

Another of Our Old and Respected Pioneers

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THE death of Joseph Richard Sanders, 18 Wantirna Rd., Ringwood, on Wednesday, 21st Oct., 1959, in his 87th year, marks the passing of another of Ringwood's early pioneers.

He was born in Collingwood in August 1873 and came to Ringwood with his parents when 15 months old. They made their home on land on what is now known as Jubilee Park (Fuller particulars of this Park will appear in 'The Mail' at a later date, also reference will be made to Wantirna Rd, in the early days it was known as West Prussia Rd).

Joe went to the school held in the old homestead and orchard of Mr. Mills, just through the Heatherdale Road railway gates. He remembered many of the scholars, some of the boys and girls had to walk three and four miles to school through rough scrub paddocks in all kinds of weather. During the lunch hour a few of the boys generally went to the creek to fish for eels and would be late in getting back to school, greatly to the annoyance of the teacher.

One day the fishing was good and the boys rather reluctantly returned to the school late as usual. The teacher was furious and made them stand in front of the class but before inflicting punishment she called out to one of the boys to throw out that dirty bag he was holding. The lad gave the bag a shake and out wriggled a snake. There was immediately a general stampede from the class room, led by the teacher. The school was closed for the rest of the afternoon.

Another incident related to a few tramps who after the scholars had all gone home, generally camped for the night in an old back room in the homestead. One of the boys put a little gunpowder in this old fire place and when the tramps lit the fire to boil their billies the old chimney and part of the old wall just collapsed.

Joe, after leaving school, worked around the district for some time and later left Ringwood to live in other suburbs. He at one time was employed at the Aust Glass Works, and later as a carpenter worked on building the dome of the Railway Station at Flinders St.

He married a Miss E. M. Wood in 1901 at Richmond

and a few years afterwards returned to Ringwood and resided at No. 18 Wantirna Rd., where he reared a family of three girls (Alice, Ethel, Joyce) and two boys (Robert, and Joe).

Joe recalled to mind many interesting events of earlier years, such as the duplication of the railway line, and the cutting back of the embankment at the Goods Shed, the earth being used to heighten up the railway bridge over Wantirna Rd. The bricks works at Ringwood East and reference to early land surveys, the using of the heavy chain links before the use of the theodolite became general, and the many neighbours and friends whom he knew. He was interested in local public affairs and was fond of fishing. He proved himself a good citizen, and was highly respected and esteemed throughout the district, and so another old pioneer passes on.

(Contributed by J. K. McCaskill, J.P.)