



1964: Railcar 200 at Woodford heading for Brisbane

Photo J Armstrong.

Note: name on foreground pineapple cases: A E Brooker Woodford



**Woodford Historical Society** 2025

*Compiled using information from:-*

*Trove Newspapers, local historian Ron Trim, PO Directories*

## Fact Sheet – W9



*Sawmills of Durundur ...*

### Brooker's Case Mill (c1944 – c1956)



*Brookers Case Mill with workers*

*Mo Maroski, Nugget & Edgar Brooker*

In the 1940s, Albert (Nugget) Brooker started a box & case sawmill in Hendy Street in Woodford.

*Albert Ernest Brooker (1907-1972)*



*Woodford Sawmills*

## Brooker's Case Mill *continued*

Albert (Nugget) Brooker was a local lad, born in Woodford in 1901.

In 1942, he had a poultry farm and was an owner truck driver, living in Hendy Street.



### **Local historian Ron Trim's recollections:**

*During the war years, Nugget Brooker set up a case mill in Hendy Street but in the war years, timber became so short that builders from Brisbane asked him if he could supply them with any species of timber.*

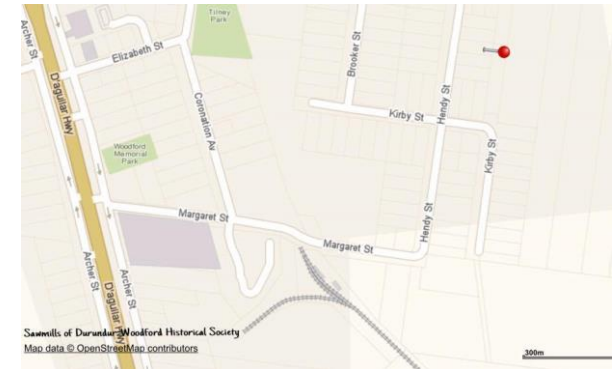
*There was no shortage of white gum in the Forestry, so he started on that, and with making sure it was cut right, and strapped tight, it did the job. The mill was driven by an old Macdonald diesel engine and the staff was Nugget, Edgar and Lionel Maroski.*



*Brooker's old house in George Street, Woodford*

**Brooker Albt E, box & case mfr (wooden), Woodford**

From *QUEENSLAND PO DIRECTORY* 1947



*7 Hendy Street, Woodford  
Site of the Brooker's Case Mill*



*The axeman in the tree is Albert (Nugget) Brooker.  
He takes a rest while falling a Red Stringy Bark.*



*1940s: Nugget Brooker and his homemade tractor*



### **Edgar Brooker, son of Albert Brooker recollections:**

*Albert 'Nugget' Brooker had a case sawmill at 7 Hendy Street, Woodford where he cut timber for mainly banana and pineapple cases. The flooded gum logs were mainly sourced from the farms of Wally Campbell and Neil Herps.*

*Edgar Brooker (Albert's son) started working in his father's mill at the age of 14 and worked there till he was about 21. Edgar was also known as 'Nugget'.*

*Work was plentiful in the 1940s and 1950s, and Edgar stated,*

***'In those days every young man could always get a start in a mill, at the butter factory or Woodford Motors'.***

**Brooker's case mill, Woodford;**

From TROVE: **WORKER** 29 March 1954