

Eulogy – Percy Hale Sheaffe

Born 14th December, 1917 Goonengerry

Eldest son of William Ashmore Sheaffe & Cecil Nelson Percy Whittall.

Born in their advancing years, he was soon joined by 4 brothers & a sister.

He grew up on the Dairy Farm & young bullocks were also sold as ‘working bullocks’.

Attended Goonengerry Primary School only, & Goonengerry Anglican church.

He used to tell me of the fun times as a boy swimming in Pine Tree Hole, sliding down the red soil creek bank slopes & how he used to have to battle to get his horse to go on outbound journeys, but hang on for his life as soon as he turned it’s head for home.

Not much interest in farming, but keen on growing veges & flowers, Junior Farmers organisation.

Driving

He got a job as a Truck driver, probably the youngest around, for a local carrier & carted all sorts of goods around the district for some time.

When he saw the Goonengerry local bus service for sale & bought it with a bank loan. Before too long he had worked out the shortcomings of being a sole operator, purchased a new bus & started the expansion process, soon owning 3 licensed runs.

Moved to Mullumbimby, continuing to expand bus service.

When he ‘retired’ from the buses in 1969, we had 9 buses (I think) on the road, with routes Mullum-Lismore x3, Newrybar-Lismore, Murwillumbah-Lismore & Mullum-Brisbane. IT was the 2nd largest fleet on Nth Coast behind Kirklands.

In 1950 he married Olive June Paull from Earlwood in Sydney, some time after she had been visiting this area with family & attended a dance & making eyes at the bus driver all night!

Horticulture

His keenness of horticulture did not end with moving from the farm to transport industry. In Mullum he built a bush-house & orchid house & a huge vege garden, which eventually was overtaken by even more orchids.

He was an active member of Lismore Orchid Society & founding member of Byron District Orchid Society, conducted growing & potting demonstrations, competed successfully & judged at orchid shows over a wide area. Mum & I even did an Orchid Judging Course with him on the Gold Coast when I was quite young.

He also judged at many flower shows, Dahlias being high on the list that I recall wandering around in.

Mullum Council

He was a member of Mullumbimby Municipal Council for a number of years (before Byron Shire got it's claws on it!). One of his initiated projects, with some prompting from his City Bride, was to get the cows off the streets in town.

Rotary

He joined Mullumbimby Rotary Club in 1951. Awarded 50 years with 100% attendance, then 56 years in 2007.

Church

Mullumbimby- St Martins Anglican Church, first Lay Reader in the area.

Brunswick – St Clements Anglican Church, lay reader,

1969 - Sold buses, moved to Brunswick & built Nursery with new house

Bruns Progress Assn – Initiated & participated in Torakina Beach project.

Bruns bypass – Lobbied with RTA, Council, Govt for many years & participated in opening.

Personal

Dad chose carefully & once associated with an association or organisation, became committed to it 100%.

Church, rotary, etc

Even hobbies – plants, orchids etc

I learned a lot from Dad – gardening, mechanics, driving car & bus, moral values, honour, life. He was an articulate speaker & my model in public speaking.

'Pa' loved his children & grandchildren

Mum's last observations: as he was nearing the end, he said to her,

“ I'm going home soon”

“The sun is so bright”

Jesus said that he came to be a light in darkness, that He is the only way to the Father.

We trust & believe that Pa saw Him as the light & is now with Him for eternity.

We love you Pa, & look forward to singing & dancing with you & Jesus one day.