

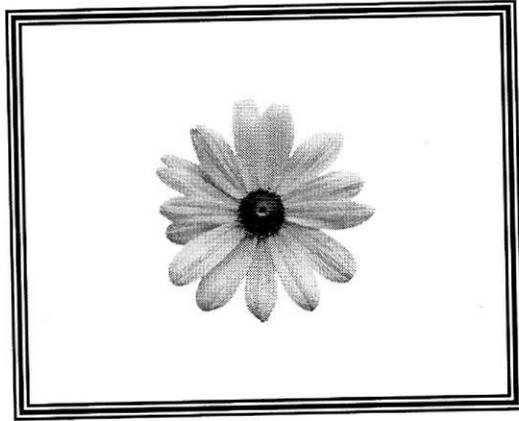
A Life Together...

*A Lifetime Of
Memories.*



Ronald Thomas Osmond

Grace - Alma Grace Osmond (nee Kemp)



Dedicated to

Grace & Ron Osmond

*Mum & Dad
Grandma & Grandad / Dad-Dad
Great Grandma & Great Grandad*

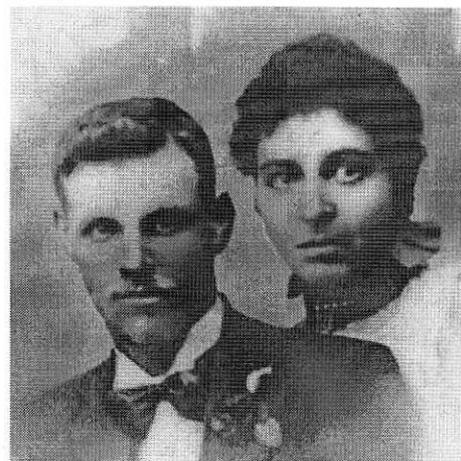
on the special occasion of their

*Diamond Wedding Anniversary
29th April 1999.*



Grace's Story

I was born 11th November 1913 at Nambour Queensland, to Johanna Margurita Veronica Kemp (nee Dries) and Charles Eli Kemp. I was baptised in the Presbyterian Church of Australia on 19th March 1919 at Dayboro.



Charles Eli Kemp &
Johanna Margurita Veronica

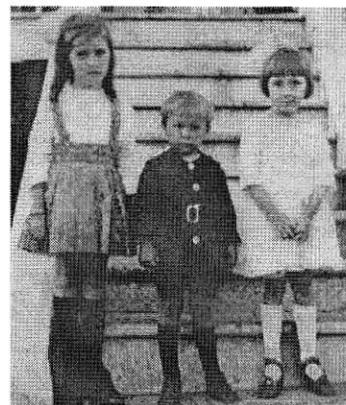


Baby Grace

My father worked on rented dairy farms.

When I was born at Nambour in 1913, Dad was on a fruit farm in that district. Addy, Flo and Jack went to Dulong State School. When I was born my mother was in hospital with Typhoid Fever. She remained in hospital for 3 months. When I went home from hospital, Dad with the help of Addy (then 13½ and Flo 11) looked after me. Dad chose the best milking cow from his herd to provide the milk for my milk bottles. I lived on this cow's milk alone and later Arrowroot biscuits! I was 3 months old when Mum came home from hospital.

The first I can remember was when we lived on a rented dairy farm at Mount Pleasant on the Dayboro end of Mt Mee. From there we moved onto another rented farm at Dayboro and lived there for 5 years.



Left to right - Grace, Kenny
and Ella at Dayboro



Johanna Kemp at Villeneuve
- age approximately 48

At that time Dad was able to buy his own milking herd of approximately 80 milking cows. From Dayboro, Dad was sought after to run another rented farm at Royston via Villeneuve via Kilcoy. Because we had our own cattle, Dad and Jack drove them over Mt Mee to the farm at Royston. We lived there for 3 years and during this time, Dad saved the money to buy the farm at Stanmore in 1926. Mum had diabetes and sadly, while we were at

Villeneuve, she died on 1st May 1925 aged 50. She was laid to rest in the Kilcoy cemetery.



Siblings

Full Name ~ Elizabeth Mabel Adelaide (Addy)
Date of Birth ~ 13/8/1900
Occupation ~ Dressmaker, domestic, farm hand
Married To ~ Spinster
When ~
Children's Names ~
Date of Death ~ 12/3/1994 aged 93 years

Full Name ~ Florance Mary (Flo)
Date of Birth ~ 2/5/1902
Occupation ~ Farm hand, domestic
Married To ~ William George Leemon
When ~ 1929
Children's Names ~ Lorna Mary, Edna Florance
Date of Death ~ 1/9/1992 aged 90

Full Name ~ Jack Eric
Date of Birth ~ 28/4/1905
Occupation ~ Banana farmer
Married To ~ Olga Swartz
When ~ approx. 1928
Children's Names ~ Eric, Pamela
Date of Death ~ 8/8/1985 aged 80

Full Name ~ Vera Eileen
Date of Birth ~ 23/4/1909
Occupation ~ Domestic, Farm hand
Married To ~ Herbert Thomas Unwin
When ~
Children's Names ~ Alfred, Rex, David, Trevor
Date of Death ~

Full Name ~ Roy Charles Vincent
Date of Birth ~ 28/4/1911
Occupation ~ PMG Linesman, Soldier (WWII)
Married To ~ Violet Madge Unwin



When ~ 1936
 Children's Names ~ Delma, Robin, Sue, Carol
 Date of Death ~ 11/8/1989 aged 78

I was born next in line.

Full Name ~ Alma Grace (Grace)
 Date of Birth ~ 11/11/1913
 Occupation ~ Farm worker, Nurse
 Married To ~ Ronald Thomas Osmond
 When ~ 1939
 Children's Names ~ Betty, Rhonda, Ailsa
 Date of Death

Full Name ~ Ella May
 Date of Birth ~ 16/1/1915
 Occupation ~ Farm worker, domestic
 Married To ~ George William Rickman
 When ~ 15/10/1938
 Children's Names ~ Barry, Lindsay
 Date of Death

Full Name ~ Kenneth George
 Date of Birth ~ 4/8/1918
 Occupation ~ Dairy farmer / small crops farmer
 Married To ~ Dolly Heath
 When ~ 1940
 Children's Names ~ Janette, Lynette, Margaret, Beverley,
 Annette
 Date of Death ~ 15/2/1978 aged 60

Full Name ~ Gladys Thelma (Thelma)
 Date of Birth ~ 4/6/1919
 Occupation ~ Farm hand, domestic
 Married To ~ Ernest Walter Heath
 When ~ 1940
 Children's Names ~ Kevin, Sylvia, John
 Date of Death ~ 10/11/1969 aged 50



The last time my brothers and sisters were together was at a family wedding in 1969. Vera was not present.



Left to right - Adelaide, Roy, Grace, Thelma, Jack, Ella, Ken, Flo

I grew up at 'The Grove' dairy farm on Stanmore Road in Woodford QLD.

Before starting school I remember that I used to suck a dummy. When we lived on our rented farm on Mount Pleasant, the Dayboro end of Mt Mee, I was 3 years old. One day I lost my dummy and Dad had to ride a horse down the mountain into Dayboro (about 14 miles) to buy me a new one. He said that it was to be my last dummy! So someone got the bright idea to tie the dummy to the foot of the bed. When I wanted to go to sleep, I would lie down on the mat at the foot of the bed, suck my dummy and fall asleep.

I started school at Pleasantville State School in 1920. The school was at the foot of Mt Pleasant (part of Mt Mee) about one mile from where we lived.

We walked across farm paddocks to get to school.

My teacher was Miss Cunningham (who later in life committed suicide). Miss Cunningham read novels during school hours when she wasn't crying behind the blackboard. I remember playing with dolls all the time she was my teacher. When the Inspector came, Miss Cunningham would walk amongst the desks whispering the answers to us, so it appeared to the Inspector that we knew the work - however there was never any 'working'.

Ella and I were together at school at this stage.



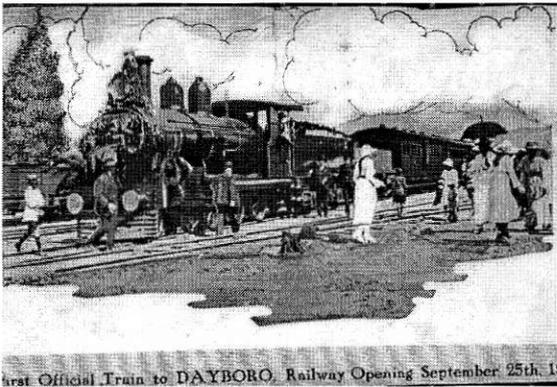
There was no organised sport and I can't remember ever having any exams.

We played with some of our cousins – Bertha and Hazel Suna. Aunty Janey was Dad's sister. She married Bill Suna who was part Chinese and they had 15 children.

My next school was at Dayboro. After school I remember riding pigs and calves for fun. One day Kenny was riding on a calf when I put my pet bantam on to have a ride. It dug its claws into the calf, which bucked and threw Kenny off!



Left to right - Grace, Ken, Thelma



First Official Train to DAYBORO. Railway Opening September 25th 1926

First official train to Dayboro, Railway Opening September 25th 1926

I was there to see the first train that ever came into Dayboro. I was about 8 at the time. The train blew its whistle. I got such a fright, my legs gave way and I fell down on the platform.

The only time I ever stayed away from school other than through illness, was during flood time (because the roads were cut off by flooded creeks) or when fruit was ready to be made into jam, eg. pie melons. Addy would make Ella and I stay home and chop up the melons in readiness.

One morning when we were going to Villeneuve School 3 miles away from home, we found a stone axe and we tried to chop down a small tree. We lost count of the time and arrived at school at 11.00am – a bit late!

I remember how terrible milking in the rain was. The water would drip off the cows onto us while we were milking and we would get as wet as the cows. Milking was all done by hand and the worst part was going out into the muddy yard to get the cows. In really wet weather, the mud and cow slop was about 1 foot deep and we would always be bare footed! The sharp stones would always cut our feet.



Grace – barefooted on a sunny day!





*Ella & Grace at
Villeneuve*

I was aged 14 in grade 8 at Stanmore State School when I left school – 1927.

I worked on the farm for about a year when Dad became ill and died of cancer on 26th February 1928.

I remember after Dad died, friends of ours took Ella and I to the Botanic Gardens in Brisbane to help cheer us up. I used a septic toilet for the first time. After pulling the chain the water came out with a gush and I took off thinking I had caused a flood!



*Left to right - Billy Brookes, Grace, Reenie Unwin, Olive Unwin with Ella standing.
Botanic Gardens 1928*

I continued working on the dairy farm after Dad died but I hated it. I always longed to become a nurse. One day after years of working on the farm, I talked to Mr Osmond snr (Ron's father). We discussed my desire to go nursing and he said he would talk to Addy as she was in charge of the farm then. It was years before she gave in, but she wouldn't do anything to further my cause. I got Ron's father to draft a letter for me to send to the Ipswich Hospital. I was 22 before I was called up.

Before earning money as a nurse, I never earned any money. I was expected to work for my keep. When we went to anything such as Church, we were given the money to put into the collection plate.

I was not allowed to go to a dance until I was 18 and only when Adelaide came as chaperone and paid for all of us at the door. Once I was old enough to go to dances, Ella my younger sister was allowed to go too, but still older members of our family took us.

I had 2 girlfriends, May Fletcher and Madge Woodrow. Once Madge and her family invited me to spend a holiday with them in Caloundra and Addy would not let me go because Ella was not invited – how unfair!



*First Evening
Frocks made by
Adelaide – Grace
(left) age 18 wore
green and Ella
(right) age 16 wore
pink*



Madge was in my class at school and later in life I had the honour of being her bridesmaid.

Sometimes I would borrow Kenny's bike and ride over to the Fletcher's. I would spend time helping May do bits and pieces around the house, have lunch with the family then come home in time for milking.

A group of us used to walk over to Osmond's Lagoon and back – when we had time!

I never owned a car but my father bought a car not long before he died in 1928. It was a Jewett Page and it came from Raaen and Finter in Woodford. I was not allowed to learn how to drive as Addy thought I was too 'scatter brained' because I used to stand up to her at times! I was allowed to drive the sulky.



Left to right - Grace driving, Vera, Ella

One day Dad sent Ella and I into to Woodford to buy a length of tongue and groove he required. I drove the sulky. Ella and I chatted all the way and on arriving at the timber mill we had forgotten the type of timber Dad needed. We knew how long it was to be, and could only remember that the name of the timber had something to do with your face! I went in and asked for the required length of 'slit and eye'. The man just laughed at me! When I explained it had something to do with your face, he said 'tongue and groove?' We took Dad home the right timber!

Addy learnt to drive and one day driving to Redcliffe for New Year's Day (approx. 1929), she dodged a pothole on the road at Burpengary and lost control of the car. It ran off the road and almost into the creek. I was thrown out against the bridge post which left splinters all down the front of my serge frock and I landed on the ground with my head behind the back wheel.



Left to right - Grace standing, Roy & Ella in back seat, Vera on running board & Hol Stewart driving



We never got up to pranks as teenagers, but we made our own fun either at home



Left to right - Grace, Thelma, Ella

with the animals or at Saturday's tennis afternoons.



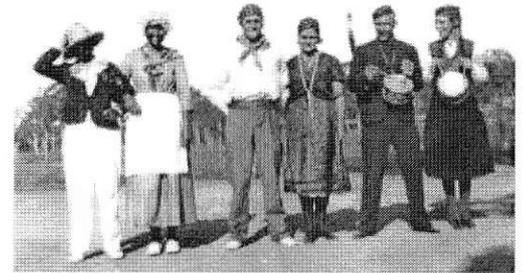
Left to right - Grace, Ernie, Thelma, Rae Cooper, Ella, George Rickman, Ron, Kenny

There were the Kemps, the Fletchers, the Osmonds, George Rickman, Les and Victor Woodrow, Jessie Unwin (and sometimes some of the other Unwins). After tennis and afternoon tea, everyone would go back to their

respective homes to milk the cows then return to the Kemp's to play cards that night. Sometimes Charlie Osmond would stay at Kemp's to help milk and would sing during milking as he believed that he had a good voice. He was always trying to teach the Kemps to sing with the Do Ray Me scale. Roy, Ella and I would be giggling behind the cows that we were milking and singing off key. This exasperated Charlie!

On special occasions, we had fancy dress tennis parties.

As a teenager I remember a very neighbourly gesture. Once per week when we were not busy on the farm, we younger ones (Roy, Ella, Thelma and Kenny) would climb the mountain behind our farm up to where the packing sheds were on the Woodrow's banana farm. We would pack bananas all day for no pay, except to carry home as many bananas as we were able.



Left to right - Grace, Thelma, George Rickman, May Fletcher, Kenny, Miss Phillips

I was a member of the Comrades at the Methodist Church during my teenage years in Woodford. Later I was the Secretary of the Ladies Guild in that Church. I was also a Steward at the Woodford Show for 6 years and ran a tennis club for ladies in Woodford for 10 years.



I had heard of Ron but never met him as he was away at BBC (Brisbane Boys College). I was in a play being put on by the Church. We were having a practice at Unwin's house and Ron was home on holidays and kept poking his head round the door laughing at us. Afterwards we all had supper at Unwin's house and that was when I first met Ron.

The Unwins and Osmonds attended the Woodford State School and we the Kemps on the Stanmore side of the river, went to Stanmore State School, so I never knew Ron at school.

My first impression of Ron was that he was very shy – or pretended to be!

Ron used to ride an old motorbike which kicked up a racket. After we started going out, I could always hear him coming over to see me even before he crossed the river. I used to ride pillion on that bike. Once he took me to Bellthorpe on the back of his bike to visit Charlie and George Osmond who worked at Bellthorpe.

Ron was visiting me over at our house and asked me to marry him while we were in the kitchen. I had just put in my application for nursing so said "yes, so long as I am not called up within the next 3 months". If I wasn't called up within 3 months, we would get married, however if I was, I would nurse for the required 3 years first, then marry.

As fate would have it, I was called up within the next few months.

Nursing was a hard life but still better than milking cows. I started on 25 shillings per week but I was determined to stick it out. I made some very good friends while nursing - both hospital staff and patients alike. I nursed under Dr Trumpy who was very protective of his nurses. Matron Willcox was very strict. My uniform was a



Grace 1937



grey/ blue under-dress with a white starched pinafore topping it. The collar, cuffs and wide belt were so stiffly starched that they never creased even when we were bending to patients. We wore black shoes and stockings and for the first three years, starched caps. I nursed for two and a half years and was planning to go to Melbourne to do my midwifery when the war broke out in 1939. I gave up nursing, came home and got married.

Just before going off to Ipswich to nurse, Ron and I went down to Brisbane by train and bought my engagement ring from Wallace Bishops. We went up the clock tower of City Hall and Ron placed the ring on my finger.

When Ron was 21, his family gave him a surprise 21st Birthday Party and his mother insisted he get up and sing "I'll Take You

Home Again Kathleen". I really enjoyed that and it then became one of my special songs. I don't think he has sung that song since!!



Ron & Grace 1939

We were married at the Woodford Methodist Church on 29th April 1939.

Rev. Stan Murr officiated with Rev. Herb Unwin assisting. Stan Murr was married to Ron's sister Beryl and Herb Unwin was married to my sister Vera. I had two bridesmaids, my sister Thelma and a nursing sister friend, Rae Cooper. They wore long white frocks with a red sash and carried red roses. My dress was a long white brocaded crepe

empire line frock with covered buttons on the front and falling to a



train at the back. The neckline was caught with sprigs of orange blossom at each side. My veil was long and held by a pearl tiara with orange blossom above each ear. Addy made all the frocks.

I don't remember much planning for the wedding because Addy made all the arrangements and we just simply went along with it. The reception was under our house ("The Grove") at Stanmore. About 60 people attended.



Left to right - Rae Cooper, Grace, Thelma

When I was leaving Ipswich Hospital to come home to be married, I was given a special gift for my forthcoming wedding by a Mr Johnson who had returned from the 1st World War. It was a hand crocheted tablecloth. He had crocheted into it the words "To Nurse G. Kemp. Best wishes from H.O.J. 29.4.39." This has always been treasured as my favourite wedding gift. He gave me the tablecloth because he appreciated the way in which I had cared for him during his stay in hospital.

The gifts one got in those days were nothing like what people receive today. The gift perhaps would be a glass dish or a glass kerosene lamp. As we had nothing, everything was appreciated.

After our wedding reception, we drove to Caboolture by car to catch the train to Brisbane.

We had our wedding finery with us, so on arrival we went straight to the photographer's studio, changed into our wedding clothes again and had our wedding photos taken. We then booked into the Canberra Hotel- the poshest place in Brisbane at the time. Next morning, we caught a taxi to South Brisbane train station to catch the train to Southport. Upon arrival in Southport, because we had not booked anywhere, we asked the taxi driver if he knew a good place to stay. He said he did and took us to a house for rent right on the beach at Southport-(try that today!).

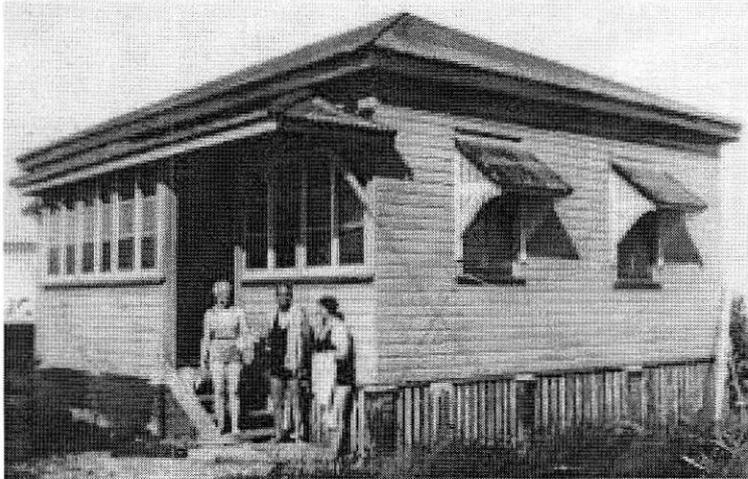


Going away after wedding 1939



Mr and Mrs Charlie Bleakley owned this house and lived in a house directly behind. We were able to rent the front house for a fortnight.

The Bleakleys were wonderful to us. They had a car and took us on a picnic every day. They supplied the car and a picnic lunch and we only supplied the petrol. They took us to Springbrook, Murwillumbah and many other scenic places around.

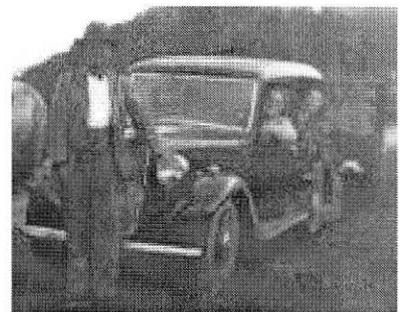


Honeymoon cottage in Southport. Left to right - Grace, Mr & Mrs Bleakley

They were wonderful people and we kept in touch until they both passed on. We also met their son, Dr Bleakley.



Picnic with the Bleakleys



Driving to a picnic with the Bleakleys



Ron's Story

I was born on 18th February 1913 at Sandgate in QLD to Sarah Ann Osmond (nee Withers) and George Henry Osmond. I was baptised in the Methodist Church of Australia on 26th August 1917 in Woodford.



Sarah Ann (nee Withers) & George Henry Osmond

George, my father, had trained as a student teacher at Goodna State School where he lived with his mother Emilia and siblings.

He taught for approximately 25 years teaching at Ithica Creek, Herberton, Normal School in Brisbane, Kangaroo Point Boys, Cometville,

Logan Village, Southbrook, Emerald and Pittsworth State Schools, but had become a farmer to run 'Rotherfield' for Ellen and James Withers (Sarah's parents).



Sarah Ann Withers



Left to right - Carrie, Agnes, George, Ada, Amelia (their mother) seated. Absent from photo is Ben.



Siblings

Full Name ~ *James Charles Edward*
Date of Birth ~ *27/10/1897*
Occupation ~ *Farm hand, worked in the Woodford
Butter Factory, Soldier in WWI*
Married To ~ *Bachelor*
When
Children's Names
Date of Death ~ *Killed in France 1918 (WW1) aged 21*

Full Name ~ *George Henry*
Date of Birth ~ *17/5/1900*
Occupation ~ *Sawmiller, farmer, wharf labourer*
Married To ~ *Margaret Stewart*
When
Children's Names ~ *none*
Date of Death ~ *16/6/1982 aged 82*

Full Name ~ *Audrey Mabel Ellen*
Date of Birth ~ *15/10/1901*
Occupation ~ *School teacher, house wife*
Married To ~ *Thomas Henry Phillips*
When
Children's Names ~ *Avril*
Date of Death ~ *8/1/1998 aged 96*

Full Name ~ *Beryl Amelia Logan*
Date of Birth ~ *26/5/1904*
Occupation ~ *Nursing sister*
Married To ~ *Rev. Stanley John Russell Murr –
methodist minister*
When ~ *28/3/1930*
Children's Names ~ *Russell, Audrey, Ronald, Neville,
Roslyn*
Date of Death ~ *12/9/1969 aged 66*



I grew up at 'Rotherfield' a dairy farm on Cove Road Woodford. 'Rotherfield' was named by James Withers after a big estate in England. He tried without success to farm Cove Road in a similar way to England.

I don't remember my little felt hat, but Audrey (my sister) told the story that I had this favourite little felt hat. Up to age 3 I never went anywhere without it. When Lloyd was brought home as a baby, I saw I wasn't the baby anymore, pulled on my felt hat and went off and sat under a tree in the paddock for some time.

As a youngster I always wanted to be a bullock driver – I loved bullock wagons! With some help, I even made my own toy replica. The wheels were cut from small logs and attached by nails. I added string and pulled my bullock wagon everywhere.

I recall always having cold feet in winter. None of the children had shoes for home, only for going to church. But winter or summer, cows and horses had to be brought in every morning.

I remember how squashed it was when 4 of us had to sleep in one double bed until we were about 9 or 10. The littlies had to sleep at the bottom of the bed and I remember being there all the time.

I started school at Woodford State School in 1919 aged 6. The school was 3 miles from home going the back way through the bush. To get to school we rode a horse or walked, but later I did get a pushbike. I had several teachers at school. My first teacher was Miss Mary Tracey. Marie Clarkson, Kit McGruthier, Ken McPherson, Miss Hancock and Mr Van Cooten were my other teachers.

I was average in class. We didn't have sport as such but sometimes if you could get enough people interested, we would play a game of cricket or rounders. Evelyn Fredine was always top of the class.

During my school days, our only outings were to Church.



Left to right – Ron and Mervyn ready for church



Full Name ~ *Charles William*
Date of Birth ~ *13/1/1905*
Occupation ~ *Saw miller, dairy farmer*
Married To ~ *Ellen (Nelly) Page*
When
Children's Names ~ *Edward, Lesley, Margaret (died age 2)*
Date of Death ~ *28/2/1992 aged 87*

Full Name ~ *Clive St John*
Date of Birth ~ *22/7/1909*
Occupation ~ *Pineapple farmer, small crops farmer*
Married To ~ *Elizabeth (Bessie) Carseldine*
When
Children's Names ~ *Mavis, Rodney*
Date of Death ~ *26/12/1997 aged 89*

Full Name ~ *Mervyn Benjamin*
Date of Birth ~ *30/12/1911*
Occupation ~ *Carpenter*
Married To ~ *Joan Glasgow*
When
Children's Names ~ *Allan, Meryl*
Date of Death

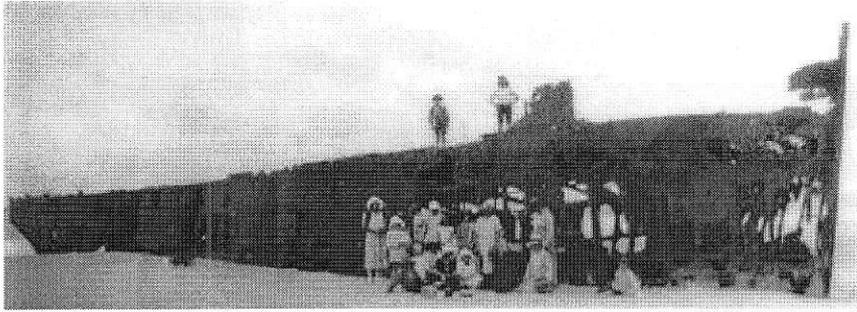
I was born next in line.

Full Name ~ *Ronald Thomas*
Date of Birth ~ *18/02/1913*
Occupation ~ *Farmer, Carpenter*
Married To ~ *Alma Grace Kemp*
When ~ *1939*
Children's Names ~ *Betty, Rhonda, Ailsa*
Date of Death

Full Name ~ *Lloyd Jenkin*
Date of Birth ~ *16/8/1916*
Occupation ~ *Worked in Woodford Cheese factory, golf greenkeeper Woodford*
Married To ~ *Joan Mildred Herbst*
When
Children's Names ~ *Trevor, Lynette, Ivan, Russell*
Date of Death ~ *25/8/1989 aged 73*



As a prank, we sometimes tied the girl's plats or scarves to the pew so when they stood up to sing the hymn, they were caught! We had no money and were not allowed to go to pictures. However, I do remember visiting a circus when I was about 12.

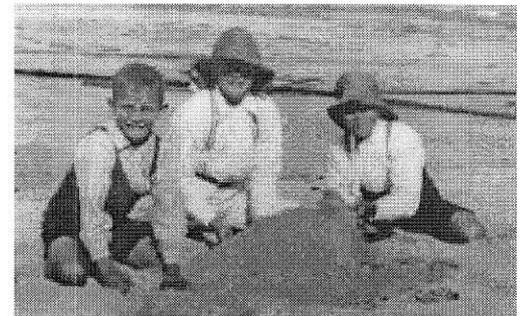


Holidays at Christmas time – Dickey Wreck

Once my sister Audrey was teaching, we did have 2 weeks holiday at Caloundra each Christmas, because she had some money and would take us

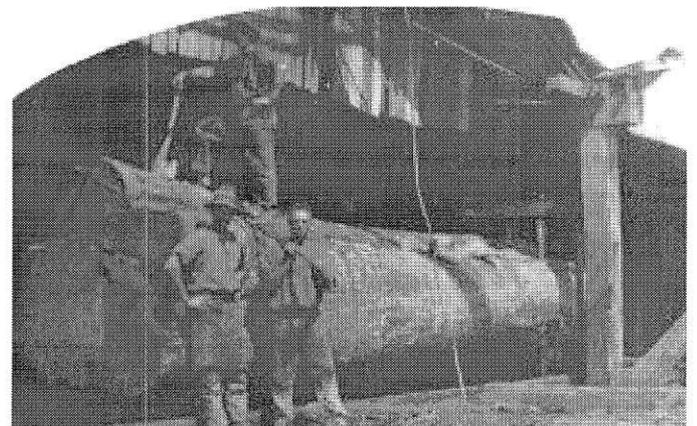
there on her holidays. Daybells owned a little cottage in the main street of Caloundra and this was rented each holiday. We often visited the Dickey wreck. I remember climbing on and through three decks of the Dickey.

My father George Henry was a lay preacher in the Methodist Church in Woodford. He used to travel to preach at Mt Mee, Kilcoy, Peachester, Stanmore, Villeneuve and Neuren. I remember having to accompany Dad to Mt Mee. We left home at 7.00am in the sulky. We arrived at Mt Mee at 10.00am, Church was from 11.00am – 12.00 midday, we had lunch with the Keens family or sometimes with the Robinson family and returned home in time for milking.



Left to right – Lloyd, Mervyn, Ronnie

My brothers George and Charlie had to be at work at 6.00am at Fredine's Mill. Each morning, each of us younger boys took turns to rise at 4.30am to prepare our older brothers for work – light the fire and prepare breakfast. While George and Charlie were eating breakfast, whoever was on 'duty' had to catch the



Fredine's Mill in Woodford – George Osmond in apron, Billy Swartz and Charlie Stewart on blue gum log.



horses from the night paddock and saddle them in readiness for the older boys' departure for work. We had to treat the older boys with such regard because they were earning money – some of which was paid as board (income for the family). The older boys' lunches were prepared and we had to deliver them to the mill on the way to school.

My friends at school were Billy Fredine, Fred Swartz, Morris Fillman, and Neville Fyfe.

Down the back of the school was an old well. Billy and I would go down into the bush to the well at lunch time and using the water from the well, boil the billy, have a mug of tea, a quick cigarette 'obtained' by Billy, chew gum leaves to disguise the cigarette smell, then return to school. A little ditty we learnt at the time based on cigarette and tobacco brands went something like this:

It was the TOWN TALK that CAPSTAN STAN and LUCY HINTON took the STATE EXPRESS to the LOG CABIN on the RANCH to enjoy a little COUNTRY LIFE. When they arrived he said 'your CRAVIN A'.

There's more but I can't remember the other cigarette and tobacco brands!

When I was younger there were always 3 or 4 floods early in the year. We had to stay away from school 3 or 4 days at a time. We had a boat built, but this was mainly to get the cream into the factory.

The 1931 flood came right up to the main road.

The cows were on high ground but the rest of the farm was under water and it was some time before the cattle could feed because of the silt. At that time I had to take some pigs into the railway at Woodford ready for transport to Muraree in Brisbane.

A plank was missing off the bridge in front of Fraser's and 2 horses, the cart, the pigs and I all fell down into the flooded creek.

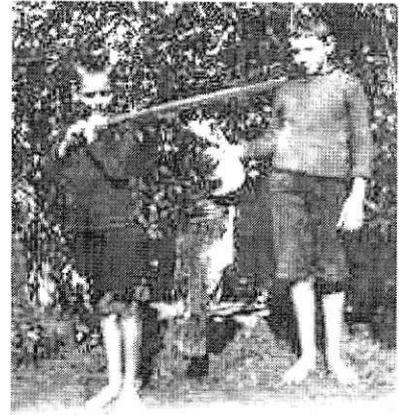


1931 Flood One mile end of Woodford's main street



I remember being with Mervyn once at the Stanley River. We came across Dave English's line which he had set and left. Mervyn pulled it in and there on the end was a 25 pound fresh water cod, which we rescued and took home after resetting Dave's line!

The younger boys in our family (from Clive down) worked on the farm doing all the chores before and after school while the older ones went to work.



Left to right - Lloyd, Ronnie with the 25lb cod

I stayed in school up to the end of grade 8. Then my father, who had been a teacher, said I had to go to Brisbane Boys College in Clayfield (which is the current site of Clayfield College) to prepare to become a teacher as I had shown some aptitude with my school work. It was not my choice to go away to school.



Left to right - Mervyn and Ronnie doing the chores

I left state school when I was about 15 in 1928. I stayed at BBC for only 18 months (1929-1930). My uniform at BBC consisted of grey trousers, green shirt, straw boater hat with blazer and tie in black and green stripes with a thin white stripe between.

Once I was chosen to cox the school's rowing crew. I took them down Breakfast Creek into the Brisbane River then upstream to Newstead wharf. I steered them in beside a big trading ship which from our position on the water, was massive. I ran for BBC at the inter-school sports days because I had a bit of country hare in me, but I never won any medals.

Because of the depression, I had to leave and go home to help on the farm, but there was no room for me on the home farm, so I was sent to Bellthorpe to help George and Charlie who had bought a farm there. I stayed there for a couple of years being paid 5 shillings per week then returned to the Woodford farm where I was paid 10 shillings per week plus my keep.



On 25th September 1936 Dad died. I stayed on to run the farm for Mum. All my siblings were there with mum on this sad occasion.



Left to right – George, Audrey, Beryl, Charlie, Clive, Mervyn, Ron, Lloyd



Left to right – Beryl, Sarah, Audrey

In my late teens I used to go to local dances occasionally on a Saturday night and to impress the girls, some of the young fellows would put petrol on their handkerchiefs so the girls 'assumed' they had transport! On occasions we went to the picture theatre in Woodford, but mainly I stayed at home. Sometimes at night, the Unwin's grape patch next door would get raided.

My brother Lloyd and Kenny Kemp used to race bicycles before turning to motorbikes. They used to ride around on moonlit nights and if one spotted a dark patch ahead in the moonlight (knowing full well it was a cow pat) there was a race to get there first. The first one there would spin his tyres in the cow pat, spraying poo all over the loser!

I bought my first motorbike from Herb Unwin for 30 shillings. It was a 250 Coventry Eagle 2 stroke.

Many years later, I bought a 250 Triumph. This was about the time I was working in the forestry (1957-1961). I traded that in on a 350 Triumph Twin. I had an accident on one of these. I traded the 350 Twin in on a 500 Ariel



1st Motorbike – 250 Warratah 2 stroke



Twin and I sold that when we were living in Boondall in 1965. My protective clothing was always long pants, leather coat, leather skull cap, leather gloves and goggles.

I bought my first car in 1941 and it was a Willies Overland Ute and it cost £250. I sold the Willies in 1960 for £175 and bought a 1960 Consul for £1225.7.6. In 1971 I bought a white Ford Capri for \$2945. I traded this in on a Ford Cortina XLE which cost me \$3709 and this was traded in on a Ford Cortina Stationwagon in 1977 for \$7490.



1st car – Willies Overland Ute

I met Grace for the first time over at the Unwin's who were our neighbours on the Cove Road. Lloyd was in a church play and I went with him to the practice at Unwin's. Grace was in the play too. All our families were involved in the church. I thought Grace was alright but we were only young. So nothing immediately came of it.

I was given a surprise 21st birthday party by my parents. Grace was invited. We began 'going out' after that but still had to stay within Adelaide's (Grace's older sister) sight.

Grace and I used to race our horses home from church. My horse was Tony a very good stock horse but Grace's horse, Mona was fast, so Grace always won.



Grace & Ron in their courting days



I remember the tennis afternoons and night-time card games with the Kemps, Fletchers, Osmonds and Unwins.

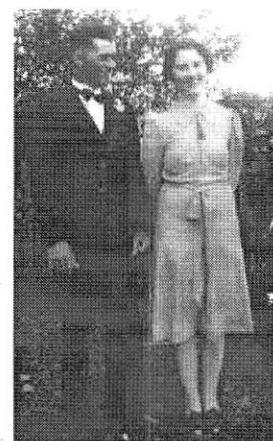


Left to right - 'Dusty' the dog, Madge, Roy, Ella, George, Thelma, Ernie, Grace, Ron, Rae Cooper, Kenny

Sometimes the Kemps, Osmonds and Englishs would meet at the Gympie bridge and swim in the Stanley River.

Lots of young folk from these families married and we were attendants at the weddings of different ones. I was groomsman for Ella Kemp and George Rickman as well as Charlie, my brother, and his bride, Nellie.

There were 2 occasions that I remember when Grace and I rode on my motorbike to visit family. Once was up to Bellthorpe to see Charlie and George – the other was all the way to Harrisville to stay with my sister Beryl and her husband Stan Murr.



Ron & Grace at Ella and George's Wedding

I proposed to Grace in Kemp's kitchen. It was 1936.



Grace 1937

Grace said yes but wanted to go nursing first, which she did until WW2 broke out in 1939. She came home that year and we were married. I was 26 years old.

Charlie and Lloyd (my brothers) were my attendants. They wore black suits, white shirts and bow ties, the same as mine.



Ron's & Grace's Story

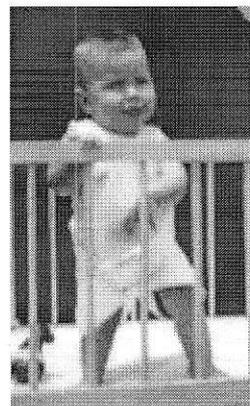
After our honeymoon, we came back to dairy farming, running 'Rotherfield' on the Cove Road (Ron's family farm) for Ron's mother.



Rotherfield

We both worked and ran both the farm and house for £10 per month plus our keep. We did this until our first child Betty was nearly 2 years old.

Betty was born on the 30th March 1941 at Wellawyn Private Hospital in Woodford. I was induced at 8 months because I had kidney and blood pressure problems. The Sister came into the ward after the birth holding Betty in one hand above shoulder height. I asked if she was OK and Sister said she was now, but did not have a nose prior to her pinching one in place! I stayed in hospital for 10 days and took Betty back to the farm.



Betty June



Ron and Betty

This was a struggle financially and we were getting no-where. We made the suggestion to Ron's mother that we would continue to run the farm for her, she continue to live there but she be paid the £10 per month with us making our living from the farm which she would still own. Audrey, George and Charlie (Ron's older siblings) protested. So Ron decided that enough was enough and left the farm to get a job at Brandon's Mill on Bellthorpe. George 'came home' from Bellthorpe to run the farm. I was still on the farm and with Ron away I had to help George with the milking for about a month with no pay.

It was war time and Mervyn (Ron's brother) who was carpentering at the time, brought his wife Joan back to the farm at the same time. George stayed for only a short time after that. When Mervyn and Joan came back to the farm, I had to leave and went to live



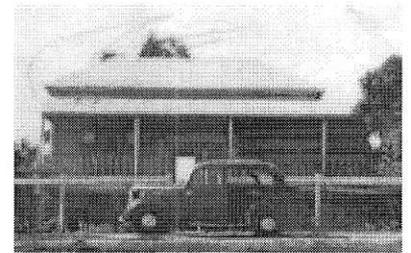


Ron & Grace with Betty
at Adelaide's in
Woodford

with Adelaide who was now living in Woodford because 'The Grove' had been sold by then. I stayed about 3 months.

At this time, Kinker Johnson (a local musician) died. On the day he died, I rode to Ervie Fletcher, who was the letting agent in Woodford, to put our name down to rent this property. We moved in there 3 weeks later and lived there for about 6 months.

Ervie Fletcher's house on Durundur Street went up for sale at this time and we bought this 3 bedroom home on 1/4 acre of land for £262/10/0. We bought the house on 17th June 1943 just before Rhonda was born.



Durundur Street



Rhonda Grace

Rhonda was born on the 6th October 1943 at Wellawyn Private Hospital in Woodford. Again, I was induced at 8½ months for the same reasons as my first pregnancy.

The old house proved to be cold and draughty, so in the early '50's Ron demolished it and build a new 3 bedroom house on the site. Much of the timber from the old house was used in the construction of the new house, along with 3 or 4 logs cut from Ron's old farm and milled in Woodford. While the new house was being built, we all lived with Grandma Osmond (Sarah) who lived 2 houses away on Durundur Street.

The Woodford house was sold on 1st March 1964 and we moved to Brisbane where Ron was working. We rented at Brighton while our house at Boondall was being built. We have lived at Boondall since 1st May 1965.



2nd house on Durundur Street - built by Ron

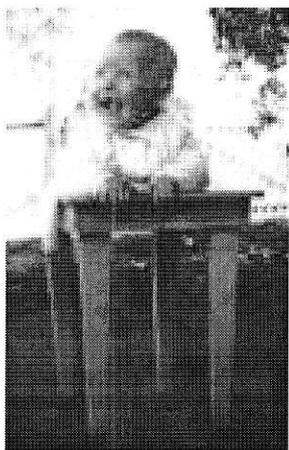


Lyndhurst Road Boondall - built by
Ron



Since we were married, Ron worked in a variety of jobs. After the farm he worked at Brandon's Mill at Bellthorpe. He was then offered a job in Roy Evans' Grocery Shop in Woodford. This enabled him to be home while his children were babies. The job was a 'collar, tie and apron' job. He rode a bike to collect the orders from customers, put the orders together and delivered them in an Oakland Ute. He had worked there for a couple of months when the Police came and told Roy Evans that Ron was to return to the 'protected industry' of milling. This was during the war and timber was required for bridge decking in New Guinea and mill workers were scarce. Ron didn't go back to Bellthorpe, but instead worked for Stevens and Simpsons Mill in Woodford.

He then worked for Jack Webb at Woodford Motors in the petrol depot, collecting orders for petrol and delivering them. He had been told that he must listen to his customers for any inkling for the purchase of new cars.



Ailsa Jean

Ailsa was born on the 25th June 1946 at Women's Royal Brisbane Hospital. I had to go to Brisbane because Wellawyn had closed. Dr Carseldine had requested I stay in Brisbane from about the 8th month of my pregnancy. I stayed with Ella. Ailsa's birth was my first 'normal' birth - full term baby with no induction. Betty and Rhonda had developed whooping cough at this time and Betty's cough lasted for just 1 week, but Rhonda's cough lasted 6 months.

Ailsa was brought home to Woodford but was kept in isolation. I stayed with her in the front bedroom, Ronnie was with Rhonda in the other bedroom and Peace Chalmers (who was employed to help me) stayed with Betty in the third bedroom.



The Osmond girls at Durundur Street - left to right - Ailsa, Grace, Betty, Rhonda

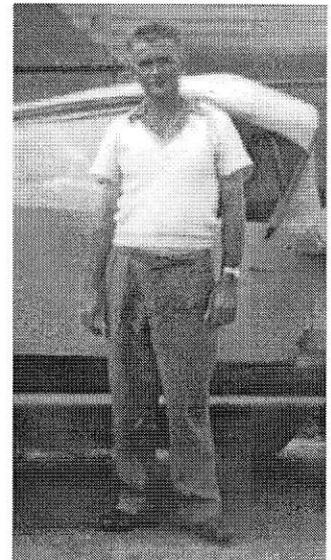
Ron was still very interested in the milling industry and went into a new venture with his brothers Charlie and George at Bellthorpe. Each partner contributed £200 to establishing a case mill in 1947. They cut rose gum and supplied Elimbah Fruit Growers Association with cases.



In 1949 Ron had a major accident at the mill breaking his ribs and rupturing his spleen. He was brought down to Woodford to see Dr Rankin who was at the pub having dinner. Dr Rankin took one look at him, gave him a needle and sent him straight to Kilcoy with a new driver, Dick Webb. Jack Webb collected me and took me to Kilcoy. Ron had almost bled white internally by the time he had reached Kilcoy, but Dr German who had been a doctor in the war, saved his life. He tested Dick Webb's blood and found it compatible with Ron's and simply transfused the blood from Dick to Ron. He made up a plasma, ordered an ambulance and he and I travelled with Ron to a hospital in Brisbane. When I was collected by Jack I was told that Ron had had an accident and would not make it. Ron was operated on at 4.00am in Brisbane by Dr Tuffley. He was in hospital for 8 weeks during which time he developed pneumonia. He was released on condition that he stay in Brisbane for at least 1 month, so we rented a place from Mrs Rickman.

Ron was off work for 3 months after the accident. Mervyn (his brother) started him back at work by giving him a job painting the Woodford Post Office. I applied to the Government for Relief Money at this point because no money was coming in. I received £2/ 10/ 0 per week.

A dentist visited Woodford from Caboolture at this time and I got a job working as his nurse. Ron stayed with Mervyn in carpentering for a few years then built our new house before starting work as a carpenter for Herb Garden in Kilcoy in 1955.



Ron leaving hospital



Holidaying in the sun!

Ron got his holidays at Christmas time each year. We started going on camping holidays to King's Beach Caloundra when Betty was nearly 2 years old (1942). We bought WW2 army gear - a large heavy tent, 4 camp stretchers and a table with side seats attached and used boxes for storage. The Willies Ute was always loaded and later as the girls grew, they too were 'packed' into



the back with the camping gear. As we became more experienced campers, we upgraded to a 12' x 12' marquee, a storage safe, a folding table and folding chairs (which Ron built) and an ice chest. We cooked on 2 Primus stoves.

We made some very good long term friends on those camping holidays, for like us, they too returned to the same place every year.

Two holidays will stay etched in our memory. One year Uncle George Kemp built a house at Maroochydore and offered it to us for the holidays. That was the year of the first shark spotter planes. An army Wirraway was used. Ron was getting over his spleen operation and couldn't go swimming, so he was sitting under the shade trees overlooking Maroochydore's main surfing beach and I took the 3 girls swimming. When the plane circled several times, I thought there may have been a shark, so gathered my 3 girls together in case a rush of people from the surf separated them from me.



Betty, Rhonda, Ailsa - Caloundra holiday

We hadn't left the water when the plane circled again and crashed onto the beach killing 2 people, bounced over a big group of people and landed on another group, where another person died. The plane burst into flames but lifesavers and helpers doused the flames with sand. Many people were hurt and many were covered in hot oil. There was bedlam on the beach for some time, with the screams from those injured and oil burnt and people calling in panic for family members. After that sad holiday, we returned to camping at Dicky Beach Caloundra.

The second very memorable holiday was at Dicky Beach. It was the early '60's ('62 or '63). Rhonda and Keith were camping with us. Ron had set us up in the tent in amongst the trees and had gone back to Woodford to work. On New Year's Eve a cyclone hit Caloundra. Just about all the other tents in the camping ground were blown over except for ours. A tree blew down across the corner of the tent. We lowered the centre pole and ended up sitting on top of the tent to prevent it blowing away. Ron drove through floods the next day to rescue us!



On the 6th September 1959, Sarah (Ron's mum) died and was laid to rest in the Bald Hills cemetery next to her husband. The Woodford Methodist Church has dedication plaques to both George Henry and Sarah Osmond.

Ron worked as a carpenter in the Forestry Department from 1957 – 1961. In 1962 Ron was building a house on Bribie Island for Digger and Norma Brett (Rhonda's future husband's parents) and fell through the roof and broke his ribs again.

He worked as a relief Postman in Woodford and then in Kilcoy.

One day he saw a advertisement for carpenters to build the Zillmere Post Office in Brisbane, so applied and was told to start immediately. This was 1963. He decided to take the job as there were no jobs for carpenters in Woodford. He went to live with his Aunty Ada Baptist in Sandgate while I stayed at the house in Durundur Street Woodford. It was time for the family to be together again, so I moved to Brisbane as well. Betty was in the RAAF, Rhonda was already at Teachers College in Brisbane, and Ailsa soon obtained a job in Brisbane.

Ron worked as a carpenter in Brisbane until his early retirement in 1976, aged 63.

Some of the buildings Ron worked on in Brisbane were:

- *Zillmere Post Office*
- *Church of England's Arch Bishop's Chapel in Hamilton*
- *St Paul's Lutheran College*
- *Centeur House*
- *Squash courts at University of QLD*
- *Assembly Hall at Aspley High*
- *Westfield Shopping Town at Toombul*
- *In Service Training Centre at Bardon*
- *Water Tower at Aspley*
- *Symes Grove Old People's Home*
- *Telephone Exchange at Banyo*
- *Flockton Street Hotel*
- *School dental clinics on the peninsula*

After we moved to Brisbane, I found the change very difficult to adjust to and my Doctor suggested that I find a job to take my



mind off everything. I began working in the kitchens at the Freemason's Home in Sandgate in 1964 until they found out I was a nurse and asked me to return to nursing in the wards, which I did. I worked full time for years then cut that back to 3 days per week. I resigned on the 6th July 1976. I really enjoyed working with elderly people. You can learn so much from their experiences in life!

I retired when I was 63 and Ronnie retired shortly after. This enabled us to travel quite a lot throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Our life together has been happy even though there has been many ups and downs.

Some special events have been marked with special celebrations. We were given a surprise 25th Silver Wedding Anniversary party at Ella's in Brisbane in 1964. We had family get-togethers in 1976 – Osmond's at Caloundra and Kemp's at Beachmere.



Osmond get-together

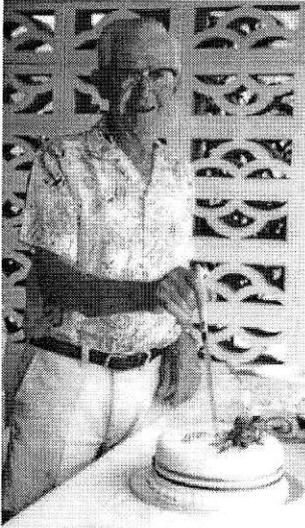


Kemp get-together

Our Golden Wedding Anniversary was celebrated in 1989 with a luncheon at Ailsa's at Kallangur.



Golden Wedding Anniversary



Ron celebrating his 80th birthday

We marked our 80th birthdays in 1993 with a special celebration for Ron at Ailsa's in Kallangur and mine at the Terraces in the city (Brisbane).



Grace celebrating her 80th birthday

Words of Wisdom

In conclusion, both Ron and I would like to offer some 'words of wisdom' to our children, grand children and great grand children.

I believe we all need to sit a while and listen to 'old folk'. You may think they are old fashioned, which no doubt they are, to today's standards of living, but many a wise old head sits on their shoulders still, if one just stops to listen.

Ron believes we must listen to all advice, have an open mind but eventually do what you feel most comfortable with. Enjoy your life, be honest with yourself and put effort into whatever you do.



Poor, But Blessed In the Old Days

*We met and we married a long time ago,
We worked long hours when wages were low,
No TV, no wireless, no bath, times were hard,
Just a cold water tap and a walk in the yard,
No holidays abroad, no carpets on floors,
We had wood on the fire, and we didn't lock doors.*

*Our children arrived, no pill in those days
And we brought them up without any State Aid.
They were safe going out to play in the park,
And old folk could go for a walk in the dark.*

*No Valium, no drugs and no LSD,
We cured most of our ills with a good cup of tea.
No vandals, no muggings, there was nothing to rob,
We felt we were rich with a couple of bob.*

*People were happy in those far off days,
Kinder and caring in so many ways.
Milkman and paper boy would whistle and sing,
A night at the pictures was our main fling.*

*We all got our share of trouble and strife,
We just had to face it – that's the pattern of life.*

*Now we sit and look back through the years,
We don't think of the bad times, trouble and tears,
We remember the blessings, our home and our love,
And that we shared them together,*

I thank God above.

