

Summary of Doug Biddle interviewing Mrs Poole.

Mrs Poole was born in 1904, she lived as a little girl on a dairy farm on the banks of the Hunter River, in the Raymond Terrace area. She remained on dairy farms after she married until being wiped out by floods in 1955. She helped with the hand milking of the cows morning and evening from the time she was a little girl until 1953 when they had use of milking machines. The milk went to the Raymond Terrace Dairy Products Co op. at Raymond Terrace. When the Co op. moved to Hexham and became the Oak Factory the milk went there. The milk was collected by contractors on horse drawn wagons or by boat and taken to the factory.

She walked a mile and a half to school at Raymond Terrace. There were three classrooms and three teachers a Raymond Terrace and about one hundred children attended the school when she was there. After leaving school she did not enter paid workforce and cannot remember any of her girlfriends entering the paid workforce. She stayed on and helped out around the farm.

Mrs Poole can remember boats bringing groceries and goods from Newcastle to Raymond Terrace and on to Clarencetown, and the unloading and loading of goods on the wharves at Raymond Terrace. She remembers the post office and shops of Raymond Terrace in her childhood, she told of trips to Newcastle to buy clothes and other goods, travelling by car to Hexham, crossing the Hunter River by punt and then catching a train to Newcastle. She told of punts instead of bridges at Hexham, Raymond Terrace and Nelson's Plains.

Mrs Poole told of becoming a widow in 1953 and then two years later loosing all of her belongings and farm in the floods af 1955. She lost all her cattle as well as personal possessions, photos, papers and the water level was 5' 8" deep inside her house on high blocks. After the floods she sold the farm and moved to Raymond Terrace.

She began working as a cook at the Clare Castle Hotel at Raymond Terrace and stayed at the hotel. She worked full time cooking three meals a day for boarders of the hotel as well as lunches for up to seventy

passengers of busses when they called for lunch. She enjoyed her work and had a good working relationship with her employer. She later worked as housekeeper - cook at the Windsor Castle Hotel at East Maitland. She also looked after children while working as a cook in the hotel.

Mrs Poole has seen many changes in her lifetime. Milking machines, replacing the hand method, bridges replacing punts, cars replacing horses and sulkys, refrigerators taking the place of ice boxes and drip cupboards. Changes also to schooling and the education system and even Raymond Terrace growing from a pioneering town with a few shops and houses to what it is like today.

DOUG BIDDLE INTERVIEWING MRS LINDA POOLE.

SUNDAY 21st AUGUST 1988

EMERSON STREET, BERESFIELD.

This is Doug Biddle talking to Mrs Poole in the lounge room of her home, Emerson Street Beresfield. Sunday 21 st August 1988.

Q. Mrs Poole, when were you born, nineteen?

A. 1904.

Q. 1904 and you grew up on a dairy farm, that right?

A. Dairy farm all my life, I lived on a dairy farm.

Q. Yes, Do you remember much about the farm before you went to school?

A. Yes I, well, I really didn't have to help on the farm but I helped with the milking.

Q. When you were a little girl?

A. Yes as a little girl. Yes we used to go to school, walk a mile and a half each way every day to school.

Q. Walk a mile and a half to school?

A. Yes.

Q. When you went to school, where di you go to school?

A. Raymond Terrace.

Q. Raymond Terrace?

A. yes.

Q. Who worked on the farm, your fathers farm, when you were a little girl?

A. My father and my brothers.

Q. Your father and your brothers?

A. Yes that was all really.

Q. Yes, he never hired any help or anything?

A. No he never hired any help. No.

Q. No it was just a family concern?

A. Yes.

Q. You used to help with the milking?

A. Yes, morning and evening, and had to be home from school in time too.

Q. You couldn't get kept in late from school?

A. No.

Q. That's good, and you had to walk to school, there were no buses of course in those days?

A. No. There was nothing in those days if you got a lift you were lucky.

Q. You were telling me you used to have floods and everything?

A. Yes we had floods there but our house was on a hill, and we had the hill to bring the cattle on, but that like only affected the cultivation. But I went to school, when it was high, they'd row us across in the boat. My brother and father would and then when it got down that they could walk across they'd take us across in the wheelbarrow, so we never missed any school.

Q. No?

A. And they'd then be there to meet us of an afternoon coming home.

Q. What river was that Mrs Poole?

A. The Hunter River, it was like a creek that ran through, around our property and it used to flood when the Hunter River would flood, and the river would flood.

Q. Your creek would flood through the Hunter River?

A. Yes

Q. Yes, and you used to have to go across that to school?

A. Yes.

Q. Yes, there was a bridge across it normally was there?

A. There was a bridge across but that would be covered.

Q. I understand.

A. But they built that road up higher now so it doesn't flood.

Q. Where exactly was that?

A. At Raymond Terrace, Kinross Estate, Raymond Terrace.

Q. Between Raymond Terrace and Heyham was it?

A. Yes opposite the masonite.

Q. What happened to the milk from your dad's farm?

A. How did it get to the factory?

Q. Well it went to the factory did it?

A. Yes.

Q. That was Raymond Terrace Dairy Products Co. Op.?

A. Yes, they shifted it from Raymond Terrace, the factory, to Hexham and they had horse drawn wagons to take the milk down to the factory.

Q. Oh yes.

A. And they got from there to trucks.

Q. The Factory was at Raymond Terrace originally?

A. It was at Raymond Terrace but that's been left Raymond Terrace for a long time.

Q. Yes a long time. Did the people come around to each farm and pick up the milk or something or did you have to?

A. Yes the horse drawn wagons used to.

Q. Yes?

A. Yes it was a contract.

Q. Yes and do you remember as a little girl anything about the river boat trade at Raymond Terrace?

A. I can remember the boats going from Newcastle to Raymond Terrace and up to Clarencetown. They used to bring the groceries up, all sorts, different things.

Q. They'd bring them to the shops at Raymond Terrace?

A. Yes and they would unload them at the wharf at Raymond Terrace and had to be picked up.

Q. And you used to shop at Raymond Terrace, well your mother did her shopping at Raymond Terrace?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you travel to Newcastle very much at all?

A. We did. Yes well we went to Newcastle to do most of our shopping like clothing, everything like that. Yes we used to go to Hexham first of all they had a car like used to run from Raymond Terrace and catch the train at Hexham and go to Newcastle and they'd be there, they met the trains you know, in the afternoon when you come, they went down two or three times a day.

Q. Oh yes.

A. And they had to cross the punt.

Q. Yes there was no bridge at Hexham and at Raymond Terrace too.

A. Yes there was two at Raymond Terrace and at Nelson Plains.

Q. Yes because in my research I read where the bridge, the Fitzgerald Bridge at Raymond Terrace opened in 1965, it replaced the punt that had been operating for a hundred and thirty years.

A. Yes, that would be right.

Q. So it must have been in the 1830's when they started the punt service there.

A. Yes the day that was opened, Fred, my son was one of the first to walk across it.

Q. That bridge was he?

A. Yes

Q. Yes and later on when you got married you went on to another dairy farm.

A. Yes, Nelson's Plains.

Q. Nelson's Plains is that the one just up the road?

A. Yes just over the bridge, the Fitzgerald Bridge, it's the first farm on the left.

Q. Lorelle often opints out and says that's Mrs Poole's old house.

A. Yes that was at Millers Forrest.

Q. So you had one at Nelson's Plains then you went to Millers Forrest?

A. Well we were only renting it at Nelson's Plains, well my husband came from Nelson's Plains and his people lived opposite on the other side up near the river on the other side, we were on the Hunter River side and they were on the Williams' side of the river and we stayed there for a few years and we shifted to Vacey. That's up near Patterson and we were on the farm there for a few years and it flooded there, there was a river running at the bottom of the property, but we were on the hill up there it never got to the house but all over the cultivation.

Q. Did the rivers flood regularly when you were younger?

A. Yes it didn't take much to put them over the banks.

Q. Yes, I can remember in North Queensland when I was younger the rivers used to flood yearly, sort of every year just about they would break the banks, especially Giru where Lorelle came from.

A. Yes, it really it took a flood to put them over or you might get a high tide come up but it would go quick.

Q. Yes it would run off quick, yes it must be real flat country. Yes but they dont seem to flood that often now do they?

A. No, well they did do, didn't they sand bank all the banks?

Q. Yes they built levy banks yes and you ended up on a farm at Millers Forest.

A. Yes that was the last one.

Q. You baught that one did you?

A. No we were on shares there for a while then we baught one just around from it. A farm just around from it. We hadn't moved into that when my husband died, so we went into that after and before we went into it they lifted it high. It was on the ground but they lifted it up and we got the '55 flood. It was 5' 8" in the house then.

Q. On top of high blocks it was still 5'8" in the house?

A. Thats right and we lost everything, we didn't go back there then.

Q. Never went back just sold it then did you?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you move here then did you?

A. No, I went to Raymond Terrace, it was the '55 flood there when we got out, well we went over to Raymond Terrace, lived with my daughter there for a while then we, this chap Mr Glover from the Clare Castle Hotel, Raymond Terrace, I was only there two months at the most, he came out to see if I would go and cook at the hotel.

Q. The Clare Castle at Raymond Terrace?

A. Yes and I went there and stayed there

Q. And how old, Did you have children at home then?

A. I had two.

Q. Two children still at home?

A. Yes, they were living with their sisters at the Terrace while I worked.

Q. And when you were married and on the farm, and that when you were renting and buying who ran the farm then? Was it a family concern again like when you were a little girl?

A. Yes, just the same.

Q. Just your kids did the milking and that did they?

A. Yes.

Q. And what did you do with your milk from the farm from Millers Forest?

A. From Millers Forest?

Q. Yes.

A. Well there was a lorry picked it up but first of all when we first went over there they used to pick it up in a boat and take it.

Q. Pick it up in a boat and take it down the river to Hexham there?

A. Yes.

Q. Yes, Just sort of regular boat service?

A. Yes.

Q. Yes, conditions were fairly similar all through your farming life were they?

A. Yes really it was, I never ever had to do any farm work but I always helped with the milking.

Q. Yes and did you grow vegetables and crops and that?

A. Yes, just for ourselves really, but for the feed for the cows.

Q. Grow lucern or something like that to feed the cattle on?

A. Yes

Q. And, so you went to work in a hotel, and what was the work like in the hotel?

A. I was cooking, I didn't do any other work but I was cooking, it was a full time job but I enjoyed it.

Q. Was it a very big hotel?

A. Yes every week they used to take in boarders. Then they used to get the busses that came in with sixty - seventy people all in for lunch and no I really enjoyed it. They were good people to work for and then Mr. Glover, he was the propriertor, he bought the Windsor Castle up at East Maitland, Hotel and his daughter was getting married and he baught it for them to put them in, but about three months before they got married, he put me up there as a housekeeper, so I was housekeeper, cook, and done everything up there.

Q. Did you have girls working for you when you were housekeeper?

A. No, not up there because they didn't take in there.

Q. They never had any?

A. No, but he built a motel while I was there, I used to cook for the motel and they had people come in to do the rooms and that but I did the cooking.

Q. And when you were cooking what were conditions, what was the kitchen like?

A. Very good, they had a combustion stove, was lovely, and they also had an electric one.

Q. A pretty modern set up?

A. Yes.

Q. It would be a bit different from when you were a little girl they never had stuff like that?

A. No, but the one at East Maitland, that was very poor as far as cooking - stoves, and that but they pulled that all down and put a new one on and then they put a gas stove in after he bought it.

Q. So after your husband died or after the floods and you lost everything in the floods?

A. Yes.

Q. Lorelle was telling me you never even had a wedding photo or anything?

A. No, that's right.

Q. That's incredible isn't it.

A. Yes.

Q. I remember reading about the floods, the '55 floods in Maitland and places like that but I never realised it was so widespread and affected so many people.

A. Yes

Q. Was many people, like, all the area would have been under a lot of water?

A. Yes, that's right, yes.

Q. Must have affected a lot of people then?

A. Yes, I had Mum and Dad's big family Bible, you know the thick one, and that went in the flood, it had all the dates of all the births and everything in it.

Q. So you lost a lot of your history actually?

A. Yes thats right, yes.

Q. Yes devastatng wasn't it.

A. It was, nobody knows until they go through it.

Q. No, well you couldn't imagine.

A. No, heartbreaking.

Q. Yes it would be just like loosing everything in a fire or whatever.

A. Thats right.

Q. Did the depression years have much effect on you?

A. Not really on the farm.

Q. Not really on the farm?

A. No, I dont remember much about the depression because , I mean it didn't effect us that way, we grew our own vegetables and you had your own milk and your butter and whatever you know.

Q. Yes it wouldn't have as much effect on farm life as it would to the working man.

A. No thats right.

Q. You have got grandchildren and great-grandchildren now, thats right isn't it?

A. Yes.

Q. What differences can you see about the little kids of today compared with your day when you were a little girl?

A. I see a lot of difference.

Q. Yes, would you prefer to be a little child in your day or in present day.

A. I think in my day. There wasn't as much crime and that. I feel sorry for little ones today.

Q. Yes, society is definately changing isn't it?

A. Yes its a big difference.

Q. After you, How long did you work in the hotel for?

A. About fourteen years, fourteen or fifteen years.

Q. Fourteen or fifteen years cooking in hotels?

A. Yes.

Q. Was it three meals a day you were cooking?

A. Yes, breakfast, lunch and tea.

Q. So it would be an early start and late finish.

A. Yes.

Q. Was it shift work or did you just work long hours?

A. No, well you had a break in between lunch and dinner at night.

Q. Yes but you still there cleaning up?

A. Yes, but very seldom I went away from the hotel, you know because you've got to prepare you dont know how manys coming in, it's sort of a lot of guess work, but we got there. I liked, I really enjoyed it.

Q. Thats good because you hear a lot in years gone by where a lot of staff was'nt very well treated. You know I've read about it, you know where domestics or cooks or whatever, you know, they had to work long hours and sort of poor, fairly relations sometimes between the bosses and that especially with younger girls and that?

A. No, I couldn't have wished for better people to work for and when the daughter and her husband went up to East Maitland they had two kiddies, a boy and a girl, and I practically reared them, you know, because they were working in the bar and didn't have much time left, but still they love me now they still come and see me .

Q. Thats the people from the hotel?

A. Yes, and the kiddies too, Darren especially the youngest, he's the plain clothes policeman now up at Moree.

Q. Yes, you were like a nanny to them.

A. Yes I was, they never forgot, the kiddies never forgot.

Q. Yes, so in between your cooking you had to look after the kids too as well?

A. Yes, as well as feed them sometimes too.

Q. Yes but you enjoyed that, that's the main thing.

A. Yes, we also had counter lunches up at East Maitland too, they didn't have them at Raymond Terrace while I was there but they had them later.

Q. They just did lunches for the guests like?

A. Yes, and counter lunches.

Q. Do you remember much about Raymond Terrace when were younger, it wasnt like it is now was it?

A. No.

Q. I've seen a couple of photos in my research you know, and there was hardly anything there.

A. There wasn't much, King Street was the main street, it had a shoe shop, paper shop, drapery, saddlery, there wasnt much else there and a cafe thats about it.

Q. Cafe in those days?

A. The chemist was on the other side of the street on the river side.

Q. And there was a timber mill there too wasnt there in Raymond Terrace?

A. Timber Mill yes there is a timber mill still down there now.

Q. Still there now is it, and did they get the timber from locally did they or it come from a bit further away?

A. I don't know much about that.

Q. Originally there was a lot of cedar apparently at Raymond Terrace so there's none there now so they must have cut it all down.

A. I think they did get a bit from up Gloucester, Bulladelah way or somewhere up that way I think. Though that's not long ago, but see I don't know much earlier.

Q. The Post Office, the current one was built in 1880 but there was a post office there from 1834 you know and they had a punt there and everything in those days, that's really incredible.

A. Yes it's an old building the post office, it's still there, I only remember one post office being there, it's been there all those years.

Q. Yes the current one was built in 1880, one hundred years ago and I was reading that the telephone exchange had thirty-one subscribers in 1910.

A. Yes I'm not surprised about that.

Q. When you were a little girl they just started telephones and that?

A. There was only one doctor in Raymond Terrace. They did have a picture theatre there but it closed, it didn't pay I don't think but it went for a good while.

Q. Yes because there wouldn't have been much other entertainment around would there or you would have to go a long way?

A. Yes, thats right.

Q. You wouldn't go to Newcastle for a Saturday night out or anything, no?

A. That's right.

Q. It was a big thing to take a trip to Newcastle?

A. It was yes.

Q. Or even if you had to go to Maitland or whatever, it would be a big outing?

A. We mostly went to Newcastle, it was easier to get to than Maitland.

Q. Was there main roads, what was the roads like?

A. They were alright, not as good as today.

Q. Did you have a car?

A. No, no we used to travel by horse and sulky.

Q. And what about when you were growing the lucern on the farms and that did you have tractors or anything or hand ploughs?

A. No, Just the hand ploughs and no milking machines it was all hand milking.

Q. Yes and did you have many cows to milk?

A. Yes we'd have sixty to a hundred, you know, it just varied.

Q. And they had to be milked twice a day?

A. Yes

Q. Yes, so I say it'd take a bit of time you cant just whack them on a machine like they do today.

A. No that's right. We didn't have milking machines ourselves until we shifted around on to the new place like that, we bought and it was '53 and then we got the flood in '55 se we didn't have really long with them.

Q. No, so you didn't have much to do with milking machines - except the old manual ones.

A. Yes that's right.

Q. Back to your school, do you remember much about the school itself at Raymond Terrace, your days at school.

A. Yes, I remember there was only the three classes.

Q. Only three classes, three teachers, it would have been from year one through to?

A. There was three rooms, a teacher for each room and they did all, you never had any separate subjects, I mean you know for the teachers to come in and do it. It was just they taught you and that was that. One teacher for the whole day.

Q. What did they teach you reading, writing and arithmetic?

A. Yes.

Q. And how many kids in the class about?

A. I wouldn't know

Q. You wouldn't remember, you don't remember whether the class was a big class because there would be a few years together?

A. Yes, I suppose.

Q. So there'd be thirty odd kids in the class.

A. Well I was thinking that yes I'd say there would be.

Q. Because there has just been - "Metheral" wants to change the education system, wants to put bigger classes now and that.

A. Yes there's a big change now.

Q. Yes they want to make a lot of changes, yes so the one teacher would teach two or three classes for the full day?

A. Yes.

Q. And there was three rooms and three teachers at the school, so there would be about a hundred odd kids there or something like that?

A. Yes.

Q. And after you left school before you were married did you enter the work force?

A. No. I went home, I stayed at home.

Q. Stayed at home on the farm and helped out round the farm. Did any of your friends from school, do you remember whether they entered the work force like girls and that?

A. No I can't remember and that worked, no not in those days.

Q. They didn't work?

A. No.

Q. The boys they went to work?

A. Yes, well there wasn't many jobs in those days to work at you know.

Q. So it was fairly hard to get employment then?

A. Yes, yes.

Q. And you had seven children, what did they do after they grew up did they stay on as farmers or did...?

A. No, Fred went, that's the eldest he went out on a milk run and that's where he ended up, he had his own milk run in the end and Nev went to work at the grocers shop. Betty never went to work anywhere, she stayed at home on the farm. Linda worked at a hotel.

Q. What sort of work did she do in the hotel?

A. Housework.

Q. Domestic, do the washing, change the sheets or whatever?

A. She mostly did the rooms and they had someone else to do the washing, and Kieth stayed on the farm, he was a real farmer.

Q. So he's still?

A. He's still on a farm.

Q. He's still on a farm but not in the district?

A. Yes, Lola went to groceries shop, she worked there.

Q. As a shop assistant?

A. Yes and Barbara, her first job when she left school was working at the quarry in the office at the quarry in Raymond Terrace.

Q. So she worked in an office?

A. Yes and then they went from there to Newcastle, that's where she worked all the time, she only worked in the one place till she got married, she worked there after she got married for a while.

Q. What about your grandchildren, did any of them have any trouble working, getting jobs?

A. No, they got jobs here, there and everywhere, I just cant remember where. They weren't out of work for long.

Q. Your children never had any trouble getting in the workforce?

A. No.

Q. But there's a lot of kids leaving school today having trouble getting into the workforce.

A. Yes, that's right. Those days too when Lola was working at the grocers she used to ride a bike around to get orders. They used to get orders, Nev did the same but then Nev was on the delivery. He used to drive the horse and cart around and deliver the groceries.

Q. Around Raymond Terrace?

A. Yes well around the farms too, Millers Forest, yes but he was at Raymond Terrace, they were both at Raymond Terrace, Mr. Hordmans store.

Q. Okay then Mrs Poole, thanks very much. Thanks a lot for your time.

A. I was going to tell you, I thought of it after, there was only one grocery shop at Raymond Terrace when we were, Mum and Dad like, and they used to deliver their orders out and they used to pay monthly, and every month they'd pay they got a bag of biscuits, free.

Q. A free bag of biscuits after they paid their monthly grocery bill, they got a bag of biscuits for the kids?

A. Yes and then the butchers used to come around and deliver your meat and bread.

Q. Did you have refrigeration?

A. No.

Q. No, just an ice box, so you would have to get ice regularly?

A. Yes, a lot of them had a drip cupboard instead too. They put wet rags over it and dripped, and that's how they set their jellies and kept their butter and their meat.

Q. Mrs. Poole thanks very much.

A. That's alright Doug.

Q. For your time thanks a lot you were a big help.

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1988

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Interviewer D. Biddle

DOUG BIDDLE

OPEN FOUNDATION

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

WEDNESDAY 7pm.

SOME CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENTS IN RAYMOND TERRACE

PRESENTED... 7th September 1988.

Mrs Poole, my subject for this project, was born on a dairy farm at Raymond Terrace in 1904. One hundred and seven years earlier Lieutenant Shortland sent midshipman Raymond up the river by boat. Midshipman Raymond remarked on the 'Terrace' like appearance of the trees at the junction of the Hunter and William Rivers. The locality was known for some time as Raymond's Terrace. (1) When the township was proclaimed in 1837 it was known as Raymond Terrace.

The township was based and grew on the needs of transport. Shipping trade developed in the 1830's and the first steamship service from Sydney to Morpeth was in 1831 (2) but by 1824 there was a regular passage boat operating between Newcastle and Morpeth. (3) These boats stopped at Raymond Terrace, Hexham and other places in between and loaded and unloaded goods and passengers. The last steamship was taken off the route by the Hunter River Steamship Company in 1950.⁽⁴⁾ Mrs Poole can remember these ships unloading groceries and goods for the stores in Raymond Terrace.

The town was built there also because it was at the junction of the Hunter and Williams Rivers and it could service places on both of these rivers. There were no bridges across these rivers but Raymond Terrace was connected by road to Newcastle by way of a punt across the Hunter River at Hexham. There was also a punt across the Williams River at Raymond Terrace and across the Hunter River at Nelsons Plains. These punts were operating from the mid 1830's enabling road access to the north-east and west. Mrs Poole used these punts many times and in 1965

- (1) Newcastle Morning Herald 11/12/1954
- (2) John Turner and From Nobby's to Patterson
Jack Sullivan Sydney 1987 P. 20
- (3) Paul Hunt, Morpeth Pioneer Town and Prominent River Port 1820-1870
thesis, University of Newcastle, 1985. P.29
- (4) Maitland and District Historical A New History of Maitland
Society The Council of the City of Maitland 1983

The first Primary school in Raymond Terrace was built in 1858. The school moved in 1873 to its present site. In 1883 a new school building was built and it is still standing today. It is currently used as the school hall. (10) Mrs Poole attended school in this building, and when she went there it had three class rooms with three teachers teaching there. Her children also attended this school.

The first Post Office in Raymond Terrace opened in 1834 and was one of the first Post Offices outside the Sydney area. The current Post Office was built in 1880. A telephone exchange opened in 1910 and in 1915 had thirty-one subscribers. (11)

In the early days of Raymond Terrace the surrounding area and along the banks of the Hunter, Williams and Patterson Rivers, and at Millers Forrest was covered in Cedar trees and some Rosewood. (12) Timber getters cut down these trees and sent them down the river to be used for buildings at Newcastle and Sydney. Mc Chellands Timber Mill was built at Raymond Terrace in the early 1920's. It was purchased in 1927 by Johnson, Berry and Company and logs from Medowie, Salt Ash and Clarencetown were dressed into timber by steam powered saws and machinery. (13) The Timber Mill is still operating at Raymond Terrace today but electric machinery has replaced the steam powered machines.

(10) Turner and Sullivan From Nobby's.....P. 21

(11) Finn Raymond Terrace.....

(12) Newcastle Morning Herald 1/11/1984

(13) Finn Raymond Terrace.....

Raymond Terrace, like Maitland and other towns on the Hunter River, was often the victim of floods. Mrs Poole can remember bringing the cattle onto the hill for protection from the flood waters and also crossing a flooded creek by boat to go to school. She was living on her dairy farm at Millers Forrest in 1955 when the Hunter River reached a height at Maitland of forty feet eleven inches. There was five feet eight inches of water in her house, which was on high blocks, at Millers Forrest. She lost her cattle as well as her personal belongings in the flood.

Mrs Poole has seen Raymond Terrace develop from a small town, when she was a small child to the Raymond Terrace of today. It is now a commercial centre for a large area including Karuah, Stroud, Williamtown RAAF Base, Medowie and other surrounding districts. She has seen many changes in technology, the introduction of milking machines, motor cars, refrigeration, electric household appliances and electric machinery replacing steam operated machinery. She has seen changes from her school days at school to the education system of today, bridges built where punts used to operate and bitumen roads where there were only dirt tracks. She was born in Raymond Terrace and has lived all her life in the Hunter Valley and for eighty-four years, so far, has watched and observed its growth and development.

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