

Anderson's Timber & Hardware

In view of recent passings we thought it timely to tell the story of the Anderson's Timber & Hardware as it involved a number of these people in one way or another.

In 1919 J.E. (Ted) Anderson moved to his block of land on the Monbulk Hill below Nathania Springs and married Ida Thomson, the sister of a neighbour George Thomson.

By 1923 Ted had acquired a small saw-bench and was bringing in timber to produce boxes for the local berry growers. Ted sold

timber at 17 shillings per 100 super feet, and delivered it by horse and dray.

In 1926 he purchased his first truck and in 1930 he installed a petrol bowser. 1932 saw the building of a garage on the main road, a timber yard, office and hardware shop. More trucks were bought and two more bowsers installed, a different petrol company's name appearing on each bowser.

In 1937 Ted purchased a mill in Gladysdale and gained access to an allocated area of timber. After the disastrous bush fires in 1939, Ted negotiated with the Government to purchase and salvage the large Mountain Ash trees which had been burnt in the Cumberland Valley.

Anderson's timber milling business now entered its busiest period and also became one of the biggest employers in the area. During WW2 E. Anderson and Sons employed 30 men. Ted's three sons, Ned, Frank and Jack were all involved in the family business. Then in 1945 the equipment from the Cumberland Valley was moved to the Monbulk yard.



Anderson's Timber & Service Station 1932

By 1946 a joinery shop was added along with more equipment. In 1952 Ted Anderson's house was cut in two and moved to other sites. (Half to top end of Moores Road, and other half to Silvan Road on the Monbulk side of the now Wishing Well Nursery.)

This made way for

the new Garage on the corner of Main & Silvan Roads to be built. The Anderson family continued to operate several businesses from the Main Road and Silvan Road corner: a hardware shop, timber mill, produce store, a garage with a Holden Agency and a used car lot across the road.

By 1953 there were 3 bowsers, 8 trucks and up to 33 employees. Ted's 3 sons were now running the businesses. Ned was in charge of the mill,



Anderson's taking part in the Monbulk Berry Festival in the 1960s

Frank, the bush crew, and Jack the hardware and produce. Frank later took over the garage after Ned died in 1954. In 1956 Albert Crerar built a sawdust burner behind the mill with the help from Doug Dickinson who helped carry the fire bricks in. The burner still stands today on private land.

The 1950's saw the Anderson brothers buying mills at Cockatoo and at Silvan. This gave them the log licence to get timber from Beenak Forest. As time went by it was Jack's son Bruce, and Frank's son Alan who took over running the hardware, produce and timber mill.

As the families grew the business was split between the 2 families and in 1979 Frank's family moved the hardware to the garage site on the corner of Main & Silvan Roads and was run by Frank's son Alan. During the early 1980s while under Alan's reign, the Hardware joined the "Mitre 10" group.

Jacks family moved the Produce Store to the old hardware site and Jack's son Bruce and his nephew, Graeme Rankin ran the Produce store and Timber Mill.

The company employed many local identities over the years and the marriages of Ted and Ida's children meant they were now related to many of the local families. As time went by, the areas where timber was available for logging became more and more distant which led to the closure of Anderson's Monbulk Timber Mill in 1992. At the same time the Produce store was sold to Eddie Anderson (youngest son of Frank) and was operated with the Hardware Store.

In 2000 the Monbulk Mitre 10 Hardware ('Anderson's Hardware and Produce Store') was sold to Paul Murphy and in 2016 still continues to operate.



Bob Bennett's truck with a huge log to deliver to Anderson's Timber Mill during the early 1960s



Bill Rankin was a truck driver for E. Anderson & Sons in the late 1950s.

FAREWELL

Over the past few months we have had to say a sad goodbye to several long time residents of pioneering families of Monbulk and The Patch.

Ron Gray
Bob Maxwell
Dot Rankin *nee Anderson*

Bob Bennett
Heather Dickinson *nee McCarthy*
Ron Griffith

Our heartfelt thoughts are with all these families.

WHY NOT JOIN!

Monbulk Historical Society was established around 1985 and began the preservation of many documents and photographs donated to the society covering the townships of Monbulk, The Patch and Kallista and the families who pioneered these towns. Records of the history of these settlements date back to 1893. Our collection also includes the publications of oral histories and newspaper articles of local families.

The Society endeavors to continue to research, collect oral histories and produce publications related to these areas, assistance with school projects and responding to enquiries from the general public.

Monbulk Historical Society is managed by a small team of volunteers but we need your help to continue. If you enjoy learning about the people and places that led to our community being what it is today or have something to contribute, please become a member and join us. We meet every Wednesday morning 9.30 - 12 Noon excluding school holidays. You can participate in various ways depending on your time, interests and skills. Membership is just \$20.00 per year or \$30.00 for a family and enjoy our exclusive member benefits.

Monbulk Historical Society Inc.
PO Box 98
Monbulk Vic 3793

email: explore@monbulkhistoricalsociety.org.au



www.monbulkhistoricalsociety.org.au