

# THE MORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Published every month except December.

The Society meets every 3rd Tuesday of the Month 7:30pm Collins St. State School Library

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## THE EARLY SQUATTERS

The members at our October meeting thoroughly enjoyed the talk given by Mr Patrick Morgan on the early squatters of Gippsland. Using maps and photos, he traced the history of the district from pre 1841 through to the coming of the railways. The names of the first squatters and selectors and their descendants brought all sorts of memories to members whose forefathers were pioneers in this area. The past came closer when we realised that only a little over 140 years ago, about 3000 aborigines roamed their five tribal areas in Gippsland unaware of the coming invasion of the white men. By about 1860 these 3000 were reduced to approximately 600. Mr Morgan illustrated how the settlement of Gippsland developed later, and in a different pattern, to that of other parts of Victoria mainly because of its geography. It grew rather like the spokes of a wheel with Sale as its hub.

The need for preserving any literature about Gippsland was emphasized because of its scarcity. Three most interesting books mentioned were:

1. "Recollections of an Australian Squatter" by William Adams Brodribb,
2. "Account of a journey to Gippsland" by Lavinia Hassell Bennett, and
3. "Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip" by R.V. Billis and A.J. Kenyon.

However these are not readily obtained because these are limited copies. Morwell library has a copy of each of them, but they can not be taken from the library. All are welcome to peruse them in the library, however.



# The man from 'Bushy Park'

## His home in Moe tomorrow

By RAY NEVE

**M**OE'S Gippsland Folk Museum soon will feature two fully reconstructed historic Victorian homes.

• The first of two articles on the life of Angus McMillan and his historic "Bushy Park" homestead which arrives at the Moe Folk Museum this week.

They are "Loren" and "Bushy Park", each providing a valuable link with the pioneering days.

"Loren" is now in course of re-erection on the museum location close to the Princes Highway on the western fringe of the city.

"Bushy Park", the home of Angus and Christina McMillan and their sons Ewan and Angus Jnr, is due to arrive on a low-loader tomorrow from the Avon river district north of Maffra.

"Loren" itself is not a pioneer Gippsland home, having been brought to Moe from Curzon-st., North Melbourne, where it stood for well over 100 years.

It is symbolic of many early Gippsland homesteads, however.

A prefabricated iron house, its components were constructed probably in Scotland. The date of its erection in North Melbourne has been fixed as being between 1858 and 1860.

It is similar to dozens of similar prefabricated homes that were unloaded over 100 years ago at Port Albert for settlers in various parts of Gippsland.

A prefabricated iron house similar to "Loren" was demolished at Sale four years ago.

**T**HE Angus McMillan home represents an actual part of Gippsland history.

Known as "the discoverer of Gippsland", Angus McMillan blazed the trail down from the Monaro district of NSW in 1840.

Born in 1810 at Glenbrittle on the Isle of Skye, one of the large family of Ewan McMillan, Angus McMillan as a young man realised there was little future for him in his native country.

At the age of 27 he emigrated to New South Wales.

A narrative of his life was published in 1965, on the centenary of his death.

It was prepared by Bairnsdale Historical Society, and the informa-



tion given forms the basis of this article.

Angus McMillan arrived at Port Jackson in January 1838.

He had letters of introduction to Captain Lachlan Macalister, who gave him employment as a manager at "Clifton".

This was near the historic Macarthur station at Camden, 40 miles south-east of Sydney.

He became disgusted at the inhuman treatment of convict laborers and asked to be transferred away from the inner colony.

**M**CMILLAN went to Currawong Station in the Maneroo country (Monaro) in February 1839.

It was from here that in the following year he set out on the expeditions southward into what was to become known as Gippsland. His discoveries ensured his place in Australian exploring and pioneering history.

With a small party McMillan reached Port Albert in February 1841.

Gippsland grew rapidly from this time, with settlers flooding in both from the Maneroo country and through Port Albert.

Angus McMillan settled down to station life on his property at Bushy Park on the Avon River and leased a number of other runs at various times.

He pioneered the trade, between Port Albert and Hobart Town. He became a prominent member of

• **ABOVE:** Angus McMillan, "the discoverer of Gippsland," is pictured with two aboriginal friends. Cabone (big) Johnny, chief of the Theddor tribe, is on McMillan's right. Although some authorities say the other native is Jimmy Gabber, who accompanied the explorer down from the Monaro (NSW) into Gippsland in 1839, this is doubtful.

the Manchester Unity Lodge and the Gippsland Caledonian Society.

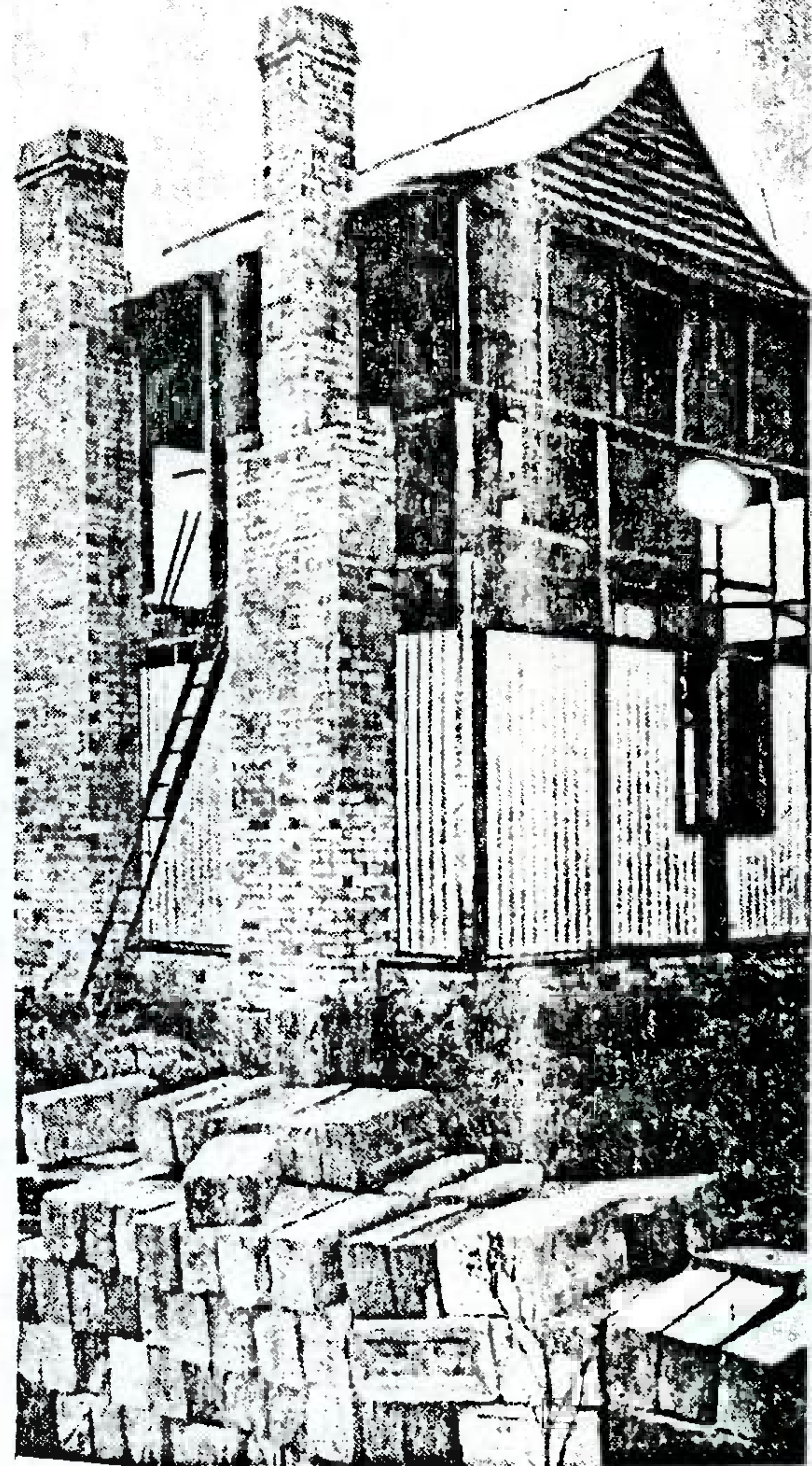
He raced thoroughbreds, smoked a pipe and enjoyed a convivial glass.

Angus McMillan served in the Legislative Assembly as the first member for South Gippsland, being elected in September 1859 at the age of 49.

His home was widely known for its generous hospitality to all and was a virtual hostel for newly-arrived Scottish settlers until they had learned sufficient of the new colony's life and customs to set out for themselves.

• **RIGHT:** "Loren", the other historic home at the Folk Museum.

• **THURSDAY —** McMillan in Gippsland.



28/4/69  
Moe Advertiser



**THE century-old Macmillan Homestead at Hazelwood appears doomed to demolition following a decision by the Morwell Shire Council last week not to alter its stance.**

Another appeal to council for council support by the Macmillan Homestead Committee was rejected at the meeting by eight votes to six.

Council's decision last Thursday was decided despite a deputation from the Homestead Committee and the presentation of a petition with some 3500 names on it calling for the Shire to reconsider its earlier decision.

Members of the committee, appointed last year at a public meeting, addressed the council meeting.

Mr Jack Lawless, who with his brother Frank owns the homestead and has offered to donate it to the Shire, told council that there was a great danger of the homestead either going out of the area or being destroyed. It's time the Shire and the people got together to help preserve our past relics," he said.

"This is one of the few areas in Victoria where you would not see any trace of its past,"

Mr Lawless said it was a shame the homestead could not be left on the hill where it now stands, overlooking the Morwell River. It has to be shifted because the spread of the Morwell open cut.

Mrs Joan Farago, the Homestead Committee's secretary, told council that she had had two quotes for the restoration of the homestead, of \$48,000 and \$42,500 from Cr Wes Jones and Campbell Constructions respectively. It is estimated that it would cost \$15,000 to move the homestead from its present site.

"The matter has become of more than local interest," Mrs Farago said. "With some coverage of the issue by the metropolitan media, not only the eyes and ears of local people are on this council."

The third speaker was Mr Keith Watson, Gippsland officer of the Department of Conservation.

The opposition by some councillors to the preservation of the homestead was obvious.

Cr Bruce Reynolds said

he thought the building itself was far from 100 years old, as has been the opinion of the Homestead Committee. "At this stage I am not convinced that it is 100 years old, and I cannot commit the ratepayers of Morwell to this project."

Cr Lou Bond was adamant that the homestead was not a century old, and equally adamant that the building as it now stands is not the original. According to Cr Bond the original building underwent extensive renovations in the early 1920s.

He was corrected quite vigorously by Mr Lawless on a number of points.

The SEC had offered to donate the cost of relocating the homestead, but the funding was subject to "substantial Morwell Shire Council commitment, plus the support of service clubs,"

**L.V EXPRESS**

**21-8-79**

APPLICATIONS for land licences approved.

T. Worcester, Gut-tamura; J. Parslow, Wonnangatta; H. Smith, Bundara-Munjie; W. J. Carson, Narrang; A. Peters, Carrajung; W. J. Reid, Wat Wat; T. Mahon, Holey Plains; J. and M. O'Connor, C. Thomson, Calignee; J. Bunston, C. S. Falkiner, J. Dalrymple, Tong Bong; L. Willemin, Isabelle McFayden, Briagolong; W. T. Betteson, Bulga; J. Woods, Welshpool; W. Warren, D. Waldron, Tambo; H. Richards, Stradbroke; J. Plant, Boola Boola; E. Howlett, Maryvale; J. Keogh, Yinnar; C. Morrell, Budgeree; J. Moore, W. Vivian, J. Pearce, F. Piera J. Gilsenan, Willung; J. Mahon, Stradbroke; J. O'Neill, Bingin-warrie; G. H. Widdon, Devon.

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ABSTRACT of auction sales: Morwell, Messrs Little and Borthwick store cows, steers, milkers and springers.

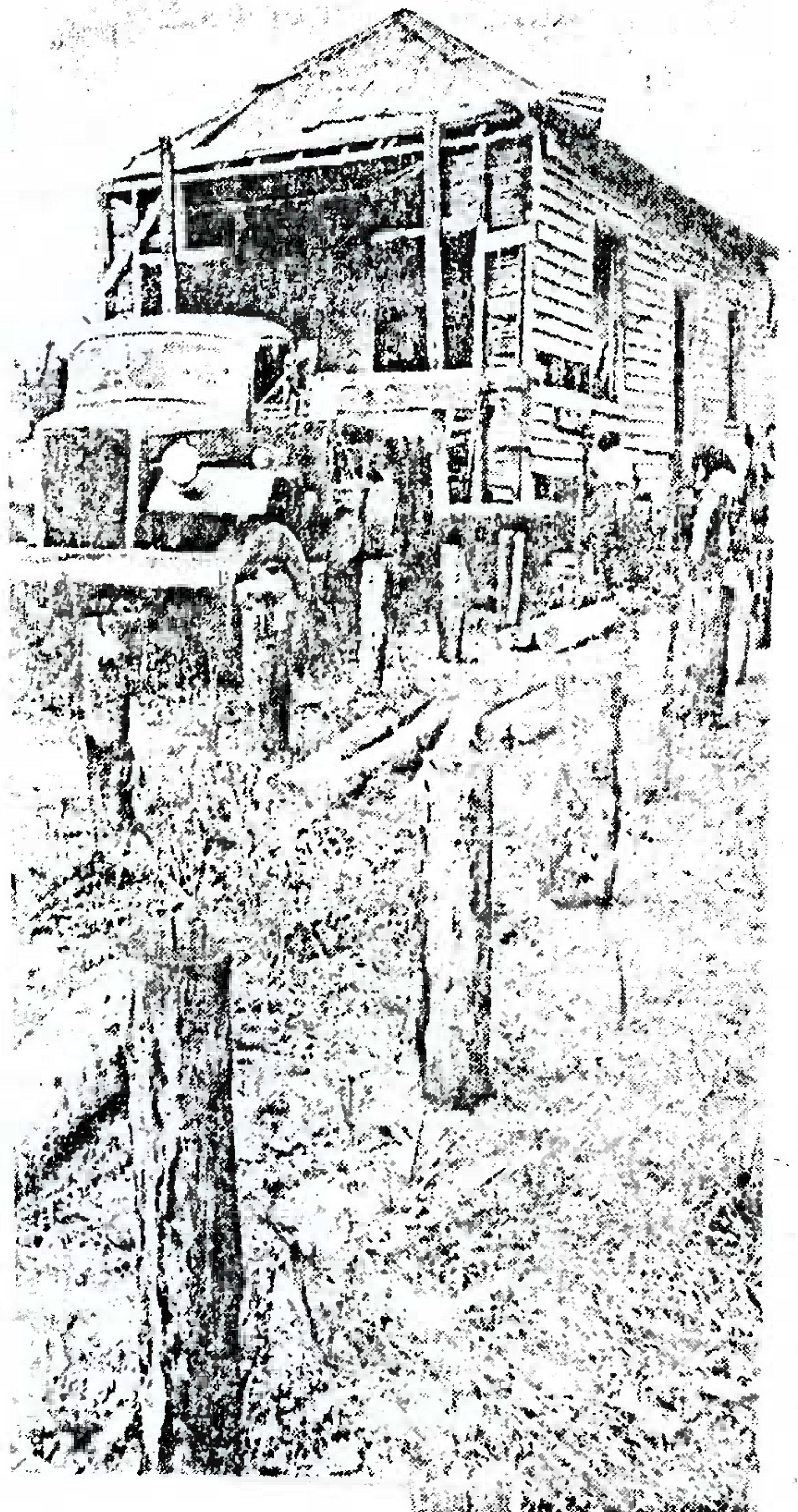
Messrs R. Guthridge and Co., fat cows and bullocks, store cows and springers.

Messrs A. McLean and Co., store cows, steers, heifers, and young cattle. **Bairnsdale:** Messrs A. McLean and Co., store bullocks, also Indian and omnibus horses.

WE UNDERSTAND that there is an opening for a first class milliner and dressmaker at Morwell, and any good hand commencing business will be sure to do well.

This is a chance for some of our enterprising young ladies.

**HOMESTEAD IS HERE**



**MORWELL  
ADVERTISER**

**19-5-69**

THE ANNUAL horse parade at Morwell under the auspices of local auctioneers was held on Monday last under rather unfavorable circumstances, as the recent rain had caused the roads to be in a very bad state and consequently prevented many horses from the outlying districts competing.

The draught horses comprised some of the best blood in the district, Mr Watson's Gunshot, a magnificent Clydesdale, claiming the greatest attention. Mr McDonald's Young Robin Grey, a fine iron grey, was generally admired during the day, and Mr Keogh's Young Clyde, by Lord Clyde, was much fancied.

ANGUS McMILLAN'S historical homestead at Bushy Park arrived in Moe on Wednesday.

The homestead, more than 110 years old, arrived in good order. It has been erected on red gum stumps obtained from McMillan country near Newry.

The homestead travelled by low loader through Maffra, Heyfield Rosedale, Traralgon, Morwell and then to Moe.

Restoration of the homestead began at the weekend.

Mr O. Dobratz, a member of the Museum Committee, has appealed to any tradesman willing to help in the restoration to contact him immediately.

**RURAL LIFE in 1885**

**EXTRACTS FROM THE GIPPSLAND TIMES**



Mr. GEORGE BOND, of "Horseshoe Vale," Yinnar, the subject of this article, was born at Lovely Banks, Geelong, in the year 1860, and has led a life of hard work from a very early age, but by tenacity and pluck has made good, until at the present time he is recognised as one of the most successful farmers in the Yinnar district.



COMEBACK SHEEP ON MR. G. BOND'S PROPERTY, YINNAR.

Mr. George Bond's father came to Australia in the very early days, and first settled in Geelong, Victoria, where he reared his family and worked at his trade of stonemason. Mr. Bond, sen., built his own house at Geelong, and carried out many contracts in that city and the surrounding district.

At the early age of thirteen years Mr. George Bond learned to shear, and followed that occupation for many years. He was working in Gippsland at the age of sixteen, and afterwards married a Gippsland girl, Miss Firman, the daughter of one of the pioneers of the district.

Mr. Bond purchased in the Yinnar district some 250 acres of very densely timbered land, and after the heavy task of clearing same and making the property workable, he engaged

most suitable for the fat lamb trade.

Mr. Bond was the founder of the Yinnar Butter Factory, one of the most successful concerns of its kind in Victoria, bonuses received from the Government reaching the high figure of £1150. The shareholders and suppliers have been loyal to their concern through thick and thin, and this has been the main factor in putting the factory in the enviable position it holds at the present time. The local farmers have been educated to the value of herd-testing mainly through demonstrations given at the factory in the use of the Babcock tester, and the quality of the produce has been improved from year to year.

Mr. Bond takes an active interest in all the affairs of the district, and has done much for the welfare of the Yinnar community.

Of a family of six sons and three daughters two of the former fought overseas, one being killed at Damascus.

Mr. WILLIAM HENRY BOND, of "Balmattum," Morwell, is the son of the late Mr. William Bond, a native of Devonshire, England.

Mr. W. H. Bond was educated at Euroa, Victoria, and after leaving school followed farming on his father's farm for a number of years. Upon the death of his father he came to Gippsland and acquired a

property of some 310 acres of very rich land.

This property is mainly used for dairying and grazing, and those branches of farming have been carried on with great success. As many as sixty-three cows are milked all the year round, which speaks volumes for the quality of the land and the manner in which Mr. Bond has improved the place.

The milking herd contains some of the best quality Jerseys to be found in the district, and Mr. Bond is crossing that breed with the Ayrshire, using a purebred Ayrshire bull. This property is situated about 5 miles from Morwell and the same distance



TROOPER A. J. BOND, YINNAR.

in dairying. This he carried on with great success for a number of years, eventually handing the property over to his son on the latter's return from the war.

In the meantime Mr. Bond had purchased his present property, consisting of 360 acres, and devoted it to the raising of comeback sheep bred from the English Leicester cross, and



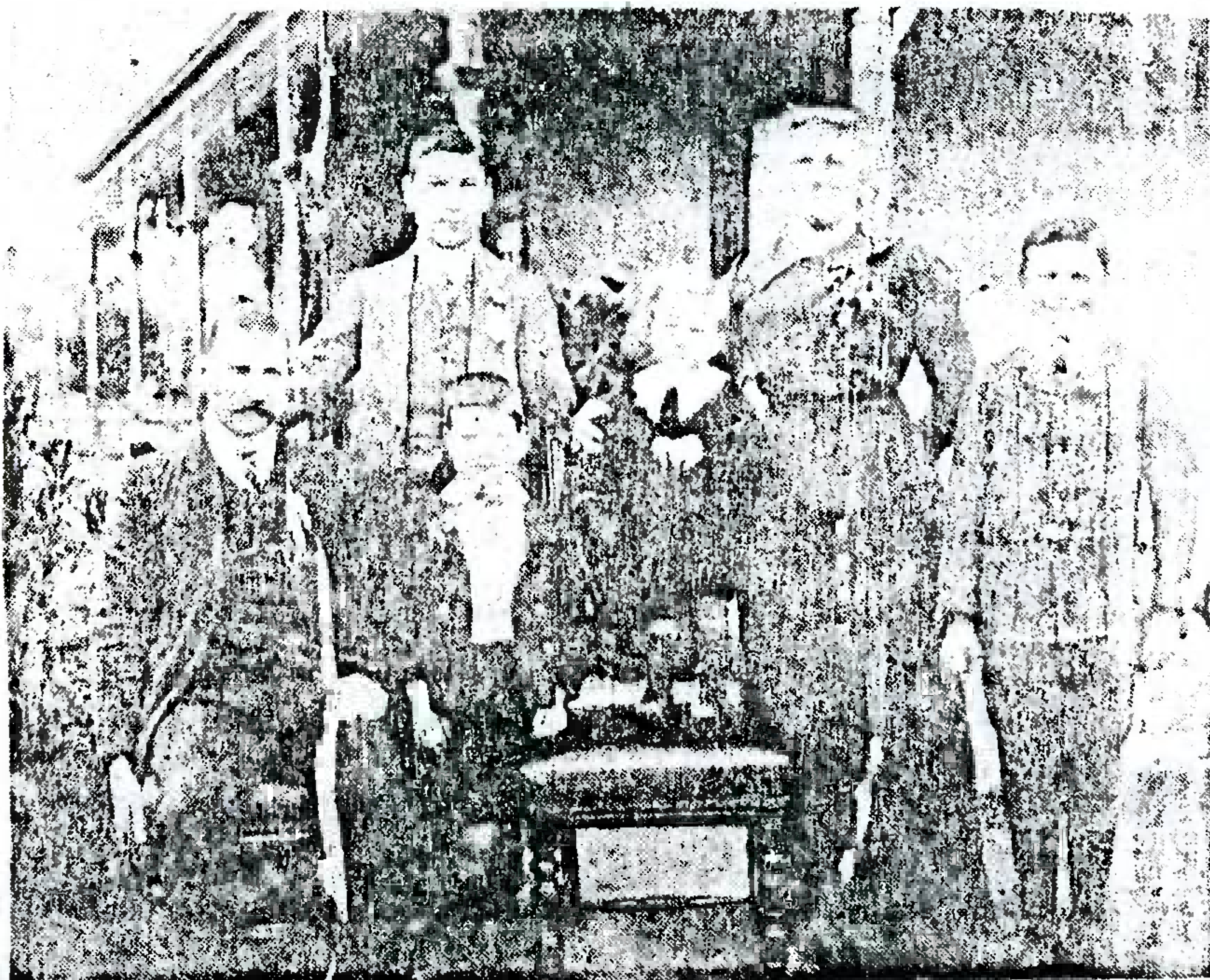
MR. AND MRS. W. H. BOND, MORWELL.

from Yinnar, being watered by the Wilderness Creek and the Morwell River.

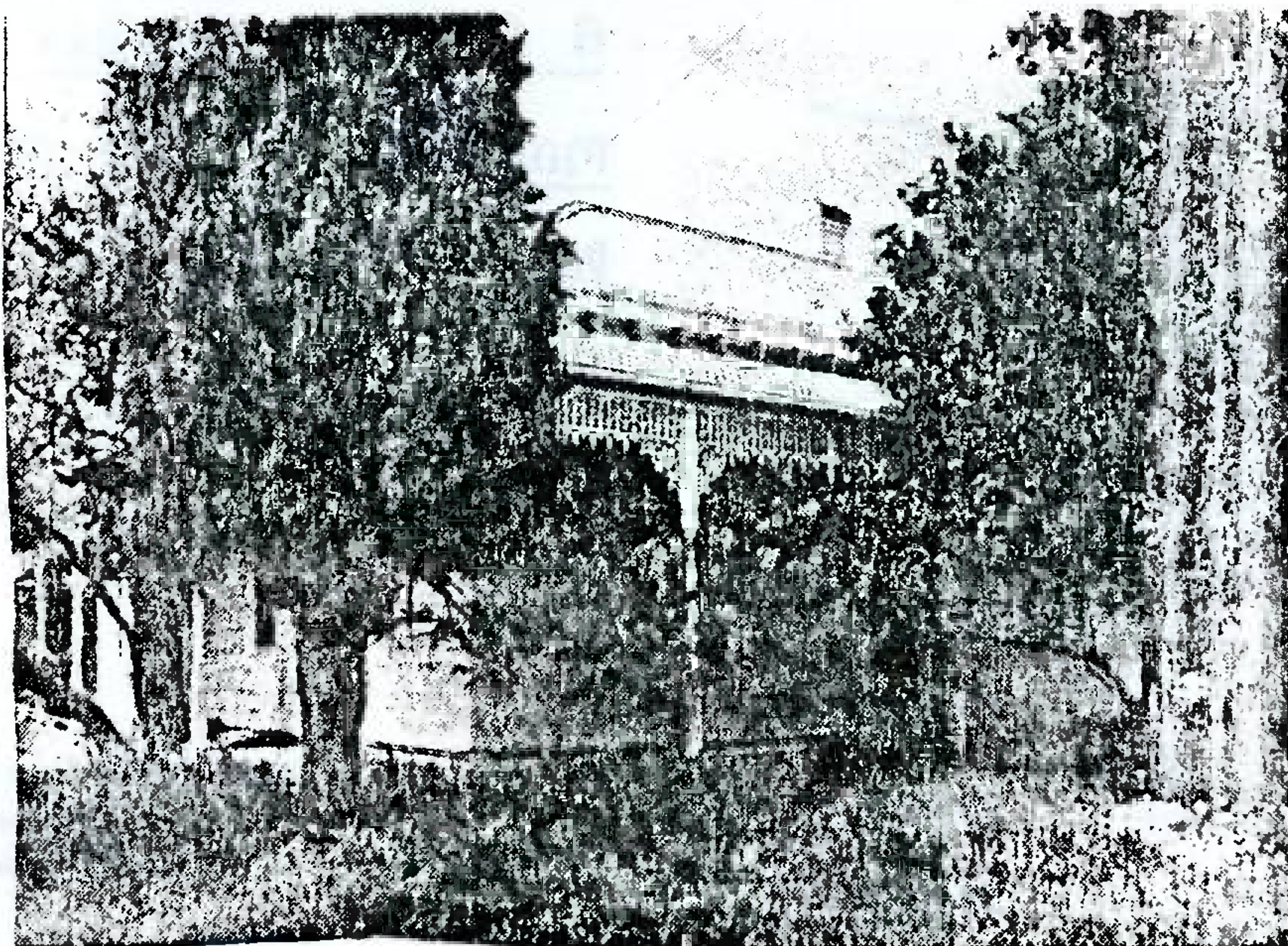
Mrs. Bond was a Miss Lillian Mary Grant, and there is a family of ten, nine of whom are living—six boys and three girls.

From: "VICTORIA and RIVERINA" 1933

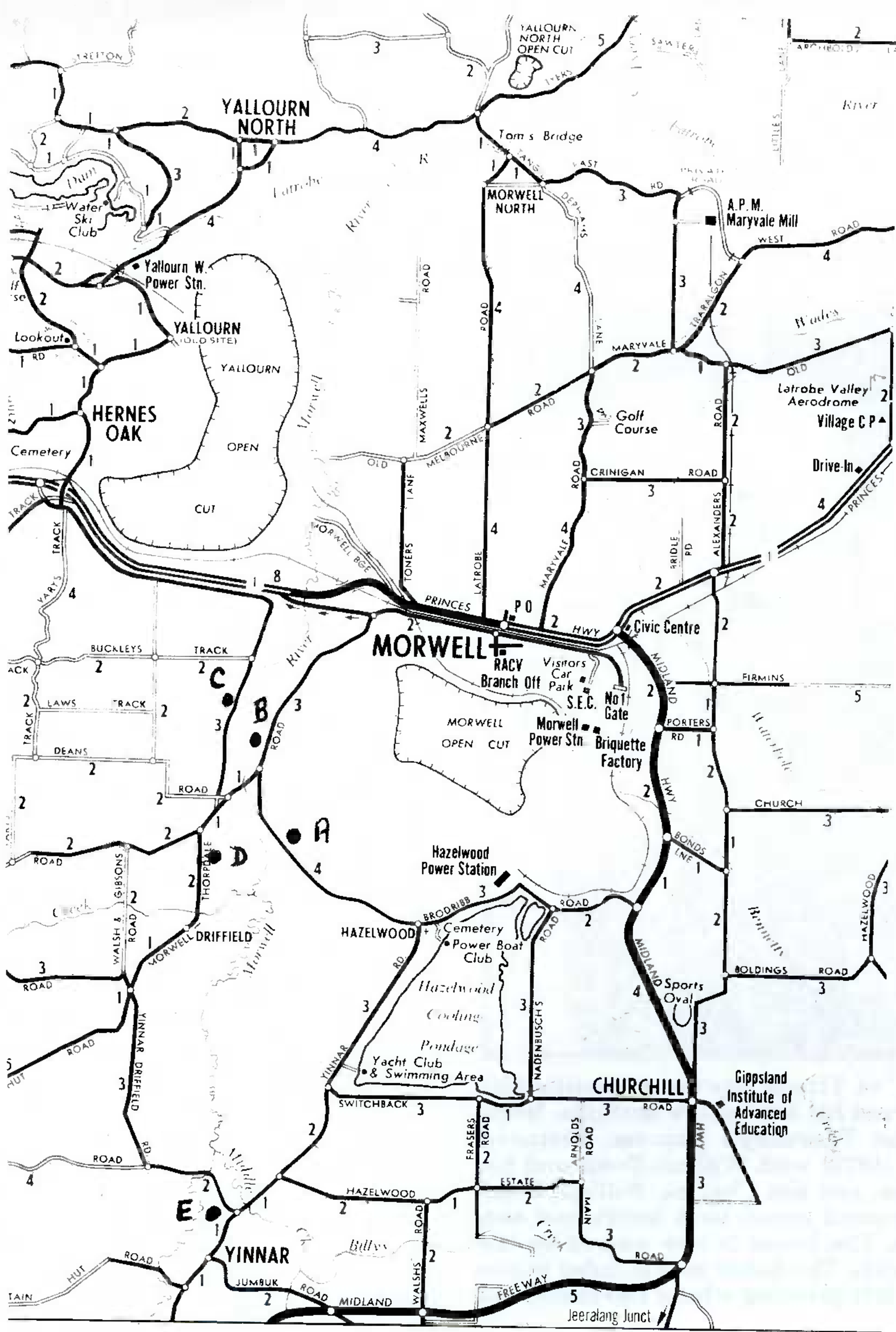




THE pressed-steel homestead "Burn Brae" at Yinnar has been classified by the National Trust as essential to be preserved for Australia's heritage. News of the classification was published in last Thursday's Express. Pictured above is the house when it was first built (1912) with William Bond and his family - sons Jack, Lyle, Frank, wife Ellen, and son Charles. William Bond probably decided to build the house in pressed metal, both inside and out, after his first home was destroyed by fire. The house is now owned by the SEC but so far is outside all SEC developments. The house as it is today is pictured below, with the cypress tree on the left growing where the family sat for the portrait.

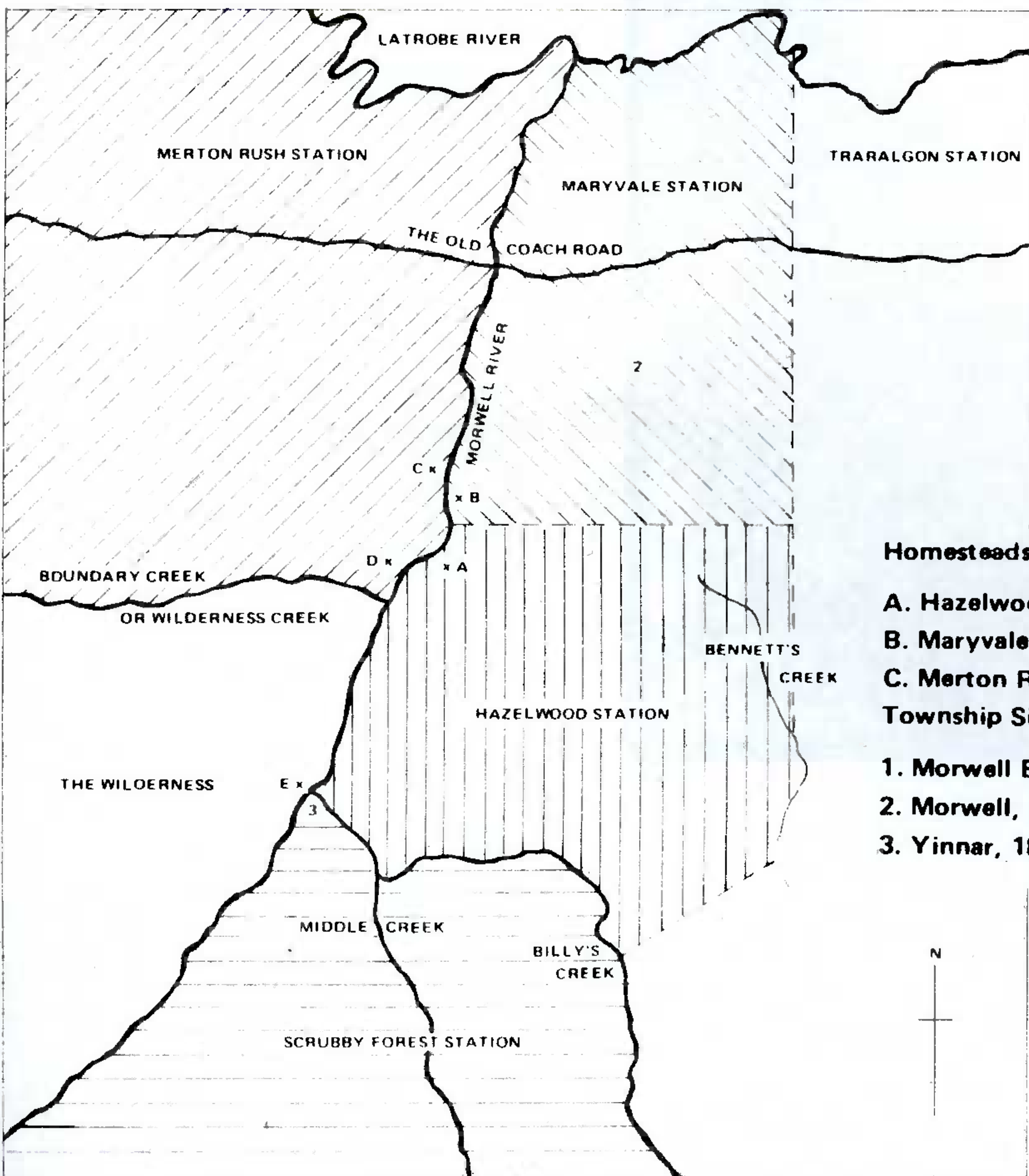






THE ATTEMPT HERE IS TO PLACE THE LOCATION OF EARLY CATTLE STATIONS IN RELATION TO CURRENT LANDMARKS.

THE BASIC MAP FROM A SOUVENIR HISTORY OF MORWELL by I.T MADDERN page 4 has been used. IF THERE ARE ANY INACCURACIES, PLEASE TELL US.



Homesteads (indicated by "x")

- A. Hazelwood Homestead.
- B. Maryvale Homestead.
- C. Merton Rush Homestead.

- D. Driffield Homestead (Samuel Vary) (Section of Merton Rush).
- E. Scrubby Forest Homestead.

Township Sites.

- 1. Morwell Bridge, 1858 or earlier.
- 2. Morwell, 1877.
- 3. Yinnar, 1885.

Scale — approximately 1 cm = 1 mile.

Approximate areas — Hazelwood 30 square miles.  
Maryvale 30 square miles.

Early Cattle Stations in the Morwell Area.