. Between making arrangements to tape the interview and actually making the tapes Vincent had a nasty fall breaking his thigh bone. He was convalescing at home when he did the interviews.

The Dillon Family of Dungoo is directly descended from young Thomas Dillon, who, as an adventurous seven teen year old Irish lad from County Clare, Ireland, he wanted to find what the convict colony in New South Wales had to offer him. No doubt he was aware that the colony was harsh and challenging and very much unexplored by Europeans, and completely different to the soft cool greens and the rolling hills of Ireland. He arrived in New South Wales in 1836.

Little is known of young Thomas Dillon's activities when he first landed in the

colony, other than he found his way to the gold fields at Bendigo and later made his way north to the Hunter Valley, where he bought some land on the Williams River near the small settlement of Glen William just south of the village of Bungay. Sometime later Thomas met a young Irish girl Mary, they married settled on the property and raised a family.

The first born child to Thomas and Mary Dillon was Thomas, and he married a girl also named Mary. They worked the father's property and in due course had a family of four, three sons, Thomas the eldest, one daughter Mary, Vincent Anthony, the narrator of the tapes was the third child followed by another son Raymond.

Life for the Dillon family at Glen William was typical of all early settler families in the country. There were floods, drought, fires, heat and cold, and living was rugged. In the early days the main mode of travel to Glen William was by boat from Newcastle or Raymond Terrace to Clarence Town, then by day to Glen William. The drays were either horse drawn or bullock drawn and the roads were dirt and gravel and generally very poor. It was a two day trip to get supplies from Clarence Town to Bungay by Bullock Train, a distance of 120 miles, with an overnight stop at Brookfield, a small settlement, the half way point.

There was nothing spectacular in the lives of the early Dillon families. They worked

The land, came into nearby farming families, bought more properties as their families multiplied and acted as good country citizens should. Vincent's father Thomas, besides working his own property bought three further dairy farms and when he died he passed them to each of his children. They are still retained and worked. The land was in the blood of the early settlers and their children but not so for young Vincent Dillon.

Perhaps, like his grandfather, Vincent had a spirit of adventure in him to take him away from working the land but not from it altogether. Vincent found his life in working with his family and friends acting as their agent in dealing with cattle properties and other matters associated with the land. He married a girl from a property not far from Dungog, Lucy Richardson, who has shared the past thirty-six years with him keeping him in his work and raising their family of four, two boys and two girls. The boys now work Vincent's business and Vincent's grandsons' family have given them five 5th generation children as their grandchildren, but to date no grandson on the Dillon side. I hope it won't be too long before they have the ways and means to extend the Dillon family long in to the future.

THE 1989 PART-TIME OPEN FOUNDATION COURSE
ORAL HISTORY

SUBJECT: THE DILLON FAMILY, DUNGOG, N.S.W.

INTERVIEWEE VINCENT ANTHONY DILLON

INTERVIEWER CHARLES RAYMOND WAUD

DATE: 6TH JULY 1989

Thomas Dillon was born in County Clare in Ireland in the year 1819. At the age of seventeen years he migrated to New South Wales to seek his fortune. His travels took him to the gold fields at Bendigo where he prospected successfully. When he had enough gold he made his way north to the Dungog Region where he purchased land on the eastern banks of the Williams River near a small settlement called Glen William. Thomas named his property "Banfield". Glen William is in the Parish of Barton in the County of Gloucester, about eighteen kilometres south of Dungog.¹

In May 1837, about the time Thomas Dillon was prospecting at Bendigo, the Government of New South Wales approved the naming of the village of Dungog, on the Upper Williams River. This naming was gazetted in the Government Gazette of 1938.²

At twenty nine years of age Thomas Dillon married a young Irish girl named Mary, who was seventeen years of age,^{3a.} and they settled down at Banfield. They had three children,³ Thomas (1862) Mary Ann and Michael

1. V. Dillon. Transcript Tape 1 Side A. P1.

2. R.L. FORD & A.P. FORSTER Eds. Dungog Historical Booklet Number 1 June 1976

3. V. Dillon. Transcript ... P2.

3a. *ibid* P17.

Mary Ann married Stephen J. Carlton⁴
 from a property adjoining Banfield,
 Thomas married Mary Carlton (1884)⁵
 a niece of Stephen J. Carlton and
 Michael married Bridget Felley.

The eldest son Thomas (1862) and
 Mary (1884) had four children, Thomas,
 Mary, Vincent Anthony, and Raymond.
 Vincent Anthony Dillon, the narrator of this
 tape, was born at Banfield in 1915,
 and he spent the early years of his
 life with his family there. At eleven
 years of age Vincent followed his elder
 brother to secondary schooling at
 St Joseph's Catholic College, Kunturkull⁶
 Sydney where he lived as a boarding
 pupil. He successfully completed his
 studies and while at St Joseph's he
 learned to play Cricket and Rugby Union.
 He finished his schooling at St Joseph's
 in 1931 and from there he attended
 the Hawkesbury Agricultural College
 at Windsor New South Wales⁷ until
 he returned to Banfield in 1932.

When Vincent returned to Banfield
 his father presented him with a dairy
 farm adjoining Banfield.⁸ In fact his
 father gave each of his children a
 dairy farm near Banfield. The
 change from comfortable living at
 St Joseph's and the Agricultural College to
 hand milking a herd of cows, cleaning
 cow dung and urine from the cow dales

4.	V Dillon	Transcript...	P2
5	Ibid		P5
6	Ibid		P10.
7	Ibid		P.14
8	Ibid		P.14

Competing with myriads of bushflies and tending his farm did not appeal to him although he had been born to the land and grew up on it. He urgently sought a change and after one month he told his father that he had decided against farming in preference to working in an office in Dungog.⁹

Vincent's granduncle Thomas Carlton Senior was a Stock and Station Agent in Dungog when Vincent made his decision to quit farming. He offered Vincent a position in his firm of Thomas Carlton and Company at ten shillings a week¹⁰. This suited Vincent and he accepted the position with his father's blessing. The firm of Thomas Carlton and Company was founded by Vincent's granduncle in the late 1870's. Records at Westpac Bank, Dungog, indicate that Thomas Carlton Senior had a Trading Account with the Bank of New South Wales (since renamed Westpac Bank) about 110 years ago in his Company's name¹¹. Vincent joined the company as a Booking Clerk. His granduncle died in 1933 and his son Thomas Carlton Junior took over the company and continued trading as Thomas Carlton and Company.

In 1942 the call to serve his Country in World War II came to

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 9. | Ibid | Pnt. |
| 10 | Ibid | Pnt. |
| 11 | Ibid | Ps. |

4.

Vincent Dillon. He enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force as a Clerk General and in due course he was posted to R.A.A.F. Washington in the United States of America and later to R.A.A.F. Headquarters London.¹² He served his country well and was promoted to the rank of Corporal. He was demobilised in 1946 when he returned to Australia.

Vincent rejoined his uncle's company in 1947 and later that year he was taken by his uncle as a partner and the name of the firm was changed to Carlton and Dillon.¹³ Thomas Carlton junior retired from the company in 1970, Vincent took over and the name of the company was changed again, this time to V. A. Dillon,¹⁴ Stock and Station Agent. Since 1932 Vincent Dillon had become a Stock and Station Agent, an Auctioneer, a Licenced Valuer for commercial properties in the Shires of Gloucester, Great Lakes, Dungog and the Lower Hunter, a Licenced Real Estate Agent and a Justice of the Peace.

During his early years Vincent played Rugby League with the Gloucester Town Club as vice Captain and Captain.¹⁵ He represented Dungog A Team in cricket¹⁶ and his sporting activities brought him in contact as a close

12. Ibid. P 6.

13. Ibid.

14. Ibid.

15. V. Dillon Transcript Tape 1 Sub B, P 29

16. Ibid. P 34

friend with Doug Walters, Australia's
Test cricketer,¹⁷ Kevin Bacon Olympic
Equestrian rider,^{17a} Ken and Bob Mackay
and Mick Keck¹⁸ International Polo
Players, Bill and Ted Bennett, National
Boxing Champions¹⁹ and his second cousin
Jimmy Carlton, the world famous sprint
champion.²⁰

Vincent's business activities soon
earned him a favourable reputation
and recognition by the farming and
grazing families who had held properties
in the region for a long as, if not longer,
than when his grandfather Thomas
Dillon bought Banfield. These are all
notable families and include the Carltons,
Richardsons, Dowlings, Mackays, Kecks,
Abbotts, Smiths and many others who
have earned their own reputations as
highly competent, successful and respected
families for having among other things
contributed greatly to the rural
industry and the culture and society
in the Nation.

Being a prominent businessman
it was almost automatic that Vincent
Dillon should be appointed to the many
local service and businessmen clubs
committees. He has served with distinction
with the Dungog District Hospital Board,
the Dungog Rotary Club, the Dungog
Agricultural and Horticultural Association
and the Dungog Roads Committee. He is

- | | | | |
|------|------------|---------------------------|-------|
| 17. | Ibid. | | P 31. |
| 17a. | Ibid. | | P 24. |
| 18. | Ibid. | | P 35. |
| 19. | V. Dillon. | Transcript Tape 2 Side A. | P 40. |
| 20. | Ibid. | | P 32. |

He is a foundation member and Patron of Rotary. He served on the Dungog Hospital Board for twenty five years until the Board was dissolved and taken over by the Department of Health Regional Office, Newcastle, in 1985. In that year he was presented with a Certificate of Service by the State of New South Wales Minister for Health Mr. Mulock for his distinguished service with the Hospital Board. He is a life member of the Dungog Show Committee and Patron of the Dungog Rodeo Committee.²¹

Vincent Dillon married Lucy Richardson, from Bingleburna near Gresford, in 1952.²² Lucy's family were early settlers holding large parcels of land between the Williams River and the Paterson River near Gresford. They have four children Peter, Judith, Paddy and Lucy, all of whom, except Lucy, are married. At present there are five grand children who comprise the fifth generation of the Dillon family of Dungog.²³

Peter, who married Judith Jane Lambie, has three daughters Phillipa, Felicity and Susannah (Baby girl Louisa (No 3) died at 3 months), and Paddy, who married Ann Beaton, were taken into the business and became partners with their father. The name of the business changed once more, this time

21 Ibid

pp 22, 23, 24, 27.

22 Ibid.

p 9.

23 V. Dillon

APPENDIX The Dillon Family Tree

To V. A. Dillon and Sons.²⁴ Daughter
 Judith born married John Headdington
 and they have a daughter Alexandra
 and a son Edward and lease their
 mother's two acre property at
 Bingleburna. Lucy Bernadette
 Dillon is at present single.²⁵

Vincent and Lucy Dillon reside
 in a charming old home on top of
 the highest hill overlooking Dunedin
 and many of the beautiful surrounding
 valleys. The home which Vincent bought
 for Lucy about forty years ago is about
 one hundred and fifty years old. They
 have remodelled parts of the interior and
 have added a modern area to it.
 Their beautiful furniture is mainly
 red cedar from a sawn tree given to
 them as a wedding present by Lucy's
 father.²⁶

Vincent Dillon retired on the 30th
 June 1989 after fifty seven years in
 the business but he remains as a
 consulting valuer with the firm. His
 sons Peter and Paddy are very
 capable and will ensure the company
 will continue to represent the Dillon
 family and serve the rural industry.²⁷

24 Ibid.

- P. 6.

25 Ibid.

Appendix pp. 54, 55

26 Ibid.

Pp 44, 45, 54, 55

27 Ibid.

P 6

THE HISTORY OF EARLY SETTLERS IN DUNGOG

THE DILLON FAMILY

INTERVIEWER

RAY WARD

INTERVIEWEE

VINCENT DILLON

DATE 6th JULY 1989

PLACE DUNGOG NSW

TAPE 1, SIDE A TRANSCRIPT

The name of the interviewer is RAY WARD. The name of the interviewee is VINCENT DILLON of Dungog. The project is the University of Newcastle Open Foundation course, 1989. The date is the 6th July, 1989, and the place is Dungog, New South Wales. The purpose of the interview is to record as much information as possible about the Dillon family in Dungog, for historical purposes.

Q. Vince, you are a fourth generation family in Dungog. Would you tell me as much as you can about the history of your family in its connections with Dungog?

A. Yes. My grandfather on my father's side came out as a young boy from Ireland at the age of seventeen years. He came from County Clare in Ireland and when he arrived he went to the diggings in Bendigo. Sold diggings in Bendigo and there he got enough money in gold to come back and buy our property at Glen William, known as "Banfield", and he paid for the property with his earnings from the diggings in Bendigo.

Q. Vince. Just let me interrupt for a moment. What would he have paid for the property and can you tell me how many acres it might have been?

A. Yes. Six hundred odd acres, six $\frac{1}{2}$

hundred and forty acres in the original purchase. The price is not just pure of what he paid. The family retains the property, we still own the property today, our family do.

Q. Can you tell me now about your forebears from him down through the line?

A. Yes. Grandfather Dillon had two boys and one daughter. There was two boys and one daughter including my father. The daughter married Stephen Carlton, S. J. Carlton, who was a councillor on the old Wallarobba Shire, and he was followed later by his son J. V. Carlton who was a Shire President of our shire what was here for twenty-five years there. My father's name was Thomas Dillon and my eldest brother was called Thomas Brother, Thomas Dillon. My father and his brother accumulated more land. My father ended up owning four dairy farms with share farmers and on his death they went to each member of the family. We got a property each and we still own them and retained and added to them since his death.

Q. Venice. Is all this in the William Valley?

A. All in the William Valley. Yeah, and from Glen William approximately in in the old distance twelve miles from Dungeg, south of Dungeg. He then accumulated a property, another dairy farm at Glen William only a little distance from the original purchase and later when his brother died without family he left the bulk of his estate to his brother and he at that time owned

two dairy farms, which then gave
my father four farms. In the early
days the milk from these farms went
to Clarence Town where it was put on
a boat and shipped to Marpeth, at
the Butter Factory at Raymond Terrace,
or below Raymond Terrace, and my
uncle Mick Dillon used to buy pigs and
drive them from Dungog to Gloucester
and Dungog by road to the boat at
Clarence Town and they'd be
shipped away to market to be
marketed.

Q. About how long ago would that
have been Uncle?

A. That would have been approximately
it would have been around about
sixty-five or seventy years ago

Q. 65-70 years ago, not far from the
turn of the century

A. Yeah, that's right

Q. And what were conditions like then,
what type of roads would he have had
to drive over to get down to Clarence Town
to ship the pigs?

A. All our provisions for Dungog used to
come by boat to Clarence Town and there
might be bullock teams and drays pick
up and come to a little place called
Brookfield, which was approximately
seven miles north of Clarence Town, and
they'd stay the night and then next day
come on to Dungog with the provisions.

Q. In the same bullock team and drays?

A. Yes.

Q. And how long would that have taken?

A. In those days it was two days. They'd load a + Clarence Town, come to Brookfield, which was seven miles up, and then next day come on up another seven miles to Dungog.

Q. And that's how much distance they would make in a day?

A. Yes that's right.

Q. Slow going?

A. Yes very slow going.

Q. I've just driven up here Vince, driven up from a different angle down at Paterson and I noticed the hills, little sharp hills, and the road winds and so on. I take it the tracks would have been some what like that?

A. Yes. They were only dirt tracks in those days. Gravelled roads, no tar at all.

Q. Yes. And tell me is there any more about your father. Were they involved in other activities in the development of Dungog?

A. Yes. My father was a committee man on the A. and H. Association and he didn't take a great deal of interest in public affairs. He was a quiet living gentleman. He died approximately in 19

Q. Is he the person who came from the gold fields?

A. No. This is my father I'm speaking about.

Q. Oh! your father?

- Q. Not my grandfather, my father.
My grandfather is buried in the cemetery
and so is my grandfather. It was
round about 1932. My father died in
the 30's and.
- Q. How long involved in valuing, stock
and station and other activities?
- A. Yes. I'm a registered ~~valuer~~ ^{valuer} for
agricultural lands for New South Wales.
and I'm also a ~~valuer~~ valuer for
commercial properties in four shires
including Gloucester, Great Lakes,
Dungog and Lower Hunter.
- Q. And how did the business start in
the family?
- A. The business started, we traced it back from
the establishment of the Bank of New South
Wales in Dungog, which was approximately
110 years ago. My granduncle Thomas
Barton junior had an account
known as T Barton and Company in
those days.
- Q. And that's when the business started?
- A. It could have started before that, but
that's when we traced it back, recently
from the Bank of New South Wales records.
- Q. I see. How how did it come into the,
by the name of Dellow?
- A. Well my father married Mary Barton
from Glen Williams which was
nearby and it was her uncle - my
granduncle who started this business at
the time.
- Q. And he would have been a Dellow?
- A. No. He was a Barton.

Q. How did the name change to Nelson?

A. Well my grandfather died in approximately 1932, I came to enter the business in 1931, and it went to another T Carlton, T Carlton Junior who was my uncle, from T Carlton Junior went on until the war. After the war, I served in America and England with the Air Force, and I came back and went into the business and it went over to Carlton and Nelson in approximately 1947. And then my uncle retired and it became V.A. Nelson in that year. My two boys went away to boarding school at Waverley College, and when they came home one went to New Zealand for twelve months and the other boy got experience on properties and they both decided to come back into the business and that is how it is now known as V.A. Nelson and Sons, and the two boys being two partners and I was the third partner, and of course now I'm finishing up as at the 30th June this year.

Q. Now once. Where do you travel to to do your stock sales?

A. One sells in Maitland every Monday. The fat cattle pens for the firm of Lee and Lee, he has an interest in that firm. On Wednesday we have an arrangement where our fat cattle, a lot of our fat cattle go to Singleton and we have a tie up there with another firm of Max Farley Pty Ltd at Singleton. We have a fortnightly produce poultry sale every fortnight in our own yards at Dungay. We have our regular fatten store cattle sale on once a month in Shire yards also built by the Shire in Dungay. They were built by the Red scheme, a good new set of yards and we yard every month there, two, three up to five hundred

head of cattle regularly every month.

Q. That's a fair sort of deal, isn't it?

A. Yes.

Q. Twice. Some of my research, I extracted from the Dungog Historical Booklet Number 1 of June 1975, that the village of Dungog, on the upper Williams River, was approved in May 1837 and gazetted in the Government Gazette of 1838, and so that wouldn't have been too long before your forebears first came to the Williams River. What date did he come, again?

A. My grandfather started the firm approximately 110 years ago, from the record we have got from the Westpac Bank now.

Q. Yes, but when did the old fellows from the gold fields come up to?

A. That was my grandfather on the Hillon side who started from the gold fields.

Q. And what, when was that?

A. He came out here when he was seventeen and died at seventy nine years and buried here in the Dungog cemetery.

Q. You haven't got the date he opened up the property?

A. No.

Q. That doesn't matter, that would be not long after that he came out. That would be in the 1840's wouldn't it?

A. I'd say around the 1840's, 1850's. /s

Q. Now, there was a flood in the Williams River in 1857

Q. I've heard the old hands discuss that flood.

Q. Are there any incidents you'd like to relate about it, that you may know of?

A. I've only heard my father speak about it as one of the biggest floods ever recorded on the Williams River.

Q. And did it have any effect on your property?

A. Yes. My father told me that they lost cattle in the flood. They were washed away off the property to Glen William. Some they got back further down the river and others they lost altogether.

Q. That was a great flood I believe?

A. I understand from my relatives it was.

Q. Were you ever involved in Racing. They built a racecourse up here?

A. Yes. I was. I can remember the racecourse built at ^{Tabbal} ~~Blanchard~~ Creek on the MacKay property. The well known family the Mackays, the great racing and polo people and the early settlers of this town.

Q. And I believe there has been some notable people involved. Mackays?

A. Mackays, Bookers, Gaultins are the very old families of this district.

Q. They had some connection with Madap?
/9

- Q. No, not with Phandap. They had some great horses, they had some great horses.
- Q. And they're still going? You were telling me that one of the boys is overseas now.
- A. Yes. He is one of the top players in Australia. He's selected I think as No. 1 player in New South Wales.
- Q. No. 1 Polo player?
- A. The No. 1 Polo player of New South Wales. J. B. Mackay son of J. K. Mackay.
- Q. Do you remember anything about the cedar getters and the saw mills when they originated in the region?
- A. Yes I do. As a matter of fact my father-in-law, when we got married in 1952 gave us a cedar tree, so you can see sitting around that most of the furniture and fittings in this house are all cedar and a lot of it is made out of the cedar that he gave us on our wedding day as a wedding present out of the timber that came off his property at "Dingleburn" at Chesford.
- Q. That's a unique wedding present isn't it?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Was it all dressed or just a tree?
- A. No, he gave it to us all dressed and ready to be made up, dried out, ready for furniture. As we could afford it we got our furniture made out of cedar off my wife's property.
- Q. Wonderful. It's wonderful furniture here. And did any of your family become /10

involved in that. Can you recall any of your grand parents or?

A. My father also had a bullock team and even though we had dairy farms, in the depression, I went away to boarding school in '27, to St Josephs College, Kunturkott, of course yes, money was hard, my father, through timber on his own properties and owning his own bullock team, he used to sell sheep to the Railway Department for five shillings they used to get for a sheep. The cutter would get four shillings my father would get one shilling for cartage plus royalty.

Q. And he supplied the Railway Department for the mainline through here?

A. He, some of them, yes, some of the sheep were supplied by my father and off his own properties. Yes.

Q. I see, but. None of your family were involved in timber getting and all that. They mainly stayed on the land and they were dairy and other produce and all that?

A. And timber, yes. He had his own property and he used to sell with logs to the mills, and as I said, cart the timber to the mills as well. He had his own bullock team, see.

Q. How far would that have been, he'd have to cart them?

A. A big cart them from Glen Keelmain and Brookfield, which is, Glen Keelmain would be twelve miles south of Dungog and Brookfield was about seven miles south of Dungog.

Q. What type of Country was that?

A. It was some river country and some grazing country. Timber was mostly off the grazing country, you'd think, the timbered country and of course they'd cut the well logs out, they'd cut the poles out and you'd cut the electric light poles and telephone poles. They were mainly inbank timbered country.

Q. How many bullocks would he have had in his team?

A. Well they used to go up, 14 to 16 bullocks in a team.

Q. And do you remember them at all?

A. Yes, I do. My father, on his death, we still had the bullock team and sold the team soon after his death.

Q. I see. Did you ever go out on the teams yourself?

A. I used to go out with the driver on numerous occasions and help him, you know, to pick up the sheep and timber as a young boy before I was away to school.

Q. Did you learn anything from them, the Bullockys?

A. I learnt the language they use and they used to use very strong language and they could use the bullock whip as well which they carried a very big bullock whip to make the bullocks do what they required.

Q. That whip would help the language, emphasise the language?

A. That's right, yes.

Q. Vince, you haven't started any today. I want ask you any questions that might embarrass you so that you will start some of your bullokey language but I can imagine it always sticks in your memory, doesn't it?

A. Yes, it does. As a young boy.

Q. And you had brothers and sisters

A. Yes. I had two brothers and one sister.

Q. Did they ever go out on the bullocking with you?

A. Yes. My brothers often went out at different times. They both went away to boarding school and my sister went away to boarding school and my sisters now married and lives in Sydney, one brother deceased and one brother lives on the original property.

Q. Yeah, well you know that's real good experience. I believe Dungeg had quite a few blacksmiths in its time. At one time I understand there were nine in all, blacksmiths operating in Dungeg?

A. Yes. In my time I can remember three and one was Mr Bouths and Mr Redman and Mr Skerres they each had three we used to ride our ponies from Glen Williams to Dungeg to get them shod at these blacksmiths that were operating in Dungeg. There was also a blacksmith at Clarence town and from Glen Williams it was a distance of five miles and of course closer we'd often go to Clarence town to get our horses shod.

Q. And did you have any connection with Tom Bents. I believe he was a very expert man?

A. I knew Tom Bents and his son quite well. They were excellent tradesmen and they're renowned right throughout the district for their workmanship.

Q. They'd have seen here some time in their blacksmithing. Did they ever relate any stories, because people like that have been known to sit around their forge and listen to stories. Did he ever tell you any when you were kid?

A. Well recently I went to the Races at Broadmeadow with Mr Ken Mackay and Mr Eddie Smith on New Year Day. We came back to Mr Mackay's property at ~~General~~^{Fibber} Creek and he showed us a table that was made by Mr Bents and it was a masterpiece. Mr Mackay appreciates the workmanship of this table that he gave him gave his father and he still retains it.

Q. That's great isn't it? Now, were there any - can you recall any Aboriginal tribes up here. Were there any Aborigines living in this region when you were here?

A. Yes, there was one my granduncle had Stephen Carlton, S. J. Carlton, who we've spoken about earlier. Charlie Gernat and he lived with the Carltons for many years and I can remember Charlie quite well living here in Dungeg and I can remember when he died.

Q. Yes. And there were others of the Linghi tribes Linghi G.I.N.G.H.I Tribes. There was a BAWDY and there was Daughtrey Billy. Daughtrey Billy was the last King

and Grandey was the last of the Ringhi's. Did you ever come in contact with them or any of them?

A. No. But the story soon told there was a property called Jack Camp and that was where the Blacks had a camp there and this country is approximately 10 miles east of the Williams River and it's still called Jack Camp and I understand most of the Blacks there were shot and killed on that place.

Q. Were they. By the whites eh?

A. By the whites. Yeah!

Q. That's a shame. And tell me, in your early days did you live on these properties that your dad had. Did you go hunting in the bush for any of the

A. Yes. When I came home from boarding school, St Joseph's, I did a course at Hawkesbury Agricultural College before I came home, and when I came home my father said "There's a property going to be yours over there" It was a dairy farm approximately a mile from our homestead and I used to ride a horse over of a morning and milk the cows by hand, and in the evening the same thing and I lasted one month dairying because I used to come home and I said to my father "I'm going to go to my Granduncle. He's offered me a job and my keep at ten bob a week as his bookkeeping clerk". And my father "Alright, you make up your own mind if you like". I said "I ~~wasn't~~ wasn't cut out for dairying because I just couldn't stand the flies and the smell from the dairy farm."

Q. Ha! Ha! You liked the better life that you

learned in St Joseph's College at Hunters Hill?

A. Yes! Well yes. That's probably one thing he did wrong by sending me away to boarding school instead of coming home to work the properties.

Q. You didn't have any cows to milk or bales to clean down there?

A. In those days of course there were no milking machines, very little hygiene, you had the horse and pail to cart the milk out, the cans to the cream stand, usually about a quarter of a mile or half a mile away from the main road, and

Q. Bales wouldn't be like they are today, they'd be fairly sloppy affairs, wouldn't they?

A. That's right. That was 57 years ago that I came to Bungo. Well I started off as a bookkeeper for my father, my granduncle, and then when he died I got, we used to have District Auctioneers Licence, you'd have, we had another business at Strand which is approximately 12 miles east of Bungo, we had an office there and we had our own paddocks there. In those days of course there was very little transport. It was always by road and the cattle was sold. It was in latter years we played Strand down because motor transport came and the cattle was carted away to Waratah at Newcastle and of course we didn't get the numbers there. For many years we used to have a sale every fortnight at Strand, and at Bungo on Friday. Thursday at Strand and on a Friday at Bungo.

Q. I take it, when you were schooling in Sydney that you had to go down by the primitive transport there, by rail or?

A. By rail. It was 1927, my first year to "St. George's", I was approximately eleven years old then.

Q. Did you ever have to do the trip down through Clarence Town and out through the ocean on the "sixty miles" or the transport there?

A. No, I did. There used to be a boat from Newcastle to Sydney. My father took me back several times on the boat from Newcastle.

Q. What was it like?

A. Well, you'd pick it up around about 8 o'clock at night, 7 o'clock at night, and you'd go to Sydney. You'd sleep in your bunk and you'd. Next morning you'd get off and go to your destination.

Q. Did you have any experiences on those trips?

A. Oh, yes, be'd, no. It was pretty rough, the cabins and you didn't get much sleep on them, it was an experience to go to by water to Sydney.

Q. Were you a good sailor?

A. Yes. A good sailor.

That's good.

He served on a ship across to America during the war and England. I was not ill on any occasion.

Q. And tell me are there any stories you can relate that your grand parents told you about the region here? I know they used to sit down around the fire and tell their grandchildren stories. Are there any you can relate that you would like to let us know as far as the history of Demogog is concerned?

A. Well no. My father used to tell about how his father came out as I've said earlier. How he came out at the age of seventeen and he married Mary. She was also an Irish girl. I understand he was only twenty when he married her and brought her back to the property at Gayfield Glen William.

Q. I see. And what about the Carlton family. They were associated with you, closely?

A. Yeah, my mother was a Carlton and they were a very, very big family the original Carltons. There was seven sons and one daughter. I have the names of them all here and the dates they were born where they were born at. The first Carlton was J. B. Carlton. He was born on 18/10/41.

Q. Forty one?

A. Yes. In 1841. James was born in 1844 Vincent, who was my grandfather who I was called after, was born in '48. Robert 1950, Daniel '52, Stephen '56, Thomas '58, that was the grand uncle, that started our firm, and Augustine '61, Austin '63 and the last one a girl Helena Mary was born on the 18th, 7th, 1871.

Q. And they all resided in this region?

-19-

A. They were all born here. Five of them went to Grafton and Casino and every one of them owned their own property handed down by their fathers.

Q. A lot of property owned by the Carlton and Dillon families?

A. Yes, that's right. Every one of the Carltons had their own property.

Q. How many acres would that tally, do you reckon?

A. Well I wouldn't know exactly what they had at Grafton and Casino Casino, there's still a lot of Carltons still up there.

Q. Make a stab?

A. Well, ah, I would say approximately, between the lot of them, possibly 10,000 acres.

Q. Between the lot?

A. Yeah, that's it

Q. Fair bit of dirt isn't it.

END SIDE A TAPES.

COMMENCE SIDE B TAPES PAGE 20

TAPE 1 SIDE B

This is continuing the interview with Vince Dillon. This is side two of the tape.

Q. Vince, Dungenoo is contained in valleys and hills. What type of situation did Dungenoo develop from. You were mentioning a landlocked town. Can you tell me about that?

A. Yes. Up till after the war Dungenoo was always recognised as a landlocked town because it was held by old citizens who had property handed down to them and of course no outsiders could get in, or movement, because the old hands, because the land was handed down to them, they handed it on to their children and so forth, and Dungenoo both 10 miles north and 10 miles south it was impossible to buy any blocks of land here until after the war. Then there was a bit of movement. The first movement was ~~blareal~~^{Fibber} creek was owned by the late Mr Bob Mackay. Mr Mackay put blareal creek on the market. We thought. I'll never forget at the opening of the sale I said. "Here you are Ladies and Gentlemen, here is an opportunity to buy in a landlocked district, the first subdivision, big subdivision" and how we dead when it went up to auction all the neighbours bought it, including Mr Bob Mackay's brother, who bought the homestead, and there wasn't an outsider allowed in. It was bought by all the adjoining neighbours, or his brothers.

Q. It was a fairly close knit community?

A. Yes, very close community and they kept outsiders out.

Q. Were they a probably bunch of people, 21

in their own rights?

A. Well, they were a loyal bunch of people. The main graziers here were doing business with my granduncle, they did business with my uncle and they've done business with myself and now with my boys and all this business the Mackays, Hookes has been handed down, over the years and they've still retained their business.

Q. And tell me. Would you have any idea of the area, the amount of acres covered in all those areas. Would there be a hundred thousand acres, or?

A. Well, I would only be guessing but the Mackay subdivision would be in the vicinity of the ^{Tabber} ~~Barrow~~ Creek sub-division would be, we spoke of it belonging to the Bob Mackay, the late Mr Bob Mackay, would contain over 3000 acres and that was split up into approximately 8 or 9 blocks of land but it was bought by either the adjoining neighbours or by his own brother.

Q. But apart from that, your forebears properties, the Bartons properties, the Hookes properties a great range around Dungog and would they have run into into thousands of acres?

A. Yes. I would say that the Mackay family would have owned here in Dungog, they would have owned at least 12000 acres of land. The Hookes, the original settlers in Dungog would own, they were the original grantees in Dungog, the Hookes family and oh oh, and they're still here and it's still retained in the families, the bulk of it.

Q. I noticed in the Dungog chronical and

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Umungog and William River Adventurer,
Umungog, Tuesday, June 12, 1880,
There's a photograph here, by the way,
this paper's in very good condition, here's
a photograph here of Mrs. J. K. Mackay,
the first white child born in Umungog
district. Mrs. Mackay was Swiss, the
daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hooke, of
Wiragulla, who came to Australia in
1828. His wife was the first white
woman seen hereabouts. Is there any
history that you can tell me about them?

4. Wiragulla is still retained, a part
of Wiragulla is still retained by the
Hooke family, Mr Charles Hooke, Mr G.
W. Hooke still retains it and a part
of it was only ~~recently~~ recently sold, in
the last 4 or 5 years. It was up for
auction when it made, ah, it made,
ah, a lot of money, there was
approximately 300 odd acres on the river
and 600 acres on the western side of
Umungog, which is first class grazing
land. The river country was first class
alluvial, was a beautiful home, one big
home with several other small homes.
It was bought by a Sydney person. That
was one of the more recent subdivisions
sales taken, took place.

Q. Since. You had quite a bit of activity
with the ~~various~~ various Community
organisations such as Rotary, the Hospital,
the Show Committee and the Rede Committee.
Can you tell me about these organisations,
your association with them. Let's talk
about Rotary first.

A. Slight. Rotary was formed 40 years
ago this year, 40 years, and I was a
foundation member of Rotary, went
through most of the office positions and
am still a member of the Rotary Club of

Munggo and I'm the only original foundation members left.

Q. I see, and what did, what has Rotary done in this area?

A. Rotary's done a lot for the town. Various organisations, the hospital was one of these main projects because at that time the hospital was run by a local board and the board felt if they wanted anything they would write to the Rotary Club and other clubs to get support and financial support.

Q. Yes. And did they do anything around the area. Did they?

A. Yes, they erected tables on the northern side and the southern side little eating houses, you know, for people, travellers, to sit down, and have seats and a fireplace so that they could have a meal on the side of the road. They helped every organisation in the town as a matter of fact, financially.

Q. What about the, your activities with the hospital, Vince?

A. I was on the hospital board for 25 years. I was a Vice-President for a number of years and I was President for one term, and

Q. I understand that they, that in 1985 you were presented with a certificate of service. Can you tell me about that?

A. That's right, yeah. The Regional Office from Newcastle and the Minister for Health, Mr Mulock, at that time came up and presented me with a badge of office for service of 25 years to the hospital board.

Q. That's good. And what were your activities with the Show Committee?

A. Well I was a Committee man for, eh, for many, many years, a life member and served on various sections of the shows which was mainly in the sporting events, ring and fat cattle sections.

Q. And what was the size of the show in the Region here, Vince? We've all seen the Royal Agricultural Show in Sydney and naturally Newcastle show, that's a bit smaller. What was the extent of the show?

A. Well, Dungog show was, eh, of course you'd show your exhibits, there was the best fat cattle possibly on the coast. Dungog was the, renowned as a sporting town which produced some of the greatest horsemen and some of the greatest cricketers of modern times and I was on the RSL Club as a Committee man and we named one of our boys the Dungog Sportsman Club and called after Doug Walters, the great cricketer and we had Kevin Bacon the Olympic jumper who went overseas we had the best polo team in Australia, New South Wales won the Dudley Cup and they won nearly every cup that was possible to win in New South Wales and it consisted of the McLeays, Allansons, of course polo was a very eh, eh, you've got to be well off to play polo because you've got to keep four or five horses in full feed all the time and you've got to travel transport from one place. I can remember the Higgins from Gloucester used to play with Dungog polo and they trucked their horses by rail truck from Gloucester down to Dungog to play

Go on Saturday and Sunday and truck them back by Railway Trucks to Gloucester and this is the the only transport that was on in the early days.

Q. And they would play polo at the show?

A. No, we'd have a polo ground on J. K. Mackay's property, it's known as ~~Gloucester~~^{Tabbel} Creek Polo Club and ah, Mackay's supplied this ground. As a matter of fact they had two grounds and they used to have their carnivals and attract large crowds from surrounding districts, Maitland Newcastle and even Sydney people coming to watch polo here.

Q. Umice. And the Agricultural Shows, would that have been. What would be the extent of the area the people would come to exhibit in. You've mentioned Fat Cattle along the coast area here, would it come from inland and other districts?

A. Well, in those days, in the early part of course transport wasn't as available as it is today. Today we have, we take our stud cattle come from far, near and far, they come from Singleton, they come from as far up the coast as Grafton and right out from Bingara and Banaba. But in the early days of course it was mainly local. Today it has grown into, we would have one of the best stud cattle shows on the coast of New South Wales.

Q. And how many days do you run the show over?

A. Well, up until recently it was

a 3 day show, for many years it was 3 days and then we went back to 2 days, and this year, last year, it was a 3 day show, This year it's cut back to 2 days.

Q. Yes. I see. Fluctuating a bit depending on what's available for exhibit.

A. Yes

Q That's good. And I understand you're with the Rodeo Committee?

A. Yes I was, have for the first

Q Just hang on while we interrupt this. Well, we've had our interruption and we are going to continue discussing the Dillon family. And Vince, just before you go on with the Rodeo I believe your son Paddy is also now on the Board of the Hospital?

A. Yes, yes. See, well it's now taken over by a Regional Committee in which controls Maitland, Singleton and Dungog now.

Q. Good. I just ~~noticed~~ saw it in a paper I was looking at so I thought I'd just throw that in. OK Vince. Just let us go back to the Rodeo. We were going to talk about that.

A Well, when I first came to Dungog the first Rodeo Committee was taken to, was put on. Mr G. B. Walker of Wallarunga, Wallarobba, was the first President and I was just a young lad, come up into the business with my granduncle and I was paid as the clerk. I wasn't the secretary. Mr Dawson, who was 27

manager of the Commercial Bank and Tom Carlton, my uncle, were the two Honorary Secretaries to the first rodeo committee and I was a paid clerk by the committee, to do the books and take the minutes and so forth and so I was here for the first rodeo committee after the war.

Q. And you've been on the committee ever since?

A. Yes, I've been on the committee. I'm now a Patron of the Rodeo Committee.

Q. Is it a big rodeo this?

A. Yes, they run a big rodeo, it's been a very successful rodeo. My son Peter has been President for two years on one occasion and Peter is the announcer for the rodeo and so we are pretty well connected with the rodeo and show.

Q. And what sort of standard is it then, do you get top riders?

A. We get top riders. They come from all over New South Wales and Queensland and they're here for the, it's a, they have anything up to two hundred horses in the stock draft and they have the Buck jumping horses and they have the Bull and riding and all those sporting events and they come from near and far for it.

Q. Are there any incidents you can relate about some of the funny sides of the activities of the show here, the rodeo?

A. Of course the rodeo has plenty of activities here some of the thrills and spills. These young fellows of today

they're as game as Ned Kelly was. They'll get on any part of a horse or any part of a bullock and you'll see them, why they don't more get killed that there is I don't know. They have youth on their side and they can take the bumps. They certainly entertain the public.

Q. That's fine. The next thing we want to do is to get on to some sporting activities. Now you were a young fellow going to St. Joseph's and you played football down there. Did you continue on your football and other activities when you came home to Dungeg?

A. Yes I did. I said earlier in the piece that I played with Clarence Town. As you recall I had to change over from Union which, G.P.S. plays Union, had to change over when I came back to Dungeg and played for Clarence Town had to change to League and I played for four or five seasons and then I gave it up because, er, in our game, Auctioneers, it was working Mondays a week in those days and it was a job to get off on a Saturday and often we'd have jobs on a Saturday. It was pretty hard to get away on the weekend.

Q. And you'd travel a fair distance to play Rugby League?

A. Yes. We used to go right down to Kurri, Bessonek, Morpeth, Maitland and we used to go even to Tea Gardens and right over on the coast. There would be probably eight or nine teams in the competition.

Q. And did your Dungeg team do any good at all?

A. Clarence Town, I was playing with. Clarence Town is a town closer to Glen Williams than Dungeg and that's why I played with them. Yes, we did, we won the competition. I was a captain and I was vice captain for a number of years, of the Clarence Town football team.

Q. And what was the boys like. Did they have a bit of fun on the game, on trips?

A. Oh yes we used to. When we'd go south of course there was a little place called Seaham. It had a hotel and it was halfway between Clarence Town and Maitland and of course on the way back we'd probably be a little bit late. We'd be travelling in a Pagan calf lorry. It would cart pigs, probably the day before, and of a Monday probably take the pigs and calves to Dungeg or Maitland to the sales and they'd hose it out and put peats in it and that was our way of transport and on the way home of course we'd be passing this pub at Seaham and the Stokes would want to pull up and the driver was a non-drinker and of course he'd be speeding up and the boys would throw some of their gear out or their hat out and of course the driver would have to pull up to get their gear or their hat and of course once we got into the pub well he'd have a job to get us out.

Q. And would you miss the truck?

A. Numerous. Yes numerous times he'd go without us, of course he'd get tired of waiting for us, and we'd have to get a car to take us back to our destination back home.

Q Good. I've also played cricket, and you know I've had some good cricketers up here. Tell us a bit about your sporting activities.

A Well, I played cricket with Dungeg A Team for four or five seasons and of course you know that Douggie Walters came from Dungeg. He was on a dairy farm at Black Camp.

Q. Black Camp. That's the place you were telling me about earlier in the interview?

A. Yes that's right. He was on a dairy farm for P.J. Farrell Proprietary Limited. They are Timber Merchants at Newcastle, they're still trading as P.J. Farrell Pty Ltd, Ball Street, Newcastle, and they still own the property that Doug Walters' father was share farming on.

Q. Did you see much of Doug at all?

A. I saw a lot of Doug Walters and he married a local girl, a local family girl here. He was a school teacher. I knew her and knew her family and knew Doug and his family quite well. We did business with them and he was a delightful fellow. I even went down to the, when he retired, to his breakfast at the Spenser, Sports Ground actually and really enjoyed his company.

Q. He was a great Australian representative wasn't he?

A. He was, yes, and I, well, I think I said earlier we thought so much of Doug we called a pavilion here after him "The Doug Walters Pavilion" and we also have the "Doug Walters Bar" 124

The RSL Club, also known as, called after him.

Q. That's fine. Just getting back to the Carlton family, oh, Jim Carlton would have been related to you. Jim Carlton the Australian Champion Sprinter?

A. Yes. He was a cousin of my mother, second cousin and therefore he would have been a third cousin to me. But Jim Carlton. I knew him very well. He spent most of his holidays at Glen William and he used to come up and spend most of his holidays with us. Nothing pleased him more than to get on a horse and ride around the relations, the other Carlton families and visit them and he was the idol among the relatives and an idol as far as the public of Dunoon was concerned because he spent so much time here with us.

Q. And this would have been some years ago. This would have been what year?

A. Yes. He was in his final year at Jeys when I went there in 6th Class, and he was a second father to me. He looked after me having been up home with my elder brother who was also at Jeys, oh, he'd come home with him for a holiday and of course I got to know him personally when I went to school as a young boy of eleven years old and of course Jim looked after me and he was the idol of the school at that time.

Q. Well it's a small world Vince, because I know Jim Carlton fairly well. As a matter of fact my first girl friend, oh way back in the early 1930's

Lived next door to Jimmy Carlton and when he was racing at the Sydney Cricket Ground, as an Australian Champion and World Champion, sprinter, I used to go along and watch him and I used to go and talk to him from my girl friends place next door, and those days he lived down in Anzac Parade fourth Kensington. Just near where the South Sydney Junior Rugby League Club is now.

A. I can recall seeing him play for New South Wales football. He was a winger, a very good winger and very fast winger and if they gave him the ball there was no chance of catching Jimmy.

Q. That's right. He later became a priest.

A. That's right, he did.

Q. That was as the result of certain activities about his sprinting, his running.

A. Yes. He joined the Priesthood and later left the Priesthood and married. One of the broadcasters now, one of our great broadcasters is his son and

Q. Do you know if he's still alive?

A. No. Jim Carlton ended up a Teacher at Banker College and he died of an Asthma attack some years ago.

Q. Oh yes! I see this piece of paper here that I have he died on 5th April 1951 from a severe Asthma attack.

A. That's right. That's a shame.

Q. Ah, Umce. You've been associated with stock yards and sales of cattle and that sort of thing for many many years. There must have been some people in your association who were quite characters. Can you tell me about some? I believe you know Jack Martin, you know a lot about him?

A. Yes. Jack Martin is a grazer at Munderai. Munderai is half way between Dungog and Gloucester. It was only a fortnight ago that he sold his property, as a matter of fact. Three hundred odd acres for \$348,000.

Q. And were there any?

A. And he has now bought a small property close handy to Dungog with a new home on it so that he doesn't have to drive the long distance. Jack is a great sportsman, a great horse-man. He's a great bowler and a great golfer. You name it in the sports world and Jack Martin is part of it.

Q. And were there any incidents you'd like to talk about with the sales?

A. Yes. We've had some funny times. Jack Martin with Ken Mackay here as you know was Vice President of the Royal Agricultural Show in Sydney and Ken Mackay had the selection of the Judges for stock drafting and Jack Martin, he selected him for one year and Jack had a little bit too much to drink and instead of judging the events he took after the bullock himself, at the Royal show, and Mr Mackay had the unfortunate pleasure of sticking him

and Jack took it all in good sport and Mr Mackay was only feeling we the other night he sacked him and put him back on and Jack and he are very great mates of similar ages and are great competitors in the show ring.

Q. And what about Mick Cooke's involvement?

A. Mick Cooke of course was one of the top polo players. He used to play back for the polo teams here. Mick always rode a very big horse, he was a fearless picker. In the early days when the Munnies from Horse were the Kings of Polo, Wiragulla took them on and done them. It was through the two Mackays and Mick Cooke but it was their horsemanship and horses that proved too good for the Munnies of Horse.

Q. I see. And tell me, there are some more characters around the town that I hear you tell stories about. What about Bob Adoon?

A. Well Bob Adoon was an Indian who had a property at Ward's River close to Dungeg and we used to have this fortnightly sale at the end of a Thursday. Bob would drive down in his horse and pulley and of course the boys, in the early part of the war in the fortys and fifties. I didn't go away until us. Bob Adoon would go up, he'd bring the Curry and lice and the cattle dealers from around Newcastle and Maitland they'd bring the Rom pie, and they'd get to the hotel and they'd have lunch and the punny. I never heard of it before. Some of them would get very sick and

of course Greg was very hard to get and these blokes had ways and means of getting it from the city and they'd bring it up and have a day out. One instance, Bob Adson, with his horse and pulky. He left it up at the sale yards. He used to travel up with us up to the hotel while we had lunch. And these characters got the horse one side of the two rail fence and put the pulky the other side see. When we came along Mr Adson is sitting on the pulky trying to get the horse to go but unfortunately, as you can see the rails were in between so my uncle Tom Carlton said we were have to do something about it so we had to unhook the horse, bring it around into the yard and get Bob mobile again. But these were the stunts these blokes would get up to. Another day Bob asked the buyers to bring him up a bottle of gin for they, five of them used to travel in the one car because petrol was short during the war. On the way up they drank the bottle of gin and when they got up there they filled it up with water of course and closed it up again. When they got to the sales Mr Adson the Indian came along and said to Fred Lance Farley, who was a cattle buyer "Did you bring the gin up, Lance". He said "yes, I've got it here in my pocket." So he gives it to him and old Bob preads around right up the back yard and he has a nip, and of course it's water. Back he comes back to Lance Farley and he said "you broad robber. I pay you money you drink the gin and I've got water". And there was hell to play about it. But these are the things that went on during the early part of the war.

Q But what about Frank Hill and
 Wal Bruce. There's a few stories
 there you'd have a story to tell about?

A. Frank's hill was a cattle dealer
 who used to come up with the other
 fellows and he used to drink a fair
 bit. Of course Frank did in those
 days but he's still alive living at
 Lorn in Maitland. He doesn't drink
 at all now. But he still laughs and
 giggles about the instances they used
~~to get~~ to have to travel by punt from
 Raymond Terrace across to Millers
 Forest and this night they got, of
 course they had a few drinks and they
 were a bit wazy, they got out and
 got on a sand bank and couldn't
 shift. They had to stay and wait for
 the tide, it was something up to 6
 or 7 hours before they could get off
 the sand bank to get home, then they'd
 come back the next day, up to Dungog,
 Stearny eyed, and back into the cattle
 game again and the same thing
 would happen again. They, after
 the sale of course they'd get up to the
 local pubs and they'd be up to all
 sorts of tricks. But Walley Bruce
 owned the Gosford Abattoir. First of
 all he owned about 6 or 7 Butcher
 shops around Gosford and Wyong and
 the council there had a killing works.
 The council in their judgement
 ordered him to build up an Abattoir
 because Walley had to borrow the
 money from the Westpac Bank and
 now the Bank of New South Wales as it
 was in those days and he had to borrow
 money then from the Jews at an
 extortional rate and he used to sell
 anything up to a 100 a 100 fat cattle
 a week and I wouldn't know how
 many sheep and he had a way

flourishing business but with the high
 taxation and probably bad management
 — END OF SIDE B' TAPE NO 1

SIDE 'A' TAPE NO 2

This is No 2 Tape of an interview
 with Vince Dillon, held at Dunfermline
 on the 6th July 1989. We will now
 commence continuing the interview.

- Q. Vince. We were talking about what
 Bruce and the last tape finished
 we got to the stage where he was
 going broke. Will you carry on
 from there please?
- A. Yes. Wally was a terrific business
 man, game as Ned Kelly, and a
 probably this was one of his faults,
 he was too game. His property
 was put into the receiver's hands and
 it was sold and bought by Charles
 David Pty Ltd, who recently, or
 sometime ago sold it to Metro Meats
 and at the present time it is closed
 down at the present time.

Q. Well now, are there any other
 background activities that you can
 recall?

A. Yes, well, I'd like to tell you about
 the biggest clearing out sale I ever conducted.
 It was at Glen Innes. It was on behalf
 of Dr J.J. McEwen a well known sporting
 identity. He was Jimmy Cameron's
 manager, you might remember.
 He owned numerous hotels and
 numerous shops and he was a
 doctor of medicine, and he bought a
 large property at Glen Innes. He
 had some 5000 sheep, he had an
 Aberdeen Angus stud, he had ducks,

on a pond, he had turkeys, he had geese, he had farming machinery and he had called a public auction sale and being a friend of Dr. McEun's he invited me to be the auctioneer for the sale and I started at half past eight in the morning and I with the sheep that I knew nothing about but the farmer and Grayson who was also co-agent in the sale, their agent stood alongside of me and gave me the values of the sheep and I struggled through that then we went on to the Aberdeen Angus stud, the machinery and the ducks on the pond, the turkeys, you name it and he had it and we ended up selling at nine o'clock at night the furniture in the house and I'll never forget a kerosene refrigerator made fifty pounds (£50.) and I never saw a larger crowd at a sale in my life.

We had to rope the people off cause Doctor was a great advertising man. He believed in advertising and he had it in every paper and on every wireless and T.V that was on in those days and it was the biggest sale that I ever had.

And I'll never forget, at nine o'clock he said to me, "Vince, I think we'll get moving, there's going to be some trouble about the delivery of the, he said the local agents got to give delivery, he said they're out there having trouble getting the ducks off the pond he said I think we'll leave and get away, out of the place and let Ken, the local agent, take his place. I held Ken from early morning till late at night and never pulled a break and didn't even knock off for lunch and it was the largest auction sale, beef cattle, sheep and farm machinery that I ever conducted in my 57 years in the business.

Q. It's good to have good memories like that. Doctor McCune. I see there's a paper here, on him. "Betty Doctor who loves Bush Leeks".

A. That's right, that's him, and a great friend of mine.

Q. And also, he was with boxing legend Vic Patrick. I used to go and watch Vic Patrick fight.

A. And he was the manager of Jimmy Cannithers, our world champion. He took him, I am told, he used to tell the story, Bill Bennabery, whose brother has got a Jewellery shop in Dungeg, the Bennaberys were great fighters and I can tell a funny story about the Bennabery family. They were here when the dam went in, the first Bichester Dam, and the pipeline was coming, their father was an engineer and of course these fellows were great spenders. They got apparently big money in those days and they used to spend up big. I know a local priest who used to have a mass up at the Wanga dam and he said he'd go up there of a Sunday to say mass and he, he said they were all "two bobbers". He said come to Dungeg and Clarence Town, they sits and jacs, he said. I'll never forget Bill Bennabery. came back one Sunday and he said the old priest was there, Ah, you give well, he was an Irishman you used to give well when you were working at the dam, he said you were the two bobbers" and all the wealthy ones around Dungeg and Clarence Town were "treys" and "jacs".

Q. It's a funny thing. When I arrived in Dungeg this morning I stopped to ask a Chappie a question, and as

It popped out of my ear there on the road was a 5" piece so that one of them come boys over the bar in town. They're mixed out. It's like if some cut me.

Well, these Brown boys - living in Bungo. He lives only down below my house here and he and his daughters got the Jewries shop and they had the party you're in Bungo and they thought so much of it they decided to come back. That used to manage hates actually and he's never had a smoke or a drink in his life.

This is the boundary the boxes?

Yes.

I used to go to the Hyamery Station and bet for him box with Vic's Ricket too. Used to do a lot of, used to spend a lot of time down at the station there I worked in the city at the time, in Hyamery. It's from London, and observing them fighting. Carry on with your conversation.

Yes, well that was in Rothery and one night he gave us a talk on boxing and of course he said, I think he said there were his boys in the family or seven boys in the family and he was the only one that was, you know, who was learning any ^{sort of} boxing and he used to go into the ring he said to win and he always backed himself and he said 'if I couldn't win there would be a place he said and he said the was because all bets off he said so he's a character I can tell you that's well on the way. Oh, his greatest friend here Ken Mackay has told me he and these were tops

mates and still are Top mates.
 Every polo function and I meet there
 with Ken Mackay.

Q It's wonderful to see an Australian sporting identity like Frank Hemmings still living around in any area where he's respected. I used to see all of those fellows fight and I often wondered what happened to them, but it's lovely to hear about him again. Being over seventy myself

A Well he's still in business here and conducts a very nice business. He's got a nice home and he's a nice fellow with it. Never had a smoke, never had a drink in his life.

Q I'll tell a lot of my friends, whom I talk to about those old days, just how he is going. That's fine information. How about some more of your anecdotes and your memorabilia, like that.

A Well, since the war we've had I think nearly every big subdivision that's taken place in Oungah which has been a very good omen for the trusteeship of the vendors who have entrusted us with the sales we've had. The Abbott family subdivision. We've had the Richardson subdivision. We've had the, by the way my wife is a Richardson, who come from "Bingleburn" near Lanesford. So we have, she has got her father's original property which was an original grant to the Richardson family. and I might add at this junction, having sent four kids away to boarding school, without their help, financial help if my wife they wouldn't have got the schooling they get, and I owe her

a very great debt of gratitude to her. We bought a lot of property, we conducted our places pretty successfully and as I'm now retiring it's a great pleasure to be able to hand over some of our property to our boys.

Q. That's a wonderful thing. I met your boys today and they're fine fellows, Vince. And tell me, this house you're living in, or should I call it a home, it's big enough to be called a home, Vince. It's an old place?

A. Yes. It was built by a Hoke named ~~Wentworth~~^{Coltson} but owned by the Mackay family. We bought it nearly 40 years ago off Donald Mackay, D. P. Mackay, who was at one time Mayor of the Town. It was built, I understand, around about the 1840's. One of the original houses, older houses in Dungenoo and it's built just on the outskirts of Dungenoo. It's in the Rural Rate. The front fence of our home is in the division between the Rural and City. We have 2 acres with the house and, and we're very fortunate for it to be in the Rural Rate but we still have, sewerage, water power and Rural Rating system.

Q. Have you had to do much to the house in the time that you've owned it. - expanding?

A. Yes. We, when we came here I bought it without my wife having a look at it. She knew the position of the house but it was run down. There was probably 5 or 6 fire places in it and there was only two left. With beautiful marble fire places had been pulled out and cupboards

Put inside them, which made it depreciated the home a lot. It was neglected and we got builders in. We converted them into decent, ah, decent fire places. We've got two open fire places in it. We have extended another flat into it with ah, tried to, our level best to, with an architect, to match the old joint which we have done a mighty job and there's only my wife and self living in it.

Q. It commands a wonderful view doesn't it. You're right on top of the hill?

A. Yes. I think we might be the highest point in Dungog which is a very hilly area. The town sweeps into an egg shape place and we're right on ^{the} top of the hill.

Q. Well, you describe it after all the time your family has been living here. Are there others of these older families representatives still living here?

A. Yes. The Mackay family, as I said, ~~they~~ they're the original white people that came here. The Mackays, the Bookers, the Charltons and they're still, they're still got interests all around here.

Q. That's wonderful. And now, is there anything else you can bring to mind that you can tell me, any stories from your family's background? We've been on the lighter side of things, ~~was~~ Now we might keep that going because they're things that if you don't tell me we're not going to know about it. The world is not going to know about it.

A. Well, I need to go to the Royal House.

Mr Ken Mackay made me a member of the R.A.S. when he got on the Committee. That was over 25 years ago, 25 probably, because we got in at half past 11 now from last year, we are old fellows. And he made three of his next members with me.

All three of us are still alive, thank the Good Lord, and we get half past 11 to the R.A.S. House because we've soon members for our 25 years, it is, anything 25 years that when we used to go to Sydney, before I was married, Ediepink, a good mate of mine, we would go down, we'd go into the members' tent. We was one Ken made a member too. And we'd be in the Grandstand and Mr Mackay would say "How many have you got with you?" Oh, he say "I would be about 8 or 9 about 20 nights, we'd be out at the Show. He say "Eight: "Bring them into the Banquet Room" He said.

And there have characters here. Jack Abbott was a great friend. Went on seas in the Army with Mackay.

He said to Jack Abbott this night, he said "How there it is, the Banquet Room. He

All the frog and all the food" He said "Get into it, and don't say she never brought for you fellows in my life." We stayed there until about one o'clock in the morning. Jack said "How are we going to get home from here?" "Walk you bastards" (laughter)

A Where did you have to go to from the R.A.S.

A Into the Carlton Hotel, Carlton Race Hotel.

A Or the Battersleigh Street?

A In Battersleigh Street. I know

that there was an R.A.S. car out there waiting for us and Mackay was staying at the old Australia Hotel which was nearly directly opposite, and eventually Abbott came out and he said "Well, isn't it bloody great, one o'clock in the morning and we've got to bloody walk about seven miles". "Yes and get going" said Mackay. He walked to the gates and along we came. "Would you like a lift" in the big limousine. We put him in and Mackay said "Now you've got to shout when we get into town". Of course the pubs where we were staying were open all night. We took him in and he stayed there until about 4 o'clock with us and he walked across to the Hotel Australia. He'd have to be out there next morning at the Show Ground at 6 o'clock and he'd be there and carry out his duties as Ring Master and there's no doubt in the wide world and he's a great man Ken Mackay. We're still great mates. I was only talking to, he's had some big operations recently but he's still surviving. As a matter of fact we had a truck of Usabins at Singleton Sale ^{for him} yesterday.

Q They bred them tough in those days didn't they?

A. Yes. They did.

Q. On good rum and good grog

A. Yeah! And another one. We'd go to the races of course on the Saturday and ~~next~~ ^{the} Monday and Jack Martin and his mate, they had their wives with them this day. Eddie Smith and I are there. We

always used to go down and stay together and play together. Jackie and his mate, they had two girls in at the bar and they had their sewer outside see, under the fig tree there, you know we weren't members of the A.I.C.

And I said to Eddie. "We're going to have a bit of fun with this fellow" they're trying to play the ball, see. So Eddie said "Alright, I'll go in and talk to the girls at the bar" see because one of the Jackie Martin would go in and talk to the girls and he'd have to come back out and see the wife, and at any rate by the time we talked to the girls and said to them "What about coming to dinner tonight?" We had the two man well under control. So yes, the two girls came to, the two nice girls from Morse, they were. We were just going up the steps to the Hotel Australia when in comes Martin and his mate. "Yes you bastard, you took our girls." (laughter) But Eddie and I we only did it as a joke.

But another day I was walking in the Sydney Show Ground as it was, the Carlton Hotel, or the Carlton Hotel as it was known as and a lady standing there she recognised me. Blaw Dempsey's wife who was an auctioneer at Fleming's Lake's yard, and Mrs Dempsey said to me "Are you going out to the Show, Vince?" And I said "Yes." "Oh" she said "We'll share a cab". I said "Right to," and so out to the Show Ground we went about 3 o'clock in the evening. I paid for the cab naturally, seeing the man, always paid. I said to her "Here Jackie Martin coming. I want to have a little joke" so I gather by the arm I said and going past and Jackie said "Caught you at last you bastard"

He said "I've been trying, waiting years to catch you" he said. (laughter)

Q. Dating some other woman?

A. Yes. I might add that was before I was married.

Q. Well. Yes. Quite a young blade?

A. Yes!

Q. A country blade. Did you wear the big, the big rimmed hats in those days?

A. Yes. But we were play boys. Our life as auctioneers has been pretty hard and I must say many a night I should have been home and I wasn't because we used to never drink before 5 o'clock but after five we'd have a few drinks. And another incident I used to do Mr Buffins work who was one of the largest cattle dealers in New South Wales, if not Australia. He lived in Maitland and I used to buy a new Chev car every year to drive him, that is soon after the war, that he'd give me all his business west of Maitland that would be to Scone, Scone to Manabui, Mowee right to the border, ^{probably} and we'd go up there on a Tuesday, we'd do sales on a Wednesday Thursday and probably come back Friday. And it would be nothing for me to start at twelve o'clock at night to get to those sales at Mowee the next day and he really helped me to progress after the war. I can assure you he was a very great friend. It was a friendship that my sister set up with his daughter, he only had the one daughter plus two boys but she, Buffins daughter

and my sister went to school together and we used to visit one another and when I come back from the war, well, wanted to help me. I came back in 1946 from England and I can assure you without his help I wouldn't be where I am today.

Q. That's fine Bruce. Oh, I used to play golf at Maitland Golf Club with a stroke named Brian Duffie. Yes. Would that have been?

A. Brian Duffie was a brother.

Q. Oh. He was a brother not a son?

A. No. He was a brother, a solicitor, and as a matter of fact when ~~brother~~ Duffie died and Brian Duffie, and he's still alive today, did his estate, ^{his enormous estate} Duffie would buy cattle in Queensland, probably sell them and buy them back again by the time they got to Maitland three or four times and that's how he got, he used to buy most of his cattle through Dalgetys who would finance him probably in Queensland. His drovers would bring them along probably 100 miles by road and he'd sell them, they come further down a couple of, he might buy them back again and that went on and we'd take him out to Scone and he owned half the yarding of the cattle for sale at Scone for sale. What he didn't own he'd buy in and there used to be another dealer at Dungog named Bill Wood and while Duffie would know he had a train already booked to go to Victoria see and Duffie would say to me "Bruce, we'll take our profit at Scone. He can have it at Victoria" see and he done all the cutting, he'd run up the ~~reserve~~ reserve price. What

What he thought they were if they didn't reach the reserve price the Auctioneer knew to knock them down to Carlton and Willow, that's how, and he'd take them back home probably or he'd go on to another market, bring them on to Maitland, sell them there see and Buffier was a very very able, smart and capable man.

Q. Vance, what was the purpose and can you explain how he would profit in bringing them down, selling them, and taking them further along and buying them back again?

A. Well, the person would be, first of all, probably, the weather conditions would have a lot and the feed would have a lot, he'd move them on from Queensland down on to the border and probably at Moree, the feed a bit luscious, people were chasing cattle, right, he'd sell them there. Then probably a buyer owned some country at Maitland and he'd take them over and bring them on, probably to, well suggest, say Scone and Buffier would buy them back again at Scone. They'd probably gone off, see, and they wanted to get rid of them here because of the feed situation, he'd buy them back and move them further on or he might truck them at Scone and send them on to Victoria, rail truck them to Victoria. But he was a mighty man.

Q. And each time he would do this he would make a profit?

A. Oh yes and probably with the finance Dalgies were getting their profit commission all the time 52

and of course they wanted to turn them over as often as they could on the trip so that they would ^{be} getting commission on every sale that took place.

Q. Is this where wheeling and dealing first got its name?

A. I would say it was part of it.

Q. And how much would the cattle be selling for, a head, in those days?

A. Well it varied. Of course today cattle is the ~~dearest~~ dearest I've ever seen them in my 57 years. They're of course bringing enormous prices. It's nothing for a bullock fat bullocks today bringing up to \$900 a head, fee. Vealers bringing \$500 \$600 which was unheard of in those days. Still, a bullock in those days, if you got £12, £12 for them and sold them probably for £15.

Yes I can remember some very big subdivisions sales I've been connected with over the years since the war. One was "Actancany", Jim Cameron, and "Underbank". They were all subdivision sales, and the Cameron family had been here for many, for generations. We never thought that they'd ever subdivide. Today there's not a Cameron left here, and they've all sold out, the three boys, and gone to new pastures. Two have died and Ian Cameron still alive over at, he's over the range with a property, and numerous other subdivisions sales have taken place more so in recent times. Properties have gone up in value, especially drungog properties. A property today would be bringing a

a thousand dollars, a grazing property bringing a thousand dollars an acre probably. In those early days after the war you'd be lucky if you got £15, £10 to £15 an acre for it. I'll give you an idea of the values that land in our Bungoq district has gone to.

Q. All right Vince. Well we've gone quite a way now. An hour and a half or so. That's quite a session. Is there anything else you'd like to possibly wind up with, or do you think we could go on for a quarter of an hour more?

A. Oh, well. There's a cutting here I've got out of the paper about a character writing in the Bungoq Chronicle. My wife had acquired a property, her father's property of some 2000 acres at "Bingleburna", halfway between Bungoq and Guesford, on the western side and there used to be only a pack route across there. You could get a four wheel drive across. This character wrote an article in the local rag about how we were going to get a road there and he named some of the characters that would help to form it. And he said Vince Wilson agreed to work with a wheel barrow to help build this road across to his wife's property, or past his wife's property to Guesford. Today there's a brand new road through there, tarmac, and it's a very scenic drive. It was put in by, it didn't cost the rate payers any money at all. It was a developmental road the Government supplied all the money

and today it's a very very pretty drive. It's 14 miles drive from Dunning to Presford. All fanned and if you're ever going through I think the trip is worth while.

I'm going back through that way, today. I came up from Paterson and I'll go back down through the Presford Road. It's a long time since I've been there and I forget what it's like. Vance, I think will stop here now, for the time being, and after the break if you think of anything else we might put it on tape. We'll have a listen to what's going on. Thank you very much Vance Dillon.

Thank you very. It's a pleasure to tell you some of the antiques of the past.

I would now like to introduce Mrs Lucy Dillon, wife of Vance. Mrs Dillon has a couple of connections, after listening to the tape, which she may record.

Mrs Dillon I would just like to connect these two matters. My father's property was not a grant. It was selected around 1870 in 40 acre lots for which they paid £10 per acre. The other thing. This house in which we are now living was not built by a man called Balton. It was built, we believe, by a doctor McKellop and named after Balton Hill which is a hill overlooking Scotland in Edinburgh.

Well now that's fine. That just

Keeps the record straight. Because generally this taping is for historical purposes and for historical purposes we need to be correct.

Miss Dillon. Yes. That's correct.

The little anecdotes on the side are all tributes to the Dillon family and their friends and people who they know. So this is a very, a very good, we've had a very good day. And I'd like to thank you both of you for allowing me to come here, and I hope to see you again in the future. Thank you very much.

Appendix THE DILLON FAMILY TREE.

THE DILLON FAMILY TREE

THOMAS DILLON (1819-1898)
MARY DILLON (1831-1897)

THOMAS DILLON (1862-1936)
MARY DILLON (CARLTON) (1884-1961)

MARY ANN DILLON
STEPHEN S. CARLTON

NICHOLE DILLON
BUDGET DILLON (FOLEY)

THOMAS DILLON
MONICA DILLON (GENKIG)

MARY DILLON
GEORGE DAWBERTY

VINCENT A. DILLON (1915-)
LUCY DILLON (RICHARDSON)

RAYMOND DILLON
ZOE DILLON (BILCHAK)

PETER DILLON
SULIA JANE DILLON (KAYOLE)

JUDITH MARIA DILLON
JOHN WINDINGTON

PADDY DILLON
ANN DILLON (BRON)

LUCY BERNADETTE DILLON

ALEXANDRA WINDINGTON

EDWARD WINDINGTON

PHILIPPA DILLON

FELICITY DILLON

LOUISA DILLON (D)

SUSANNAH DILLON