

I was cleaning out some old records and I came across an account book belonging to my father, Edward Henry Pearce. who had orchard on what is not the North Blackburn Square Shopping Centre and also orchard on what is now site of the Blackburn High School. It starts on August 18th, 1917 and continues from there. Father used to market for a number of the other growers in the area and I am able to identify where some of them had their properties and also perhaps clarify some of the names of fruit used in the notes.

Burdof – Burgsdorf

Lyons – Early Lyons

Quigre – Early purple Quigre

Twiford –

Bedford – Bedford

Hortense – Reine Hortense

Florence – Florence

Marg – St. Margaret

All cherries Twiford and Florence were white cherries used for professing at factories.

You will note on the page for November 1918 a note Twyfords factory at 2^p twopence a pound also Florence at the same price (factory)

There is a note 10 cases Ang plums – Angelina plums – a blue plum referred to as an English plum as distinct from the Japanese plums

Graves – apple – Gravestein

Pears – W.B.C. – William Bon Chretur used for canning

Plums – GGage – Greengage

I have numbered the pages of the account book to help in identifying things which I refer to as otherwise some of it would be difficult to understand.

Page 2 – Wiggins – mid-season peach

Page 8 - Strawberries 1 doz. punnets 1 shilling

Page 9 – Zerbe 1 ½ cwt peas two shillings sixpence Laurie ½ cwt peas 1 shilling

Page 18 – Twyfords factory tuppence a pound these would be used for crystallizing also Florence another one was Napoleon.

Page 20 – Graves – Gravestein apple

Page 22 – Lyons WERDERS Twyfords cherries also Hort – Reine Hortense cherry – we would sell this variety to the Burnley School to be used in Fruit Bottling.

Page 26 – Goose Logan – Gooseberries Loganberries.

Page 44 – 58 cases of plums factory approx. sex shillings sixpence case.

Page 54 – G. Drop - Golden Drop plums. S. Queen – Shawlen Queen apples.

Pages 66-69 – tobacco – we used to buy tobacco waste and soak it in a tank of water for about 2 weeks to dissolve the nicotine out and then use the liquid to spray the fruit trees.

Page 76 – 3 cases Red Oil – used for Winter Spray.

Page 74 – Arsenate of Lead spray for Codlin Moth.

It was interesting to note how many family members were employed. A. Hakes, brother-in-law, D. Bayley, E. Slater, R. Slater, B. Slater all cousins Mrs Fowler, sister-in-law, A. Hakes, brother-in-law, S. Pearce, brother, M. Geraghty, cousin since it was wartime it was difficult to get casual labour.

PEOPLE

Barnes – lived in Francis St. in house with dirt floor.

Wilcocks – lived in Junction Rd.

Toogood – directly opposite in Springfield Rd. site of Koonung Park sports grounds and also now primary school.

Harris – property bounded by Springfield & Merle St. and Koonung Rd to Southey Street.

Zerbe – property on eastern side of Blackburn Primary School.

Laurie – on east side of Surrey Road from Fir Street north to the creek,

Tivendal – Junction Road.

Crowther – North of C. Toogood property sent to about Verbena Street.

R. Slater – Junction Road.

Geraghty – north-west corner of Springfield & Surrey Roads.

Platt – Corner of Zander Avenue and Springfield Road.

Filshie, Norm Semmler, R. Slater, David Bon, Wilcocks, Kendal all in Junction Road, Marshall from Marshall Road and Fred & Rex Toogood in the Kerrimuir area.

You will note Twyford & Werder Streets came from the names of cherries and Packham Street from Packham pear and Perc and Sam Hone with orchards on the Blackburn North side of Middleborough Road.

Re the 2 properties on each side of Williams Road the one on the eastern side was 17 acres and the other 30 acres.

These were originally owned by my great uncle, Mr Leonard Sherwin Bagley. My father Edward Henry Pearce worked for him and planted them in orchard in 1906 and 1907. He married I December 1910 and a house was built for him on the property, he worked the orchard on a share basis, Mr Bayley taking a percentage and he the rest.

In 1924 the properties were sub-divided – copy of the plan as passed by the M.M.B.W. and the council's enclosed, however, only 2 blocks were sold so my father bought the properties as an orchard.

He continued to work in and when he had paid off an amount equal to the value of the 17 acres he received title to it which he had put in my mother's name and I eventually bought it off her, the property on the western side of 30 acres. The Education Department compulsorily acquired 21 ½

As the site of Blackburn High School leaving 8 ½ acres which I worked as orchard until 1968 when I sub-divided it into building blocks.

My grandmother, Mrs M. Pearce, built what is reputed to be the first shop in the Nunawading area.

Photos of the shop are in some of the histories of the area.

Grandma sold groceries, greengroceries, confectionery etc and because of legal restrictions, re hours, she had built what we referred to as the brick sop and used to transfer stock from one shop to the other when it was illegal to have the grocery part open. The brick shop is now the site of the Income Tax Professionals.

Photo taken March 12th 2001.

Photo of grandma taken probably before 1920 with the horse which was used to pull the covered wagon used for deliveries around the area.

Photo of the same area Marc 12th 2001.

Photo of original Peace residence built sometime between 1855 & 1870 still in position with 2 units built in front of it at rear of 9 Mall Court, North Blackburn.

Photo taken March 2001.

Transcriber's notes:

Up until 1966, when decimal currency came into use, 12 pennies made 1 shilling (1/-) and sixpence was half a shilling. Two shillings and sixpence was written as 2/6. Twenty shillings made a pound £1 roughly equivalent to Two Dollars.

The weight measure of 'cwt' was a hundredweight which was 112 lb. (50.8Kg) and there were 20 cwt to a ton.