
Life in Glenbrook 1920-26

We were living in Queensland. My father was in the Repatriation Hospital at Randwick and my mother was told by the Repatriation Hospital that if she came down to Sydney and lived in a place where the air was clear such as the Blue Mountains, she may be able to bring him home at weekends. We then came from Queensland to live in Glenbrook on the advice of the Repatriation Dept. because my father was suffering badly from massive gas exposure. Soon after we came to Glenbrook my father died. My mother became a war widow. There were only two of us went to Glenbrook School. There were about 50 roughly at the school. There were six classes, 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th and 6th. We were in the first segment of 3rd class. One of the boys in my class was Jimmy Dunn and Ken Hawkins about the same age. Tommy Watt I remember, they were at the school with me we all played cricket together. Mr. Wurth was a great cricketer he was one of the leading cricketers in Glenbrook, we had a very good cricket team, they played in competition, the district competition, he taught us all cricket at a cricket pitch opposite the school in the Park. His daughter was older than us and she took to tennis and she ran the NSW Singles championships for ladies, that was Mr. Wurth's daughter Peggy, she did win the Ladies Open Championship. There were no Olympic Games at that time but she was a very good tennis player and he taught us tennis at school too, he had a tennis court made at the school and he taught us all tennis and cricket. He taught us pretty well, he was a very keen cricketer and he was very keen on tennis because his daughter was so good but his daughter learnt tennis at the school, he had a court made for the school and he had the court improved, it was a good court.

We walked to school about a half a mile, we walked through the bush, the Post Office was opposite the school, the school had about 4 or 6 acres of land to it and there was a road went around the school and on that road at the back of the school was the Post Office, two ladies ran the Post Office. I was about ten by the time I went through the six classes. I passed my QC, I went through sixth class and passed my QC when I was about ten, not sure could have been 11. I started High School, the only high school was at Parramatta, no other high school anywhere, myself and the Breakspear's there were two Breakspear boys, we would catch the train in the morning and get it back in the afternoon. We took it for granted that it was the usual thing, they wouldn't do it these days or you wouldn't send a child to do it these days, but we took it as normal. I remember two Breakspear boys and I don't know whether Jimmy Dunn, no Jimmy Dunn didn't. I never saw Jimmy Dunn after I left Glenbrook. But when I started high school I got half way through the first year at high school I think at Parramatta. My mother then moved to Seven Hills, she got an offer of a rental home in Seven Hills and I finished my high school at Seven Hills. Myself and Ken Hawkins who lived opposite me and Tommy Watt and Jimmy Dunn and George Moore, I think we travelled all up and down the creeks and we walked all over the bushlands and we paddled in the Glenbrook Lagoon and I remember the ducks used to breed in the weeds alongside the lagoon, we knew where the duck nests were and we knew when the little babies came out of the eggs and we knew where all the things that lived in the lagoon particularly the turtles even named some of the turtles and the lagoon was full of turtles, well there were a couple of real big ones and we named them. We did have a tin canoe once but it wasn't very successful, I know that as soon as we put it in the water, I think we carried it down to the Duck Hole and got into trouble for going to the Duck Hole we were told not to go to the Duck Hole. There was a great big crayfish about that size... there was the Duck Hole, there was a little pool sort of alongside the Duck Hole and there was a creek went into the Duck Hole and in that creek and in that creek was a little sheltered pool and in that pool was the biggest crayfish I have ever seen he was about that long... We put this tin canoe in this pool that promptly filled up with water and sank, it wasn't waterproof it was hopeless. There was no sign of anything, the duck hole was clean it would have been before they put any pumps there. Known at school as "Smithy". I didn't get such a nickname as much as my brother did he was "Smithy" more than me, the others called me Stan, Stan was easier to spell I think. Mr. Wurth used to call me Stan, he was never keen about my young brother, he used to give him cheek. He never ever got anything right, and Mr. Wurth used to belt him with a cane. (brother's name Eric). There was the one room and he had six rows of desks, little tables with seat attached to the table, lift-up and inkwells. There were six rows of seats right across the room, each row was a class, first class of the row, window and old railway line, where the road is now and they went across to the side where the tennis court was, the other side of the tennis court was Tim Wall's shop. It was a general store,

(continued overleaf)