

## **CATTLE TRAVEL 600 MILES BY MOTOR**

This was a newspaper cutting kept by my mother Ann Thomas. I've made this copy to go into the Marysville Historical Society's Mary Chain Guesthouses file.

Eric Dowdle (and his wife Rita) was the owner of the six Mary Chain guesthouses in the 1920's through to the 1960's when they were sold. Four of the guesthouses were in Marysville, two were in the Dandenong's and Mornington Peninsular.

Eric Dowdle had a pig farm at Mary Meadows (now El Kanah) farmed by Fred Fiske Junior. He decided that he should run Illawarra Short-horn on the paddock (now the Marysville Golf Course). In June 1934 he sent his truck (a Chev truck which was usually used to cart laundry from Frenches Laundry, Healesville for the guesthouses, as well as vegetables) to the town of Illawarra, New South Wales for pedigree cattle.

On the truck was the driver, my father Leslie Thomas, Berry Higgs nephew to Eric Dowdle and the person (centre of photo) unknown, as well as the photographer, Wykham Perry Senior. The photo appeared in a newspaper.

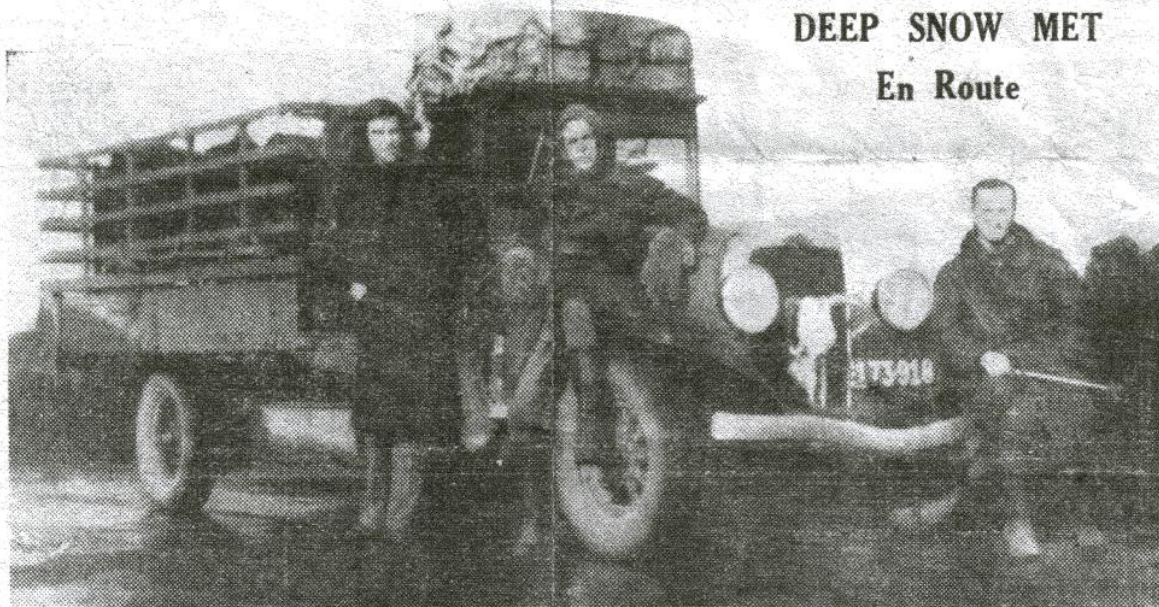
For these four young men it was a highlight of their career to journey 600 miles. At that time the Great Depression was biting deeply and they considered themselves fortunate indeed to be given a job, let alone one that included adventure.

Berry Higgs was a bookkeeper for Marylands. He and Murray Hall, son of Mt. Kitchener Guesthouse, Marysville, were among the first to ski on Lake Mountain-hence the 'Berry Higgs (snow) Playground'. Later Berry and his wife Nancy had the Log Cabin. Their son's name was Robin.

(Source: Leslie Thomas)

# CATTLE TRAVEL 600 MILES BY MOTOR

DEEP SNOW MET  
En Route



*Leslie Thomas*

600 miles by road, pedigreed