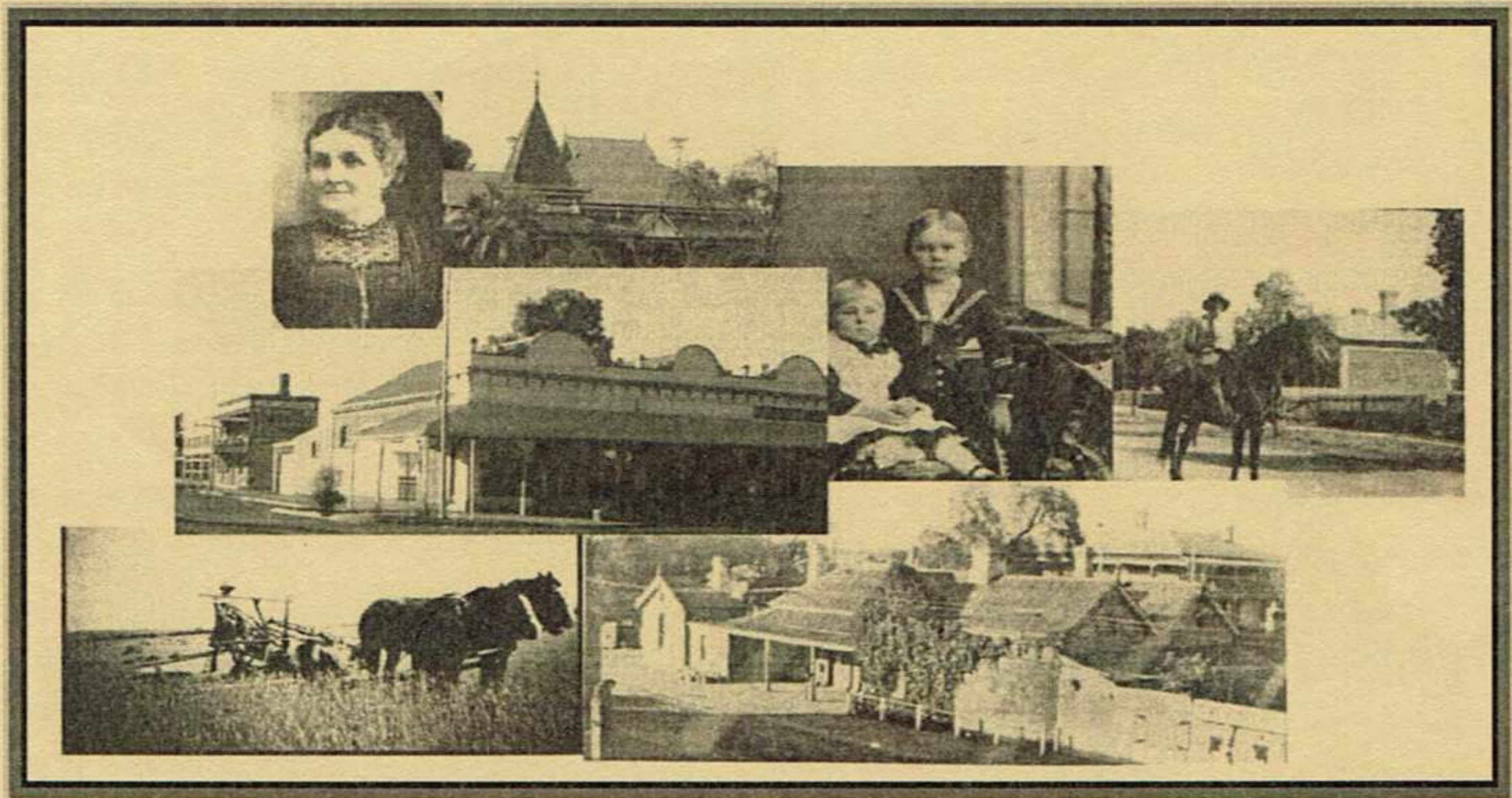


Crystal Brook

Magical History Tour



The first part of this tour can be enjoyed as a walking tour, however the sites a little further out may need to be driven. If walking the town sites, the distance is 6 kms and will take you approximately 2 hrs. Please enjoy our proud history.

Crystal Brooks Early History

The Crystal Brook. Edward John Eyre gave this watercourse its name in 1839 on an expedition with 5 men, 2 teams of horses and provisions for 3 months to find an overland route from Adelaide to Port Lincoln. The brook was described then as a running stream of clear water, nearly 3 metres wide. The aboriginal name is Mercowie, meaning clear water. The watercourse was entered on the map as Chrystal Brook, due to Eyre's spelling. (A Memorial Cairn is situated on the southern bank of Crystal Brook near the Caravan Park.)

Index

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Edward John Eyre Memorial Site | 19. Crystal Brook Hotel |
| 2. Early Cottage | 20. Post Office |
| 3. Methodist Church | 21. Railway Station & Residence |
| 4. Masonic Lodge | 22. Country Fire Service |
| 5. Old Police Station | 23. Gadd Power House |
| 6. Waterworks | 24. Flour & Chaff Mills |
| 7. Klopper Laying-In House | 25. The Creamery |
| 8. Primary School | 26. Gilbert's Blacksmith Shop (Hursts) |
| 9. First Hospital | 27. Forgan Foundry |
| 10. Roman Catholic Church | 28. Wheat Yards |
| 11. Institute | 29. Sale Yards |
| 12. Royal Hotel | 30. Lutheran Church |
| 13. First Council Chambers | 31. Railway Bridge |
| 14. Undergrnd Bakehouse/Heritage Centre | 32. Brick Kiln (option to drive) |
| 15. Miss Prialx School for Girls | 33. Cemetery (option to Drive) |
| 16. Anglican Church | 34. Bowman Head Station (opt to drive) |
| 17. Hitching Post | 35. Beetaloo Reservoir (Drive) |
| 18. Abell's Saddlery | |
- All Found on the map on the back page**

Town History The township site was part of a vast pastoral station owned by William Younghusband and Peter Ferguson, comprising 560 square miles, in one of the most prosperous agricultural areas in South Australia. The Crystal Brook Run was purchased in 1852/57 by the Bowman Brothers for £50,000. Town settlement began in 1873.

Acknowledgements

It has only been through the tireless passion of members of the local community in compiling books on Crystal Brook's history, that this brochure has been possible. We are thankful for their permission to use material from these books.

Growing with Crystal Brook 1873 to 1973;

Crystal Brook Bowman Street Storekeepers;

Crystal Brook, History of Street Names;

Memories of Crystal Brook and Near Neighbours;

Crystal Brook Bicentennial Sketchbook.

A special thank you also to the Crystal Brook History Group and local townsfolk for their assistance. For more information on Crystal Brook's History, contact the History Group in Brandis Street.

This brochure is published by the Crystal Brook Walking Trail Committee. 2010

1. The Edward John Eyre Cairn

This Cairn is situated near the top entrance of the Crystal Brook Caravan Park. Edward John Eyre was born in Yorkshire England in 1815. At the age of 17 years he came to Australia and took up pastoral work. At 24 years he embarked on his exploring adventures, north and west of Adelaide.

2. Early Cottage

On the corner of Eyre Road and Ferguson Street is one of the earliest homes still remaining in Crystal Brook. This restored cottage was built in 1874.

3. Methodist Church (Uniting Church)

Up until 1876, services were conducted in private homes. Finally in 1877 a tender from Tucker and Jones for £540 was accepted and a church was built the same year from stone obtained from local quarries.

Story: As quoted in the local newspaper, Miss Georgina Prialx laid the foundation stone "in a very pleasing manner and gift offerings amounting to £9/12s/6d were laid upon the stone". Georgina was 23 years old at the time and died at the young age of 26 years.

In Crystal Brook at around the same time, there was a Bible Christian Church and two streams of Methodism. These churches joined together in the year of Union in 1900. The Bible Christian Church was dismantled and using that building material, the room attached to the rear of the larger church was built, giving an outward and visible sign of the union. The porch was added in 1967. The Sunday School commenced in 1876 and by 1912, another building was erected to accommodate the children and is the present Sunday School.

4. Masonic Lodge

The first meeting of interested Masons was held in 1912, with 20 foundation members. At that meeting, it was decided to meet on the first Wednesday of the month on or before the full moon. This allowed those members who drove horses or rode bikes to be able to see their way to and from the meetings. Meetings were then held in the Methodist Sunday School building until the Masonic Temple was completed in 1914; the land cost £50 and building took 14 weeks at a cost of £542/10/-. The first meeting to be held in the Lodge's own building was on 22nd April 1914 (before it was dedicated) and the building was consecrated on 16th September 1914. During its 96 years, it was served by 79 different Masters. The warrant was duly surrendered in December 2008. The building is now privately owned.

5. Old Police Station

No longer standing, however there is Information and a photograph on the historical plaque on the pathway opposite the Masonic Lodge Building.

Story: The Ide family would only ever have white horses on their property. One time the old gentleman drove his trolley drawn by 8 white horses through the town. He was stopped by the local policeman for committing an offence. The law then stated that only the King of England was permitted a team of 8 white horses and peasantry must be content with no more than 6 white horses!

6. Water Works

If you peer through the mesh gates you can still see the original stone workshops! A water supply to the township was provided in about 1890, by placing a weir in the Crystal Brook Creek at section 1900. The weir can be seen across the creek at Bowman Park. The water was piped to the settlement by 5 inch cast piping. Large scale waterworks in the north began in 1885 with the construction of Beetaloo Dam, 10 miles upstream from the section 1900 weir. The reservoir was built to supply water to the Wallaroo and Moonta Mines, but the expectation of Beetaloo Reservoir was overestimated and work on Bundaleer Reservoir was started in 1898.

Due to the large works at Beetaloo, an office and depot were set up at Crystal Brook in 1891. The old administration building in Mitchell Street is now demolished. The new SA Water office was built in 1982. In the early days, this depot was responsible for large water conservation works, maintenance of bores and dams along stock routes and maintenance of roads and tracks. These beautiful old stone workshops you see today, constructed and maintained 300 pumping stations, 120 motor vehicles, and 200 items of plant, as well as fitting and repairing 10,000 water meters. The Water Works Department once employed up to 85 men in the workshops and another 35 in the office.

Story: Collecting Water Rates. A notice would be inserted in the appropriate newspaper telling of times and location, usually a hotel or Council office. To collect the rates from farms, the Rate Collector would travel out in a horse and cart.

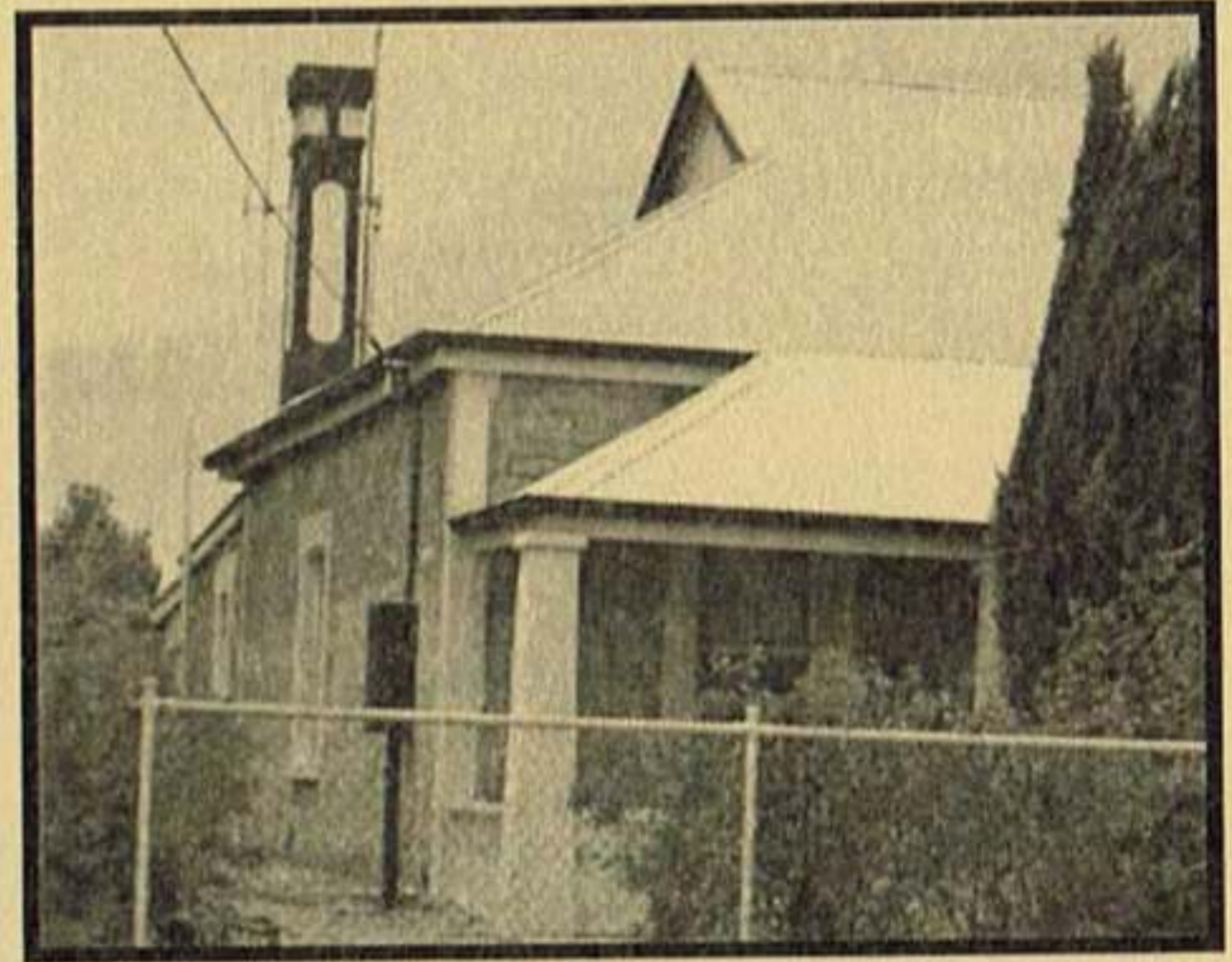
SA Water, situated on Eyre Road, opposite the Adelaide Square playground, has a small display of old equipment used in the Water Works. The Office is open 8am to 4.30pm on weekdays.

7. Jessie Klopper's Laying In House

This private home on the south-east corner of Cunningham & Mitchell Streets, is where Jessie Klopper's "Laying in" or private hospital, used to be.

(Story below adapted from her daughter's writings)

Story: Jessie began her nursing at 17 yrs and by 20 had married the 6' 4" Roy Klopper, neatly fitting under his armpit. She became Matron of Mrs Orr's private hospital, and in 1923 when it closed, Jessie started her own private hospital. Allocating one of the homes rooms for patients, she still continued her midwifery duties. Quoting her daughter, "She used to go around looking after people who were sick and she carted her bowl, jug of water and towel and whatever else she needed around Crystal Brook in a wheelbarrow."



By this time Roy and Jessie had 5 daughters and due to have her 6th baby. At 32yrs Jessie tragically died. That night was the Hospital Ball attended by Dr Kendrew. Roy was playing in the band. Jessie had assured him she would be fine, but that night her placenta broke and she haemorrhaged to death along with her unborn son.

8. Crystal Brook Primary School

The Primary School was established in 1877 with R.G.S. Payne as Headmaster and one assistant. The eleven children who were first enrolled had family backgrounds of bricklayers, cattle dealers, butcher, farmers and iron founders. The numbers increased to 66 in the first year and 156 in the second year. This school was originally known as Crystal Brook North, with Crystal Brook South no longer standing. One of the original school buildings is still used today and is situated in the centre of the school.

Stories: The Headmaster's residence was also built in 1877, but had to wait until 1946 before they built a bathroom.

In approximately 1912, a Bamboo & Fife Band was formed. The local lads referred to this as "the Spit & Dribble Band". The Band played to march the children into class after the break, until well into the 1960's.

Cemetery (see 33)

The Cemetery can be walked from here (8km), however the Huddleston Road has no footpath. For safety and convenience, it is suggested this be added to the driving end of the tour, see later in booklet.

9. Hospital

Located in front of the Hospital, enjoy the G M Payne Memorial Rose Garden and 'have a breather' in the gazebo.

The present hospital was built in 1923 and began as a simple 12 bed facility. The early health services were nursing homes provided by people in their own homes. These were followed by the Flinders Private Hospital, founded by Mrs Orr, which was then situated where the lone palm tree stands on Eyre Road, near the Catholic Church.



10. Roman Catholic Church (Eyre Road Extension)

Two Jesuit priests used to visit Crystal Brook and hold mass in the home of Mr Fitzgerald on the banks of the Crystal Brook. On July 13th 1879, the Church of Blessed Francis Regis was opened in the town. Within two years, the Francis Regis Church was turned into St Stanislaus School and run by the Good Samaritan Sisters. The old church is situated north of the current church, however it is no longer used and is in need of repair. The Sisters also ran a Girls Boarding School, until an Orphanage was established for the needy children of the Diocese. In 1953, a school was built. The orphanage and school are no longer standing.

The present church's foundation was laid in 1922 and opened in 1924. The church was extended in 1969 to accommodate the growing Catholic community.

*From here head back towards the Town Centre. ***Toilets are available at the Adelaide Square Playground, corner of Bowman Street and Eyre Road.***

11. Institute

The Institute was built of Warnertown sandstone and enlarged between 1910 -1914. The building opened in March 1881, celebrated with a festive afternoon tea, followed by a public meeting and a Grand Concert an hour later. The building housed regular motion picture shows once a week, from around 1910 until the 1970's. During the World War II, the normal 1/- cost was increased to 1/3d by an entertainment tax, with the proceeds going towards the war effort. In those times, the Institute was hired by organisations such as Oddfellows Lodge, Salvation Army, Church of Christ, and the Methodist Sunday School, and even served as a skating rink for a short period.

12. Royal Hotel

Known through the times as "The Farmers House", "The Commercial House" and "The Respectable Workingman's House". Mr Thompson, the first hotelier opened for business in December 1876. During these times there were stockyards situated next to the hotel and local townsfolk used to water their cows at the "Royal" horse trough.

In 1878 Mr Thompson erected a "commodious" room on the eastern side of the hotel. It was calculated then to hold 300 people. He also added a matchboard platform and a good piano. The room was quoted as having a "chaste" appearance. (Later, the Institute was built to accommodate large groups of people). In 1910, the balcony was added but sadly was later removed. Today the hotel provides refreshments, counter meals and accommodation (8 rooms).

Thompson's New Hotel
At
Crystal Brook
Will be OPENED on THURSDAY next the
day fixed for the Port Pirie and
Gladstone Railway Demonstration.
Visitors to the Brook on that day will
find every convenience which can be
desired and Mr Thompson confidently
asserts that his house cannot be
surpassed by any hotel north of
Adelaide.
1876

**ROYAL HOTEL,
CRYSTAL BROOK.**

MRS. A. PRITCHARD
Is happy to inform the residents of Crystal
Brook and surrounding towns that she has
taken the above Hotel, and hopes by civility and
strict attention to business to merit a fair
patronage.

Lofty bedrooms and every accommodation for
Families visiting the Brook.

Livery and Bait Stables under control of an
experienced hand. 22c
1882

Please note the reference to Livery & Bait in the second Hotel advertisement above. Livery means the stabling, keeping or hiring out of horses for money. Bait means to feed a horse, especially during a break in a journey.

13. Council Chambers

The old Council building is now home to the Crystal Brook History Group.

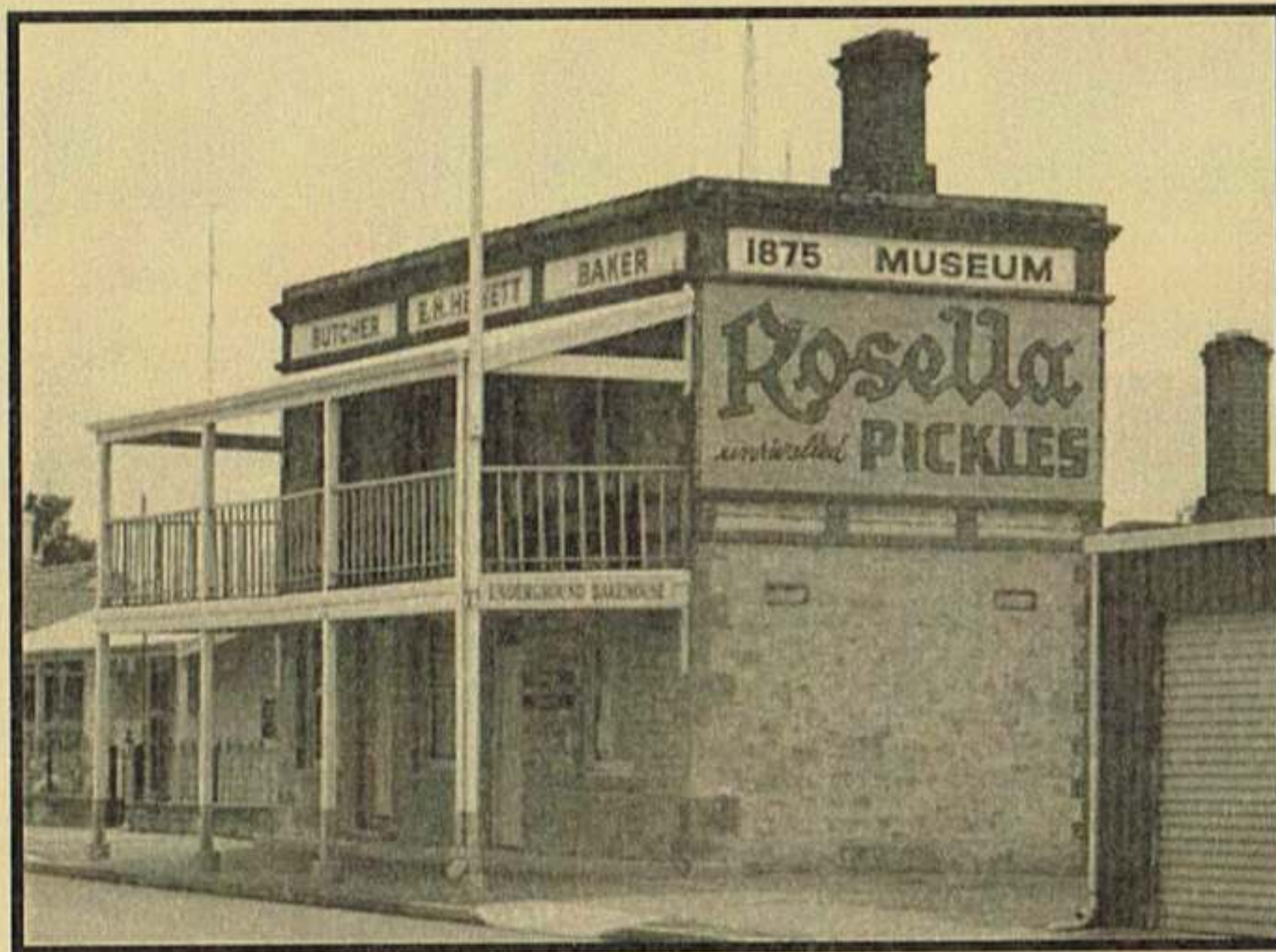
Crystal Brook Council was proclaimed in 1882. This early building, located at 40 Brandis Street, was Crystal Brook's first Council Chambers, used solely for Council meetings and a residence for the Town Clerk.

The building was constructed by William Hall for £ 480.17s and just before the opening on October 30th 1937; another £100 was required to provide a fence and two gates.

Retrace your steps along Brandis Street, over Bowman Street to No. 13 on the right.

14. Underground Bake House and Shop

In 1870, Ethelbert Hewett built the first 2 storey building in Crystal Brook. The building was originally a single storey, with the second added later when Ethelbert decided to live on the premises. Used as a butchers shop initially, it later changed hands in 1900 and was used as a tea room and bakery. The underground ovens are unique, situated in one of the two cellars. In 1911 it changed hands again and became a grocery store and lolly shop, and remained so until the death of the proprietor in 1972.



Thanks to the intervention of the Crystal Brook branch of the National Trust, the building was saved from demolition in 1977, and opened a year later as a Museum, featuring local history, farm aids and mechanised transport. Known as The Heritage Centre, it is open on Sundays and Public Holidays from 2-4 pm or by appointment (contact details can be found on the front door of the Centre.)

15. Miss Priaulx School for Girls

The home at No. 56 Brandis Street, next to the church was used as a Girl's School. Miss Priaulx was the Baker's daughter. She ran the girls school during the day and provided needlework classes for adults in the evening. The school remained open until the 1880's, even after the opening of the town's public school.

16. Saint Silas, Anglican Church of Australia

Before this quaint little church was built, the congregation used to meet in the "sample" room of the Royal Hotel. The foundation stone was laid April 11th 1885 and is the same plan as St Andrew's church in Redhill, the porch being added in 1910. For the simple cost of cartage, an organ was acquired from the neighbouring town of Laura.

Story: In the early days before the church was built, missionary work was carried out. One of the first was Archdeacon Dove. An example of his duties, as listed on October 5th 1870, where on his way to Crystal Brook he met up with Mr Bowman who kindly bade him to make his way to Crystal Brook Homestead and "make himself at home". After lunch he rode out with a boundary rider and baptised 5 of his children. In the evening he visited another family and baptised another 6 children, the oldest being 10 years old. The next day he visited two huts, baptising another 7 children.

Walk north along Brandis Street to No. 76.

17. Hitching Post

On the verge outside the house at No 76 Brandis Street, is a replica of Crystal Brook's last hitching post, an example of many that would have once been located around the town. The original post stood the test of time until 2009, when it was accidentally removed. The original was found and is now housed at the Heritage Centre.

The original hitching post was used by Vic Baldwin, one of the local stock agents. He would tie his horse to this post and walk across the street to his home for his lunch.

18. Abell's Saddlery



This little shop, next to the present Foodland store at No 37 Bowman Street, is William Abell Saddlers' original location; however none of the original building remains.

William was a 14yr old Londoner when he came to Australia. Learning his trade from a Saddler at Woodside, he travelled through the northern station areas doing repair work. His health influenced him to set up business in 1879 in Crystal Brook, moving to this location in 1894. He carried on business until 1923.

19. Crystal Brook Hotel

This single story Hotel commenced trading in July 1875, however it was not until approx 1907 that the second story was added. The top balcony was added in 1910. In the earlier years, sale yards were attached to the hotel.

CRYSTAL BROOK HOTEL
CRYSTAL BROOK

W. H. KNAPMAN
(Proprietors)
Offers Superior Accommodation with every
comfort to Travellers and the Public generally.
None but the best of Ales, Wines and Spirits
kept.
First-class Livery, Bait, and Letting Stables.
1878

In 1883 an explosion and fire broke out in the hotel's lamp room where they had kerosene stored. Luckily the postmaster, across the road raised the alarm. The fire was soon under control alleviating fears for the greater part of the street.

Today this hotel provides refreshments, counter meals and accommodation (14 rooms).

On TUESDAY January 2, 1877

AT KNAPMAN'S YARDS, CRYSTAL
BROOK
E CRISPE has been favored with
Instructions to sell by auction

Team of Eight BULLOCKS and DRAY
Team of Six Bullocks and Dray
Team of Four Bullocks and Dray
30 head Store cattle
5 Dairy Cows
20 head Fat Cattle
500 Fat Wethers
100 Fat Lambs
600 Ewes
1,000 Store Wethers
5 useful Saddle and Harness Horses

ALSO
Six Allotments in Crystal Brook West

20. Post Office

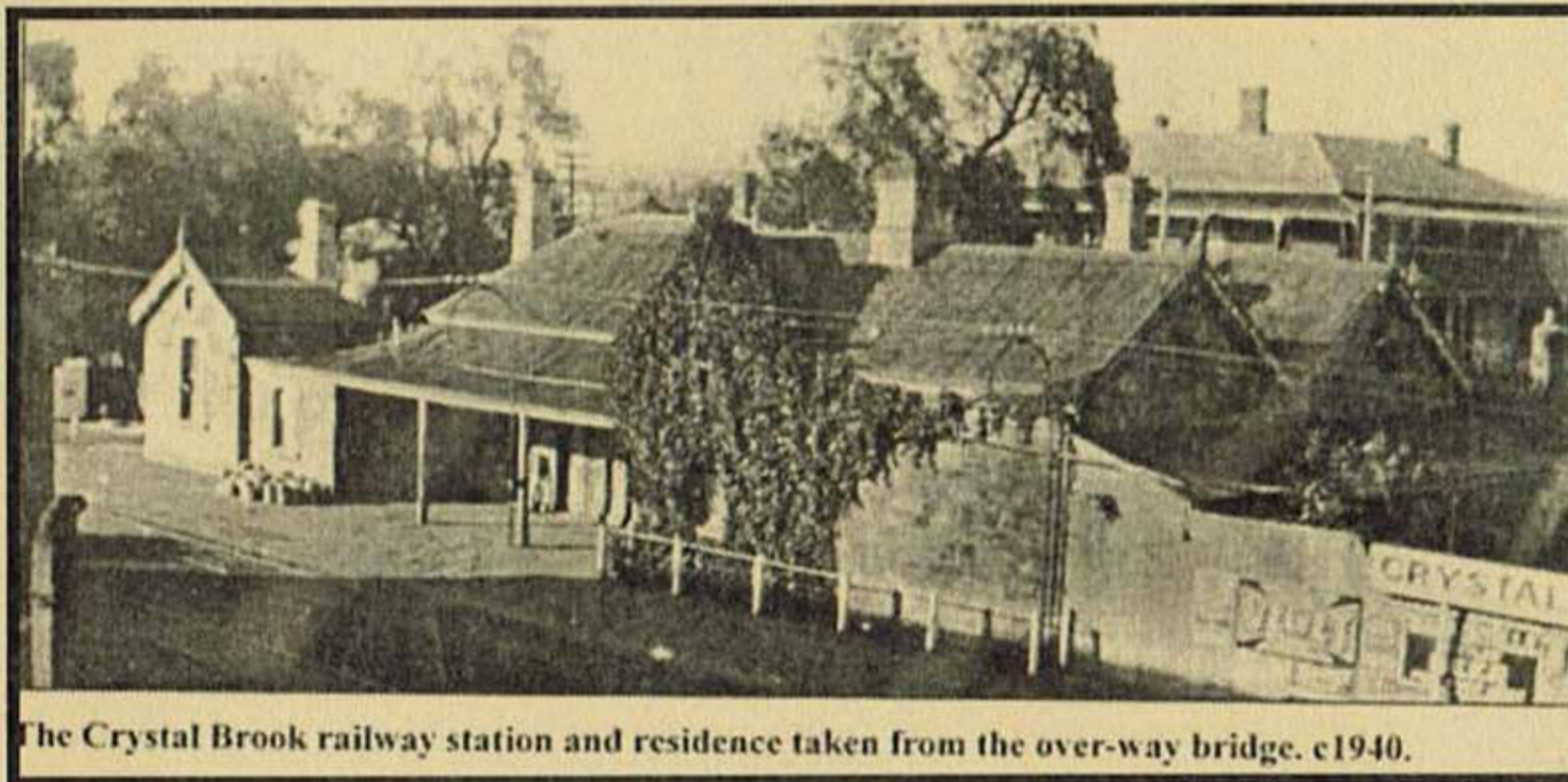
This is the original building. There is an information plaque and picture located on the driveway island, along with the Railway Station Plaque.

Story: The Royal Mail had to be delivered to smaller places too and Mr Kennett delivered the mail in his horse and dog cart (sulky) to Merriton and Clements Gap. Delivering Tuesdays and Fridays. He would leave at 4am and not return until 9pm at night.

21. First Railway Station, Station Masters Residence & Goods Shed.

All of these structures have long been demolished. There is an information plaque and picture at the end of Bowman Street, together with a Post Office plaque.

Crystal Brook began as a railway town with the line heading through the town from Port Pirie. By 1877 the town was connected to Port Pirie and Gladstone on a daily service.



The Crystal Brook railway station and residence taken from the over-way bridge. c1940.

The buildings were demolished in 1966/67 after the standardisation of the railway between Broken Hill and Port Pirie. The freestone from the Goods Shed was salvaged and used to build a dining and kitchen complex at Bowman Park. A new station was built north of the Post Office but this has also been demolished. Trains no longer stop in Crystal Brook.

An excellent miniature display of the entire Railway complex is on view at The Heritage Centre.

1932

RAILWAY TIME-TABLE

Trains will leave the following stations for Crystal Brook as

Under:

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Port Pirie (Ellen Street) | Peterborough (dep) | 6.50 a.m. |
| 9.30 a.m. 10.55 a.m. | Yongala | 7.11 a.m. |
| Solomontown -- | Belalie North | 7.58 a.m. |
| 9.37 a.m. 11.02 a.m. | Jamestown | 8.32 a.m. |
| Warnertown -- | Caltowie | 9.00 a.m. |
| 9.58 a.m. 11.23 a.m. | Yangya | 9.25 a.m. |
| Crystal Brook (arr.) --- | Gladstone | 9.50 a.m. |
| 10.22 a.m. 11.47 a.m. | Huddleston | 10.20 a.m. |
| RETURNING | Crystal Brook (arr.) | 10.44 a.m. |
| Crystal Brook (dep.)-- | | |
| 5.10 p.m. 6.08 p.m. | RETURNING | |
| Warnertown -- | Crystal Brook (dep) | 6.05 p.m. |
| 5.35 p.m. 6.33 p.m. | Gladstone | 7.17 p.m. |
| Solomontown-- | Jamestown | 9.01 p.m. |
| 5.56 p.m. 6.54 p.m. | Peterborough | 10.32 p.m. |
| Port Pirie (arr.)— | | |
| 6.00 p.m. 6.58 p.m. | | |

22. Country Fire Service

This present Fire Station is on the site of Mr Eastick's blacksmith shop, but now houses 2 trucks and a command vehicle. In September 1912, a public meeting was held to establish a volunteer Fire Service in the town and that suitable plant could be purchased for £60. The organisation later became the Emergency Fire Service in 1947, finally becoming the Country Fire Service in 1977.

Story: The Crystal Brook Fire Service had it's beginnings as a two wheel hose carrier that was moved manually in the event of fire and had pride of place, being housed in a building at the rear of The Royal Hotel.

23. Gadd Power House

Power came to the town in 1923 by way of 25hp and 50hp Petter Diesel engines, direct coupled to alternators, providing alternating current (most country towns at this time had direct current). Harry Gadd's power plant was originally set up in Mitchell Street and operated under a contract from the Council. It was later moved to its final site on Railway Terrace three years later. This site is now a vacant block.

Story: Original operating hours were between 5pm and Midnight. Monday afternoons were later added for ironing, as electric irons had become increasingly popular (following Monday washday).

As demand increased so did the machinery, with a 150 hp Myrlies added and later a 135 hp Ruston Diesel. These did the job until the Electricity Trust of South Australia took over as supplier in 1950.

The Power House incorporated an ice machine and supplied the town with blocks of ice. It also incorporated a motor garage and welding business. They manufactured their own power poles on site to replace the early wooden poles. You can see these welded metal poles in use today next to this site and also in Brandis Street.

24. Chaff & Flour Mills

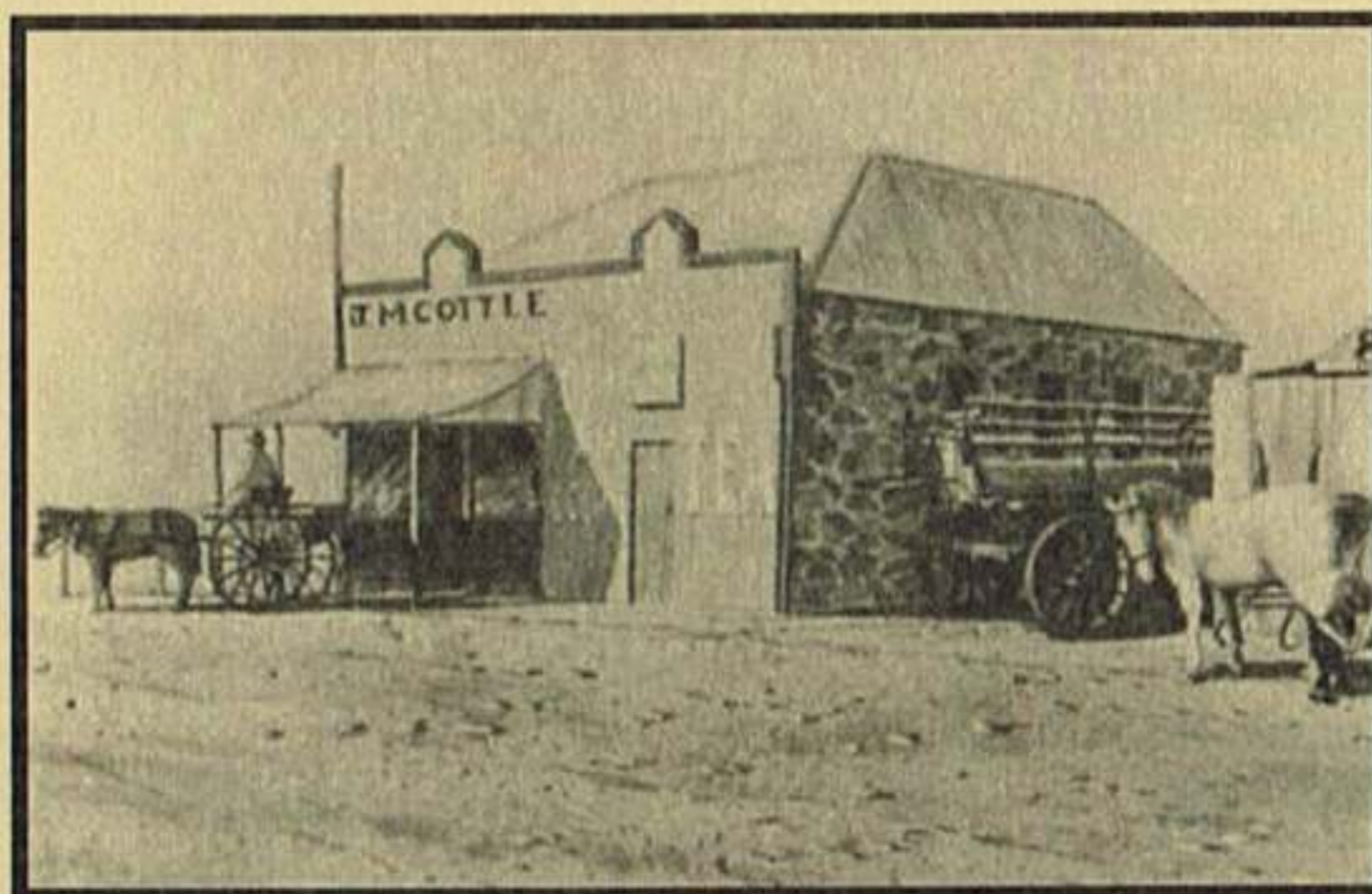
An information plaque with pictures is located on the south-west corner of Railway Tce.

In the early days, it was common practice to establish a flour and chaff milling complex in districts where wheat growing was introduced. Wheat and grain dust is an extremely flammable commodity and it is no surprise these businesses eventually demised. The introduction of motor vehicles and the reduced numbers of horses caused the demand for chaff to diminish and closure of the chaff mill.

From here you can cross the railway line at Cunningham Street or retrace your steps and use the Underpass near the Post Office. The walking distance is the same.

25. Old Creamery

No. 8 Darbon Terrace: This building has been an antique and second hand shop for the last 40 years. It originally began as Cottles General Store, selling goods ranging from lace to bacon. After being empty for years, it was converted to a Creamery for local people to deliver cream from their hand milked cows. The cream cans

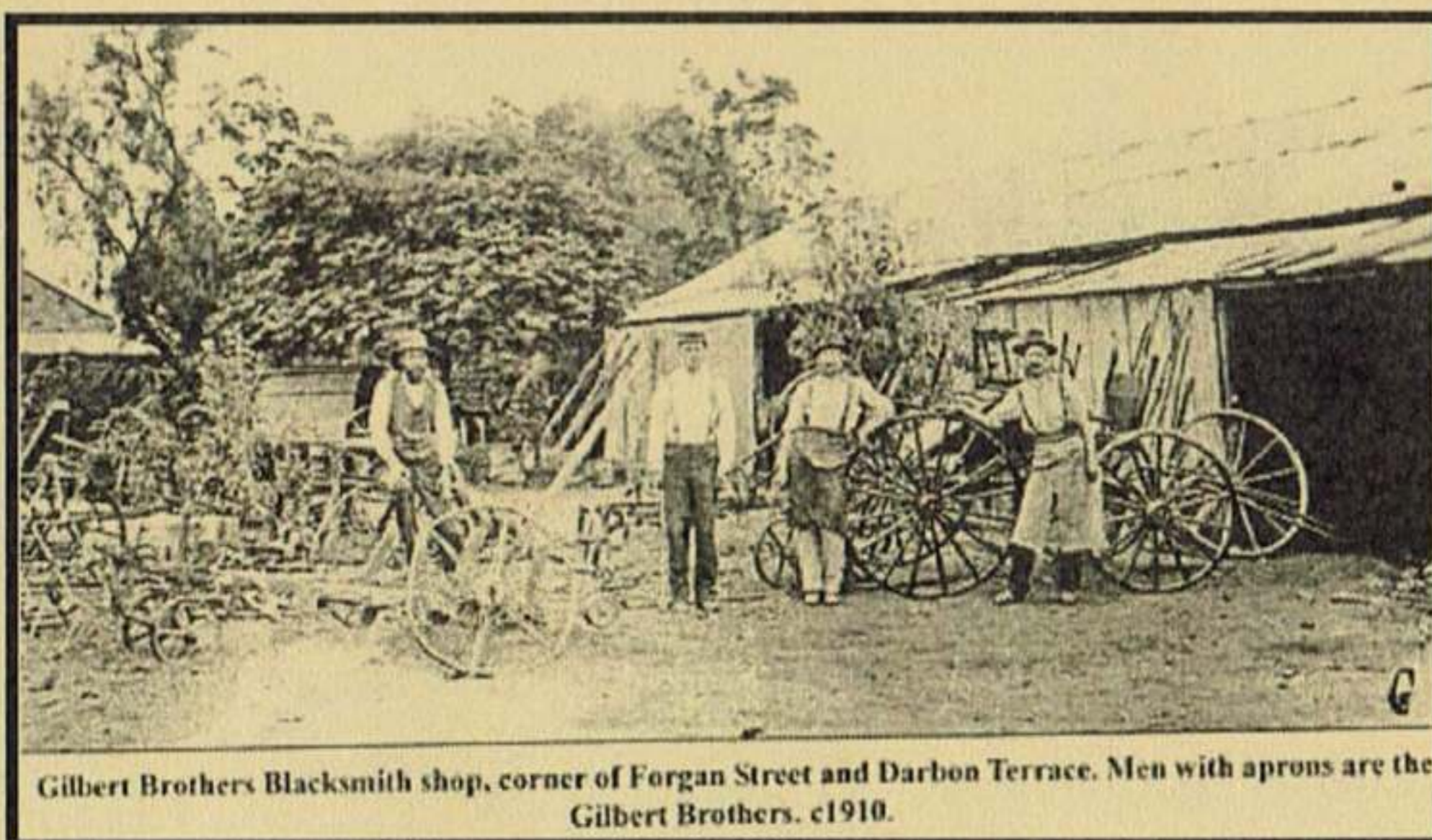


were sent to Adelaide by train, together with local eggs, in wooden boxes of 30 dozen.

26. James Gilbert –Blacksmith (Hursts)

Arriving in 1878 with his wife Jemima and family, James Gilbert set up his business in a trade he learnt from his father in Finniss. A year later he combined with Edmund Pop, establishing a thriving business of wagon & coach building and general farm machinery repairs.

Story: During their partnership, they invented a steel clip that attached to a share (end of a cultivator tyne used to dig the ground), allowing it to be turned around so as to use all the faces of the cutting edges.



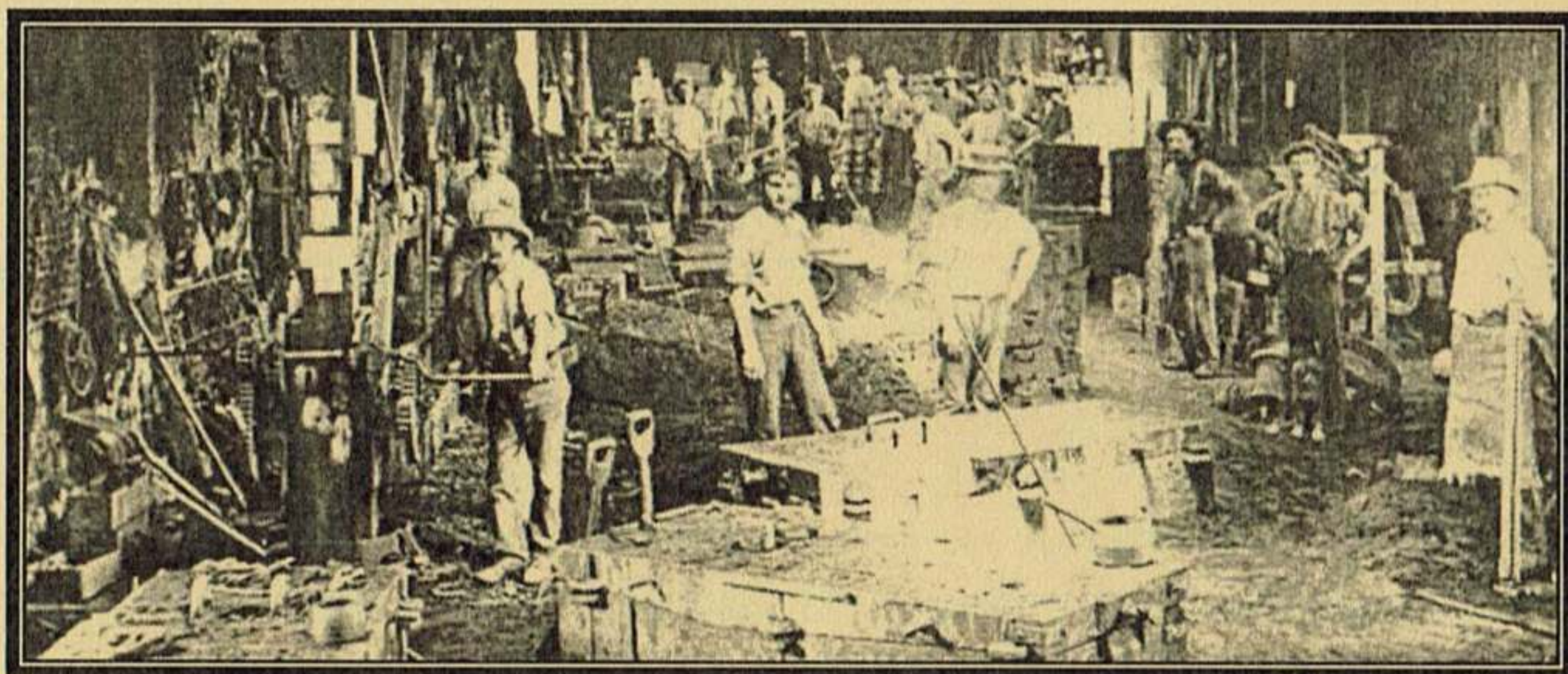
After the deaths of James' sons, the business closed in 1945 until after WWII, when J H Hurst opened on the same site in 1946. Jack and his son Doug originally started the business of J H Hurst & Sons.

As agricultural engineers, they began trading in 1946, servicing the needs of the farming community. The Company manufactured contour graders, truck bulk bins, elevators, automatic stock feeders and stock crates. They performed plumbing and carpentry and employed up to 5 people. The big corrugated iron shed on the corner that you see today, was built by the Gilberts and later purchased by Hursts when they commenced business. There have been some additions made since that time.

27. J&R Forgan- Iron Founders

A plaque explaining the Foundry's history is on the eastern side of Darbon Terrace, opposite the old Foundry site, on the railway reserve.

Initially times were tough, but skill and good workmanship built the business to a successful enterprise, at times employing 25 men. The business flourished and the Crystal Brook based company expanded to Port Pirie and built an extensive Commonwealth wide trade and overseas export.

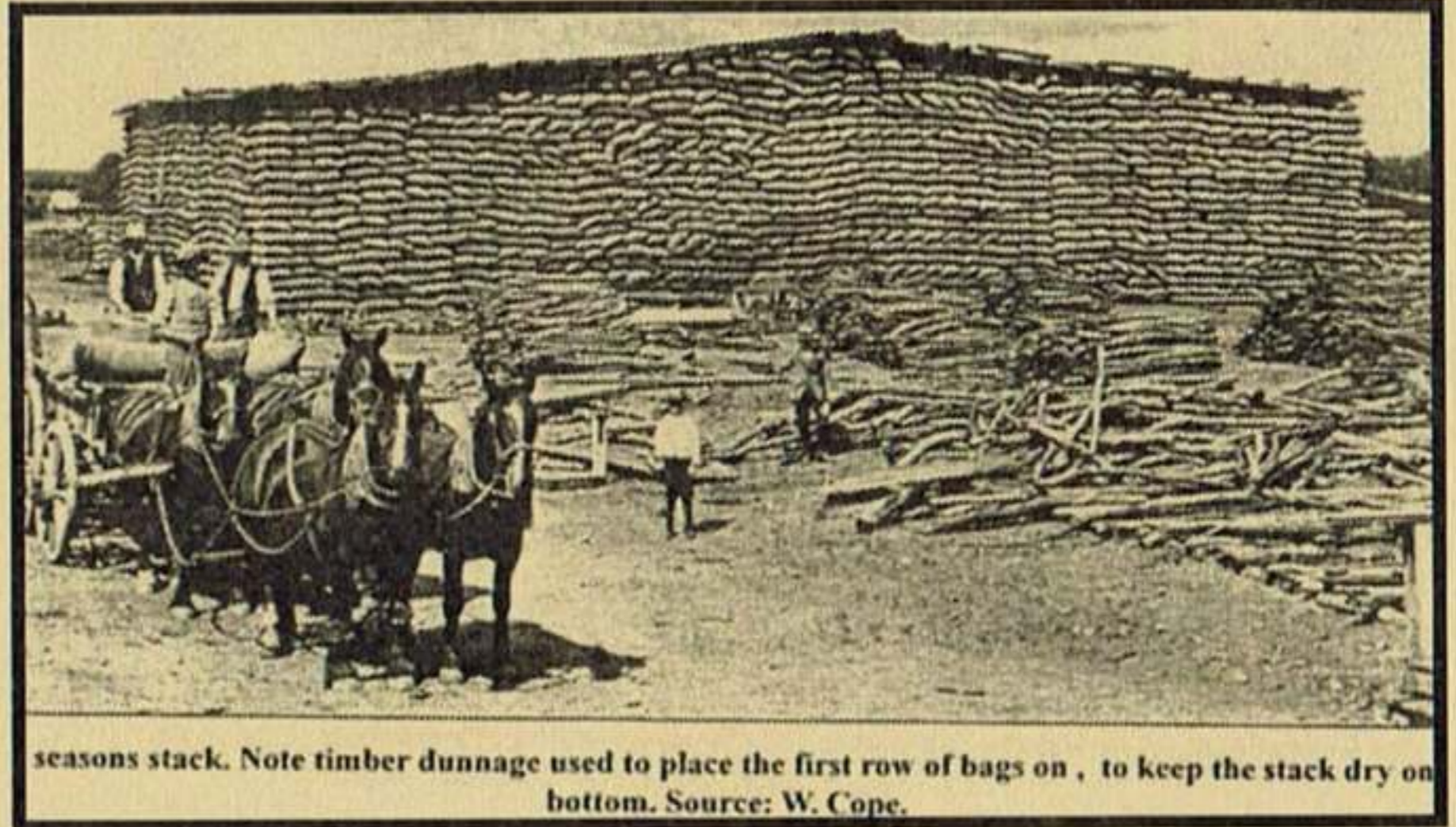


Story: In 1917 a dispute arose concerning the rate of pay between the Crystal Brook Foundry workers, earning 12/9d a day and Port Pirie Workers who received 14/- per day. Could this prejudice the workers in Port Pirie, as work could be transferred to Crystal Brook at a cheaper rate? Evidence proved that was not to be the case. However it was noted that Crystal Brook had better climatic conditions, but Port Pirie offered better opportunities for education, social functions and recreation. Considering the cost of living, the Crystal Brook Foundry workers were awarded an extra 3d per day.

28. Wheat Yards

Only a plaque remains as evidence of the huge site that influenced so many lives years ago.

Land around Crystal Brook was claimed to be some of the most productive in South Australia. The demand is reflected in the land prices for 1873 being paid from £2 and up to £6 per acre. Most of the farming community set up in an approximate 6 mile radius of the town. In the 1920-21 seasons, the community



seasons stack. Note timber dunnage used to place the first row of bags on , to keep the stack dry on bottom. Source: W. Cope.

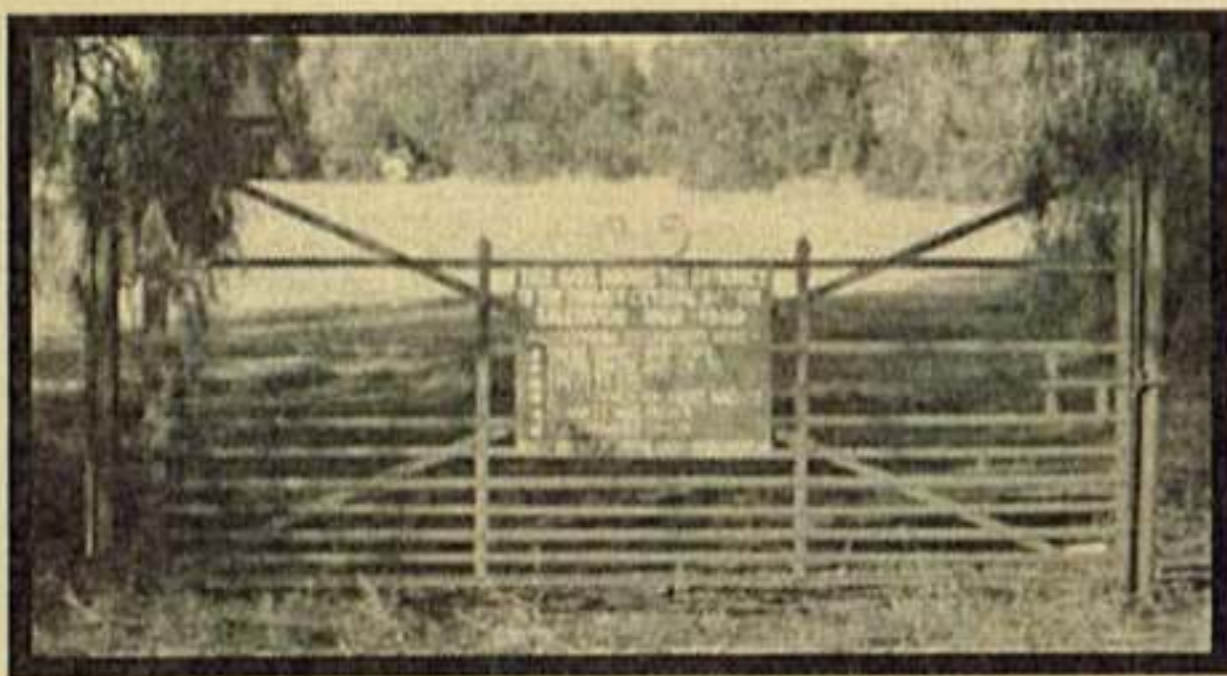
delivered 346,000 bags of grain, equivalent to a million bushels or over 28,000 tonnes. Crystal Brook was one of the biggest grain receival sites in the State. Wheat carting was originally carried out by bullock teams, then onto horse teams and later tractors and trucks.

Story: June 22nd 1917: Mouse plague. Mr F England, under operations of the Harvest Board, began work with a "double fence trap". On the first night, with only part of the stack fenced, he succeeded in bagging 15,400 mice and the following morning, when the area was fenced all round, 60,000 were caught. The two catches added up to over a ton and a quarter of mice.

An excellent miniature historical display of the Crystal Brook Railway Station and yards, as it was known in the 1930's, was opened at The Heritage Centre in September 2009, and is well worth a look.

29. Sale Yards

Before you reach the Grain Silos, two pepper trees protect the monument to the Sale Yards.



The Crystal Brook Sale Yards were second only to Peterborough as the largest stock yards. The very first stock yards were next to the Royal Hotel and extended up to Eyre Road. This developed the practice of townsfolk watering their cows at the "Royal" hotel until 1912.

The stockyards remembered here were erected in 1903. In 1932 stock sales were the largest outside of Adelaide with up to 4 sales a month.

30. Lutheran Church (Optional)

The first Lutheran Church was built 11kms west of Crystal Brook, at Nurom in 1887. After the Church's Golden Jubilee, it was decided to hold services in Crystal Brook. The Stanley Street Church was built in 1963. Services were shared with the Nurom Church until its closure in 1969.

Put your best foot forward as you are now heading back to the start of the tour. It is a quick 10 minute walk along Darbon Terrace to the Railway Bridge.

31. The Railway Bridge

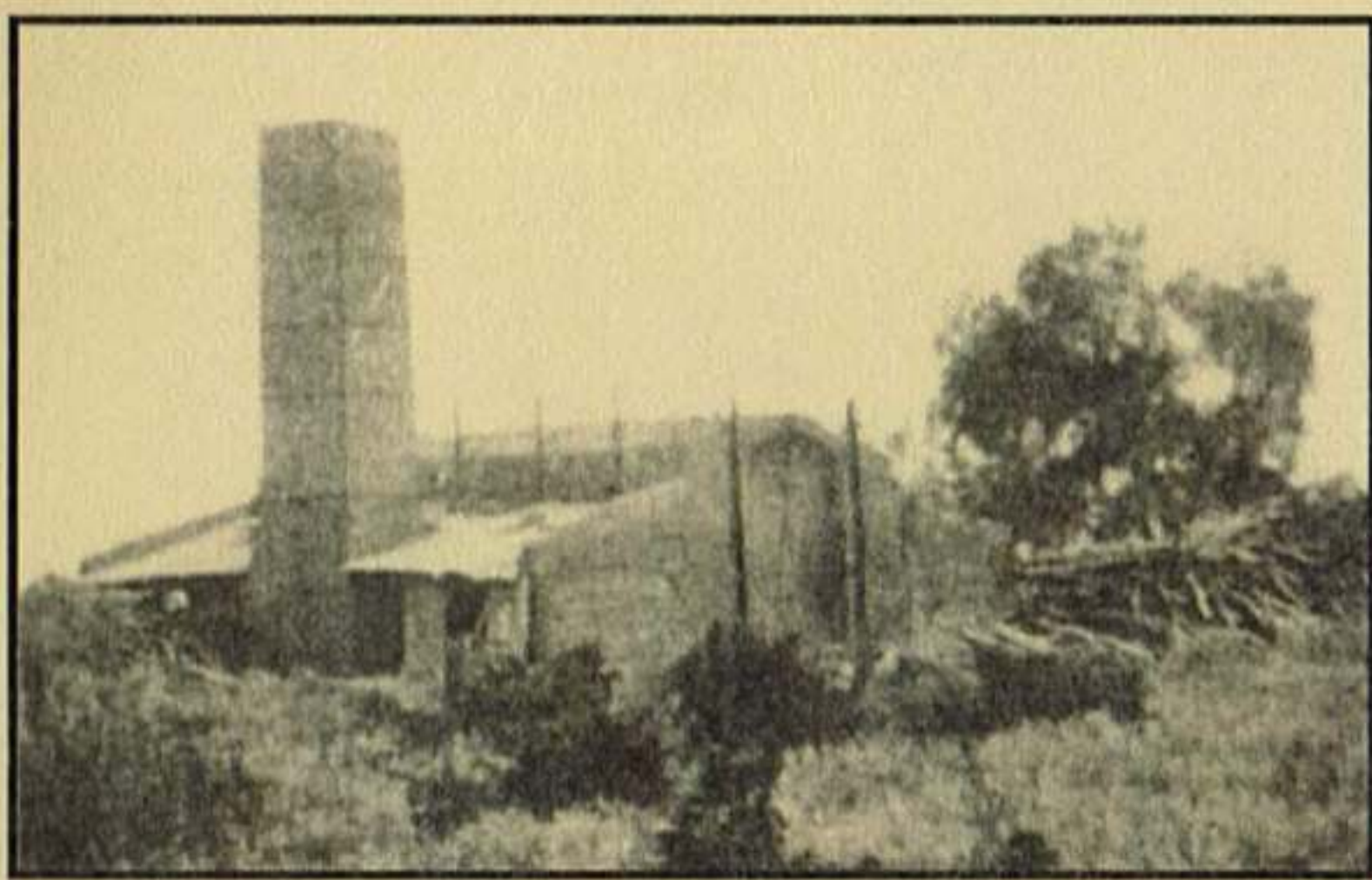
Work commenced on this beautiful stone bridge in 1874, however due to a shortage of labour, it was not until April 1876 that the first train was able to travel right into the town station. The line was opened on 10th December 1875. Even though the line was open, the locomotives to pull the carriages had not arrived. Loaded trucks were pulled by horses to the highest point and gravitated to the Port of Port Pirie. The horses were then used to bring the trucks back. Vast quantities of wheat had been railed out from this temporary terminus on the outskirts of the town. Still awaiting the completion of the bridge over the Crystal Brook, it was not until the 29th April 1876 that the first "U" class locomotive could come to town.

Story: The Bridge was opened on Friday 5th May 1876. It was not generally known that the bridge would be ready for the engine to cross on the Saturday. There were only 20 people gathered to witness the event and they did not cheer! The workmen marked the event with makeshift flags tied across the bridge and a bucket of water.

From the bridge wander through the creek reserve to the Caravan Park and back to your starting point. If you have the time, take the car to the remaining sites and enjoy the beauty and history of the outer areas of Crystal Brook.. Bowman Park is an ideal location for a packed lunch.

32. Crystal Brook Brick Yard (drive option)

The brick yard land was owned by Caleb Lunis and he could have possibly been making bricks as early as 1887, due to the rapid growth of the town which was surveyed in 1873. The land was later sold to 26yr old Hugh Forgan in 1916 and 10 years later, the single open kiln was replaced by a "down-draught" which would provide better firing conditions. Alluvial clay obtained manually from the pit adjacent to the plant, was ground and mixed in the horse powered pug mill. The single open kiln, with a capacity for 27,000 bricks, was fired up with wood every 7 weeks. Bricks were transported as far away as Jamestown, Kadina & Port Pirie.



Story: In the winter of 1940, tragedy struck when Walter Fridd was killed by a clay fall in the pit. The effect of the accident is said to have caused Hugh great distress. He sold up the following year, to Adelaide brick manufacturers

33. Cemetery (drive option)

With the settlers moving north in 1873 to take up their land sections, there came the need for a local township with the usual amenities, including a Cemetery. The "hill" east of the new town was thus surveyed for burials. As was the usual practice in those times, each religious group had their allocated area. It didn't take many years to realise this hill was mainly limestone rock and very hard to dig, putting an end to separate religious sections.

In December 1891, the Council storage shed at the back of the Institute where the Cemetery records from 1873 were stored, was destroyed by fire. Nineteen years of burials were lost. The oldest headstone dated 7 June 1876, is of 24 year old George Hinks, a son of Emunuel and Priscilla, whom with other family members, were buried in the north-west corner.

Story: On 22 March 1877, Edward Summerton and a brother were returning home and attempted to cross a flooding Rocky River in darkness. Sadly Edward drowned, leaving a pregnant wife and 3 infants. The community donated a striking headstone and surround, located in row 1 in the south-east corner. Both these young men came with their extended families as early settlers in 1873.

34. Bowman Park (Bowman Head Station)

Aborigines came from as far as Hawker in pursuit of the excellent ochre found in the hillsides (not far from the cement crossing) and the infamous Inspector Tolmer from Melrose police station, camped here whilst in pursuit of Aborigines for stealing sheep.



The Park was originally part of the Bowman Pastoral Run that the brothers John, William and Thomas operated in 1856 for 20yrs. In the hard times, they lost as many as 15,000 sheep in one year and 6,000 in another.

Resumed by the Government in 1873, Bowman Park was destined to become a water reserve with the building of a weir in the creek that supplied Crystal Brook with water. A piece of the original water pipe is mounted at the Park entrance. After the completion of the dam, operations wound down and Bowman Park was used to store Waterworks pipe and equipment. When the Waterworks' resident caretaker finally moved into the town, the buildings deteriorated. The 40 hectare area was handed over to the Council as a park for the community in June 1960. The oval area was also later used for the Apex Rodeo grounds.

The old homestead had 2ft thick walls and the roof was thatched, with a covering of slate. This home was situated near the stone walled garden with its then bountiful orange, lemon and lime trees, apples, pears, figs and pomegranates, surrounded by flowering shrubs, lilacs, climbing roses, jasmine & honeysuckle. The perfume was said to be almost overpowering in the spring. During this time, people would travel miles to visit the Head Station Gardens.

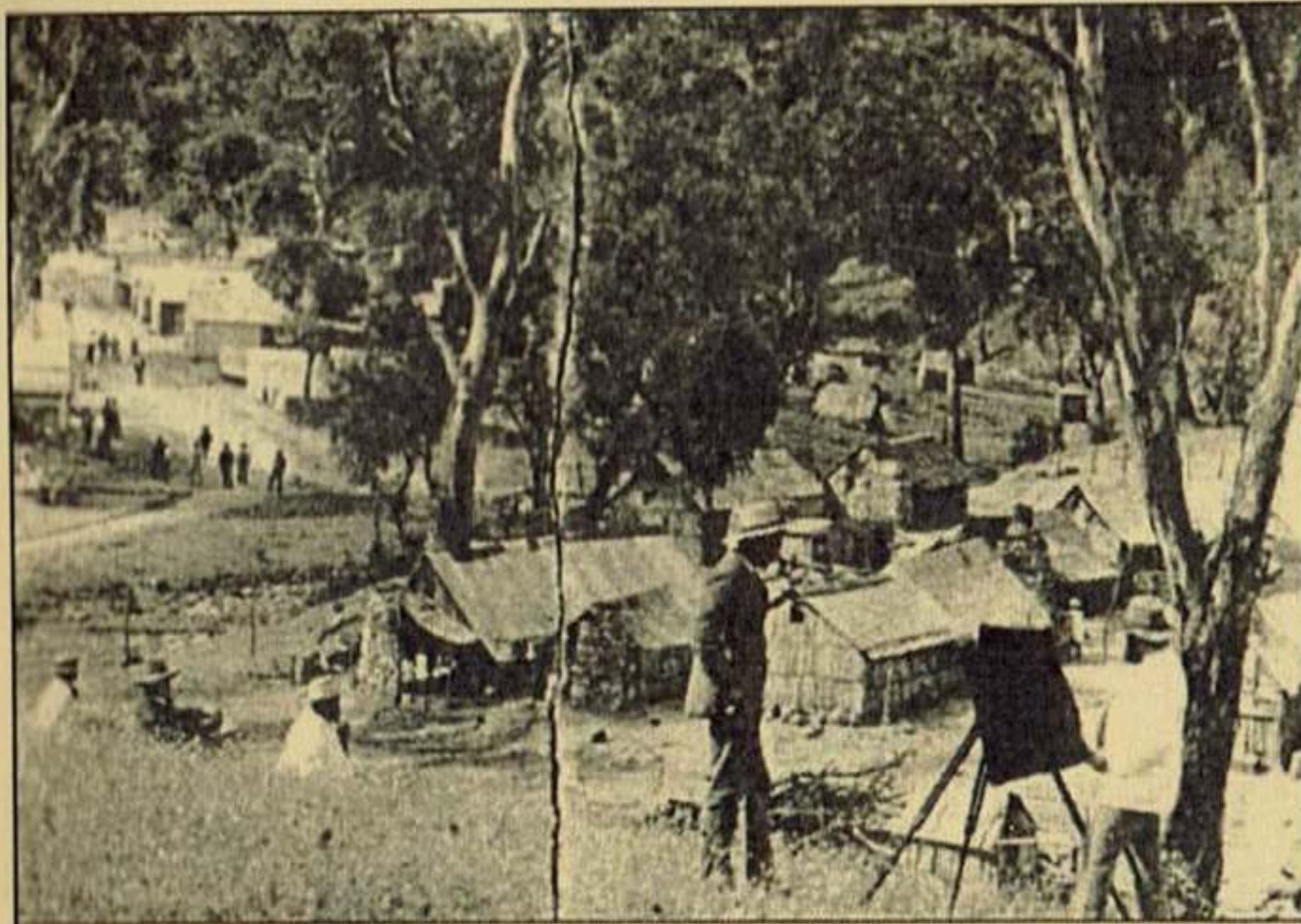
In 1973, the stone dining and kitchen building was built of stone and bricks from the old Crystal Brook railway goods shed. The bricks originally came from England, used as ballast in the sailing ships and unloaded at Pt Germein.

Story: The entire area abounded with wild life, the most feared being the snakes. Walking the narrow path, through the tall Salvation Jane to the stables, as many as 4 snakes could be killed. This was done by the expert flick of a length of wire across the snake.

35. BEETALOO RESERVOIR

An ideal picnic spot. Open during the winter months only: 9am to 5pm weekends, 9am to 4pm weekdays. Closed during Fire Ban season 15th November to 30th April.

The dam was originally to be of masonry construction, helping reduce the high rate of unemployed masons. After 7 quarries were opened and no suitable stone could be found that could be quarried cheaply, it was decided to use concrete, becoming the largest concrete dam in the southern hemisphere at the time, employing 400 men. During 1886, the main effort was clearing the area and building silt traps. A coffer was built in the base of the dam, 1.6m below full supply level, in an effort to protect the works from flooding and provide water needed for construction of the main dam.



A small town was built near the construction site for the workmen and their families. In this photo you can see the photographer at work above the buildings. c1879.

Story: In November 1886, a heavy storm brought down 65mm of rain and hailstones in 2 hours. Within 20 minutes the creek began to flow. The dams held until the melting of the hailstones caused the catch dam, on the main creek, to be washed away. The story has it that a man named Wilson died attempting to cross the creek from one camp to the other by means of a rope and was washed away. His body was recovered 5kms down stream hours later.

1887 was spent preparing for the cement pour; machinery, stone stockpiled, tramlines laid and wood stacked for the steam engines. Cement was imported from Germany and in February 1888, pouring of the cement began and did so continuously for 3 months, until supplies ran out, followed by a further 4 months, and completion in October 1890. By 1896, 500 miles of pipeline enabled Beetaloo Reservoir to service towns from Port Pirie to Paskeville.

Story: The project was so diverse from other works, both in design and materials that suitable machinery was not available, so the plant and machinery needed was designed and built by the Waterworks. The mammoth job this entailed caused Chris Jobson to design a pipe layer that laid 6 pipes at a time. During the dam project, he worked tirelessly and for days scarcely changed his clothes. Ironically he contracted typhoid fever and had to be taken to hospital.

CRYSTAL BROOK

