

During the year 1905. The Business known as the Federal Dining Rooms situate on the corner of Elrod & 16th Crac Streets Danden was purchased by my mother (M^{rs} Crook) It was during the days of the horse drawn vehicles. At that time the meals & Bed cost 1/- each.

I can remember the year 1908 we had a man ask for accomodation for himself & a team of Bullock. They were attached to a Bullocks Wagon. When he drove them into the yard there was a real din of a noise. The man shouting to the Bullocks & cracking a whip. (Which of course was the reason I have never forgotten the occasion.)

After some time they were detached from the wagon and given feed & water for the night. Some time later on he came again; But this time to sell the Bullocks & Wagon. I think he must of sold them as I don't remember him coming again.

Monday was a busy day of preparation for Tues. Market Day. It was nothing for us to peel a hundred weight of Potatoes. Shell a sack of peas. The big oven was alight at 6 o'clock in the morning & my mother would cook

30 lbs of Lopside, Leg Lamb, Leg Mutton sometimes
a leg of Pork 6 lbs. of Stewing Steak for Steak Pie.
All this was ready to serve by 11 o'clock. Also 6 large
Plum Puddings

The Produce + Cattle Market was
just across the ^{road} in Mr Crae + Lonsdale Street.

There was a big sign in front of the Dining Room
which was hoisted up when the dinner was ready.
Then a big Bell was rung with some vigour.

People would come from market + rush in for Dinner

I have enclosed a menu which was a 3 course meal

Often some men would ask for return meat + Puddin
and not pay anymore than One Shilling (1/-)

A cup of Tea + Pie 6 (Home made.) also Scones
or Buns with Tea cost only 6.

On Saturdays a Horse Sale was held.

On that day we catered for about 20 to 35
people for dinner

Often the Horse dealers came on a Friday
night so they could inspect the Horses for
Sale on Saturday

One dealer a Mr Badbury from Collingwood
used to stay on Friday nights as he
bought Ponies and shipped them to India
He had a contract to supply so many

3

It must of been a considerable number as they were for the English Regiment in India

They were taken over to India by Ship Mr Cadbury + helpers went to care for the Ponies as some became ^{Sea} sick + ~~some~~ Some times would die if not properly cared for.

Mr Cadbury brought back Gifts of Silk Material for our Family.

I have a photo of my Mother + Sister dressed in frocks which Mother made from the Silk Material.

My sister + me used to serve 200 People with Dinner on a Tuesday. We had a young girl to help us in the Dining Rooms to pour ~~out~~ out Cups of Tea. Also 2 extra helpers in the Kitchen for Tuesday.

There were at times many People travelling long distances by road in horse drawn ~~vehicles~~ Vehicles. They would stay over night + order Breakfast early. There were also Boarders to attend to and seldom less than six at a time.

There were times when men would ask for Board & Lodgings and they would pay when they got work.

One man (Cecil Simmons) stayed 6 weeks and got up early one morning and left.

We never heard of him again.

After this Mother would never give anyone meals or Lodgings unless they paid in advance.

During the Summer months we often had 15 to 20 men Riding Bicycles coming from the City of Melbourne. About 11 o'clock Sunday morning they would order dinner. Occasionally we only had $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours to prepare their dinner. So you can imagine how fast we had to work. The big Range we had in Cooking Kitchen seldom got very cold during winter. This Range I was bought from the Prahran Town Hall. My Uncle Mother's Brother was working for the Prahran City Council & he was able to help Mother buy it from the Council. It was a huge stove & did it make the Cooking Kitchen Hot. The ovens were so big that one day I can remember I got into one. Of course I was only about 10 years old & the Oven was cold.

In the year 1919 Mr. Crook became ill through working too hard and such long hours. Dr. order complete rest. So the Business was sold.

The Price was £1000 That included floor coverings Beds + Blankets sheets & everything (the whole lot.) Mother was then 50 years old She only lived 8 years after leaving the Dining Rooms.

I have enclosed a menu which was used on the Tables on Tuesdays + Saturdays.

Also there a cutting from the Age. I just can't remember the Date of the Fire.

I have tried to find out the time But I just make a guess and say 1921 or 1922.

You might be able to find out from some at the Fire Station who was there at the time. I would like to know as I feel sure it was 1922

Maryle Brown (NEE MYRTLE CROOK)
35 Wilson St.
Oakleigh