

In the last history article we wrote about a saw pit established in 1880, south of the present Eungella township, for building at "The Diggings", an early gold mining township.

Excerpt from: A project researched by Leigh Cunningham (Strack) when she was at High School

Prior to the Range Road being built all the mail and goods were carried by pack horse up a mountain spur from near Netherdale, initially following Armstrong's Track then later Carl Flohr's Track. These steep dangerous tracks reached the top in the Crediton region then followed the water course of Broken River down stream to the Diggings. All heavy equipment carried by wagons and teamsters had to travel an arduous long 150 mile journey inland via Nebo region, then follow Broken River up stream to The Diggings via Eungella Station.

Summary of info by Glenda Parish from various sources

With the failure of Eungella's mineral field the focus was turned to the abundance of timber available for milling. The Lands Dept completed the first road up the range in 1908 making access possible for wagons and teams to bring supplies up and timber down the range

Excerpt from the leaflet "Up In The Clouds" produced by The Valley Genealogical Special Interest Group in 1995

Through the building of the Range Road a settlement began to form where our current township is.

In 1912 the Government offered Jack Dobson 100,000 super ft of royalty free timber to start a sawmill.

He built a mill near the existing church. (The Church was later built in 1947, demolished April 2011)

He had a portable steam boiler for power.

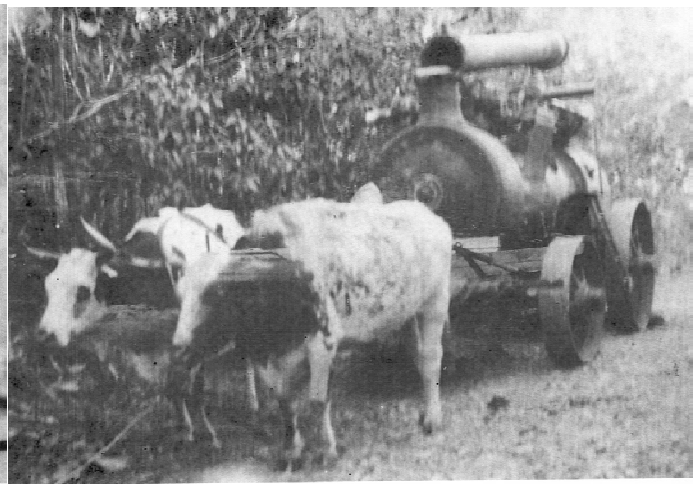
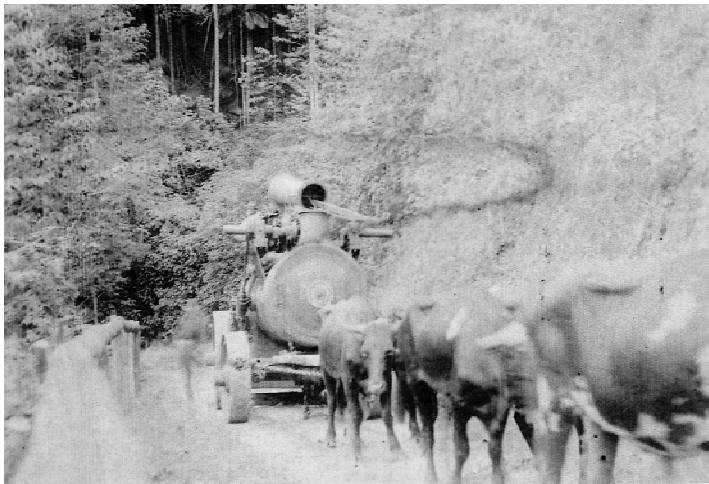
It took Dobson 9 days to get the boiler up the early version of the Range Road with a bullock team.

Jack went broke and sold the mill in 1913.

He was the first timber man on the range and I was second.

[from John Cunningham as told to his grandson Neil Cunningham]

(see ealier Regulla articles Sept 2011 & June 2012 with photos of John Canningham's teams carrying logs)



Mr Dobson taking first steam engine up Eungella Range Road 1913

Photo from: Heather Camilleri (nee Herron)

**Dobson's saw mill
with first steam engine in Eungella
1914**

[Neil Cunningham (Oct 2012) says this mill was situated south of where the Eungella Memorial Hall (erected in 1946) now stands, where Tess Ford's house is]

Photo from: Pioneer Pageant book by John Douglas Kerr 1942



Dobson's Sawmill, Eungella, 1914

Queenlander, courtesy Courier-Mail

A **super foot** is the unit of measure for rough lumber (before drying and planing with no adjustments) It is calculated from the varying lumber dimensions using a table (Essex Table)

A **super foot** is the volume of a one-foot length of a board one foot wide and one inch thick.

(1 ft x 1 ft x 1 in = 12 in x 12 in x 1 in = 30.48 cm x 30.48 cm x 2.54 cm)
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Super_foot]

Contributed by: Glenda Parish