

Burgess' Saw Mill (cont'd)

The two benches and vertical breaking down frame (mentioned at the end of the last Burgess' Saw Mill article in the Regulla) were purchased for their saw mill from Mt. Coolan, they brought it in over the Blenheim Range and Mt. Barker (out through the back of Eungella Station, i.e. behind where Eungella Dam, built in the 1960s, now is). This was no mean feat in those days as there was no properly formed roads, merely tracks originally used by the bullock teams to bring the heavy equipment in to The Diggings in the gold mining days in the 1890s.

There was plenty of beautiful white Eungella Gum around 'the Top' (Eungella) which was used for local buildings including The Chalet and buildings from Netherdale to Finch Hatton. The now polished floor boards in The Chalet were milled here. There was no sale for it further afield as Dad Burgess went to Brisbane and tried to get orders but they would not listen to him.

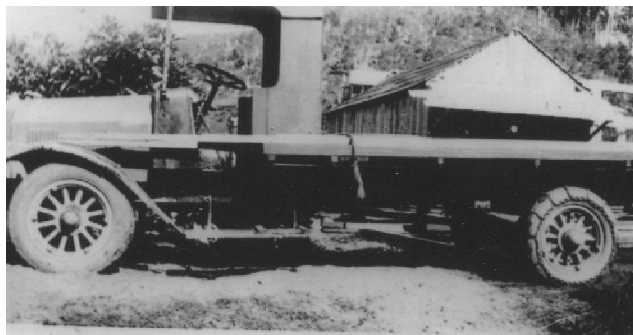
A second engine was bought and that was sold to Matthews and White, who started up a mill at Crediton, in 1935. (That mill to be described in future articles)

Later we bought a third engine, in fact it was part of a whole mill available from Charlie Bentley at PineVale for 800. This included another planing machine (already had one from Fred Shaw from Finch Hatton), two benches and a Canadian breaking down saw.

With this gear, they were able to turn out good T. and G. (Tongue & Groove) flooring also VJ Boards for internal wall cladding, and cover stripping etc.

Some of the employees were supplied with timber free of charge to build their homes around Sonny Boy Creek e.g. the Pearce (burnt down Jan 2013), Hesse, Petersen, Penrose and of course Burgess families

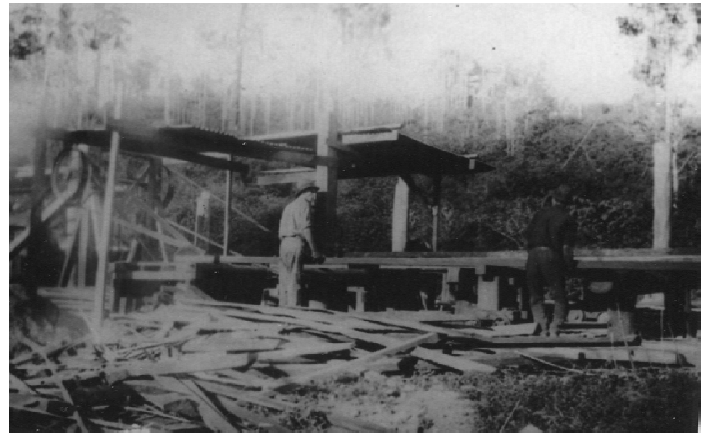
Old Pop Burgess also saved the off cuts and used them for making packing boxes for tomatoes and small crops grown by locals as an adjunctant to their dairying.



Burgess' Mill truck (solid wheel International) with sawn timber [Billy]

During World War II (1939–1945) The Burgess saw mill supplied timber to the military who had an overseer stationed at the mill every day. Silver quandong was used for building of aircraft. frames. The timber workers were exempt from going to war.

The Burgess mill was a thriving industry and employed about 10-12 men during the peak times, many in the field cutting timber initially by hand with axes and crosscut saws. The first old style heavy chainsaws weren't introduced until about 1950.



Burgess Mill

L to R: Son 'Sammy' (Cecil) or George ? & "Pop" (old Herbie) (dark clothes) [Billy]



Burgess Mill

'Sammy' (Cecil) circular saw bench & frame saw [Billy]
[Billy] = grandson of Pop (old Herbie), son of Bert, nephew of "Sammy" Cecil



Burgess Mill

"Pop's" Buick car & mill truck

We can recall the old solid tyre truck we had still in operation in 1935, and the KS5 International and the old brown Cletrac tractor we had too. These were kept out of the sale when we sold the mill to Willett Brothers in 1948

Info from: : Norm Foster's book " The Roof Garden Of Mackay" c.1985 page 67 (we are not sure who wrote this article for Norm's Book)
The smaller info is supplied by Glenda Parish from conversations during 2010 -13 with Billy & Ken Burgess (Pop Burgess' grandsons)