

SNIPPETS OF LIDSTER DISTRICT HISTORY FROM 1870--1970 AS RELATED BY
MRS. PHYLLIS MALLON.

The Lidster area situated west of Lidster Hill, then called "Germans' Hill" from Nashdale seven miles west of Orange to Cargo, developed about the middle of the nineteenth century. Settlers started to select land for farming about 1850 and after gold was discovered in the Cargo district in the early 1860's, a number of hotels, post offices, schools and churches appeared in the Lidster area.

Two men, Dick Boaden and Harry Moore, were dealers who travelled between Orange and Cargo through the Lidster area. The Gough "boys" were the first to put the motor coach on the roads in 1920; Jim Gough on the Cargo Road and Tom Gough on the Forbes Road.

HOTELS. There were two well-known hotels at the turn of the century:

1. the Nil Desparandum (Never Despair) was near Borse Lane where Brittens now live adjacent to the old pine trees and their shearing shed.
2. the Halfway House was between Kings' (Koolibah) and Rices' ("Medina").

There was a butter factory across the creek opposite Mallons, which was a part of the "Overflow" - selected by Martin O'Neill and later owned by O'Shea's, now owned by Laurie Doberer.

POST OFFICE. Lidster Post Office was first opened in 1912 where Spicers now live at the foot of the hill. Mr McKenzie was the first postmaster, followed by Moons. Wilson's moved it across the road in 1915 and Jenkins took it over in 1941 until Lidster was connected with the automatic exchange in Orange in 1960's. Medina Post Office was first at Coffee Hill and later moved to where Rice's now live about 1912.

SCHOOLS. The first convent was opened in 1860 at the foot of Lidster Hill in a shed which was burnt down - it was then moved to where Lidster tennis Courts now stand and a Catholic Church also was erected in 1866. There were 40 pupils and 12 boarders at the Convent. St. Cathage Church served the community for 100 years and was demolished in 1966. The Convent closed in 1921 but the Lidster residents still have an active tennis club at the site and have three tennis courts.

There was also a Church of England at Cave Creek which was dedicated on 30th November 1877 and served the community for almost 100 years. It was demolished in the 1970's when the property was bought by Stanford brothers.

There were three state schools in the area as well as the Convent; Coffee Hill school, opposite "Coolamatong" now managed by Canobolas Shire President, Mr Gilbert Watts, on the reserve opened in 1891. Families from Goughs, Greenings, Longs, Listers, Bakers and O'Neill's attended this school.

Cave Creek school was opened in 1884 near Cudal Road opposite Trueloves - it expanded when Coffee Hill school closed. In 1916 Cave Creek school closed. There was another small school operating for a short time near the Cave Creek Church on Carr's property (now Hanlon's).

Now in 1973 with the suggested development of the Orange-Bathurst Growth Centre, agricultural land prices are booming at an average price of \$150 to \$200 per acre. This makes an interesting comparison to a century ago when the early settlers were taking up land for 1/- (10 cents) per acre. What of the future?

NOTE
Also.

"Mt Esk" at Lidster a subsidised school 1949/51.
Schoolroom - at Lachlan Downs homestead, now the
home of a Mrs. L.P. St. John's family.