

# LINTON

• 1889—1989 •

A School and District Centennial History

W.J. Lauridsen



# PLAN of LINTON TOWNSHIP, AND SUBURBAN LAND.

## The Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company, Limited,

HAVE ARRANGED TO SELL THE ABOVE AS PER SCHEDULES  
BY PUBLIC AUCTION AT WELLINGTON,  
IN THE HALL OF THE ATHENÆUM, ON

### Thursday, 19th February, 1885, at 11 o'clock, a.m.

T. KENNEDY MACDONALD & Co.,  
Auctioneers for the Company.

JAMES WALLACE,  
Secretary.

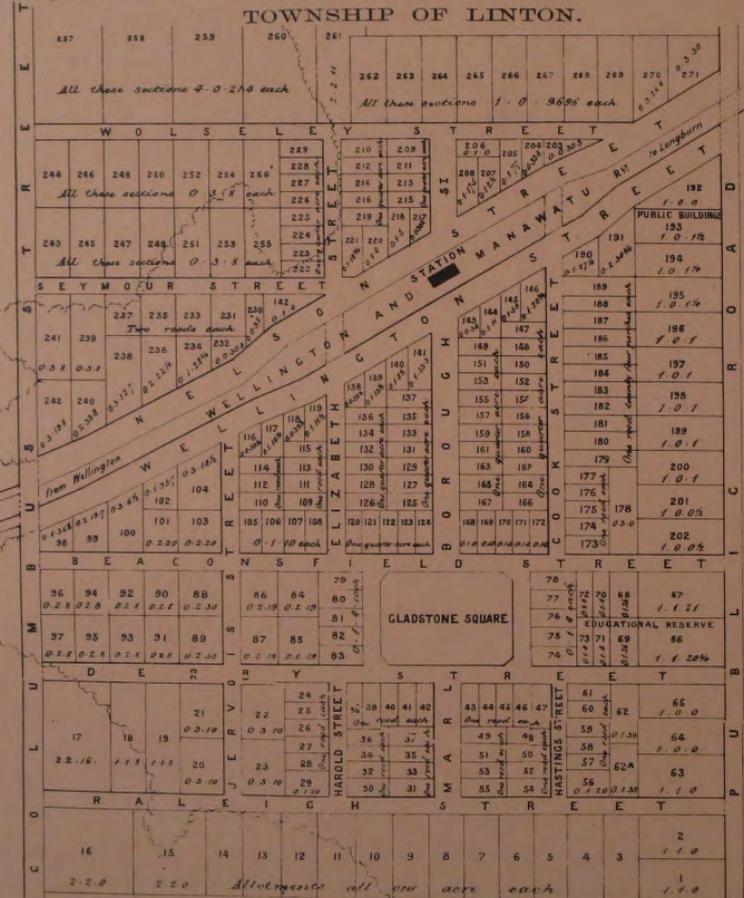
THE Township of Linton is the site of the station at the fourth mile from the junction of the Company's Railway with the Foxton and Taranaki Railway, and is distant 7 1/2 miles from Palmer North. It is conveniently placed on the main road leading through the Fitzherbert Blocks, and to the settlers on them will be the terminus they will make use of. The surrounding country is of first-class quality, and will certainly be taken up for agriculture.

Plans may be obtained on application at the principal post offices and at the Company's offices in Wellington and Palmerston North. Full information how to inspect the sections is obtainable at the Palmerston Office, where arrangements can be made by introducing purchasers on any day between the 1st and 16th of February, to have the guidance of competent persons on the section on the plan.

Taxes.—1 1/2 per cent. on each amount bid, on the fall of the hammer, 1 1/2 per cent. each in a month afterwards, and balance of purchase money by acceptance falling due in 3, 6 months from date of sale with interest at 6 per cent. payable quarterly.

Title will be given under the Land Transfer Act, which will be prepared by the Solicitor of the Company at the low charge of 10s. or registered and completed in full by him for the sum of 10s. or 20s. as a purchase paying fee and stamp as per schedule of rates under the Land Transfer Act.

Angle Reserves have been made in the Township for Public Offices and Educational purposes.



UPSET PRICES OF SUE  
Sections Nos. 284 to 293  
and 272 inclusive  
Nos. 278 to 284, 293  
299 inclusive

REFERE  
Sections for sale  
Public Offices Reserve  
Educational Reserve

Scale 10  
0 5 10

SCHEDULE OF TOWNSHIP OF LINTON

No. of Sections	Area	Upset Price
1	1 0	25 0 0
2	1 0	27 10 0
3	1 0	29 0 0
4	1 0	30 0 0
5	1 0	30 0 0
6	1 0	30 0 0
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100	1 0	30 0 0

SCHEDULE OF TOWNSHIP OF LINTON.

No. of Sections	Area	Upset Price
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SCHEDULE OF TOWNSHIP OF LINTON

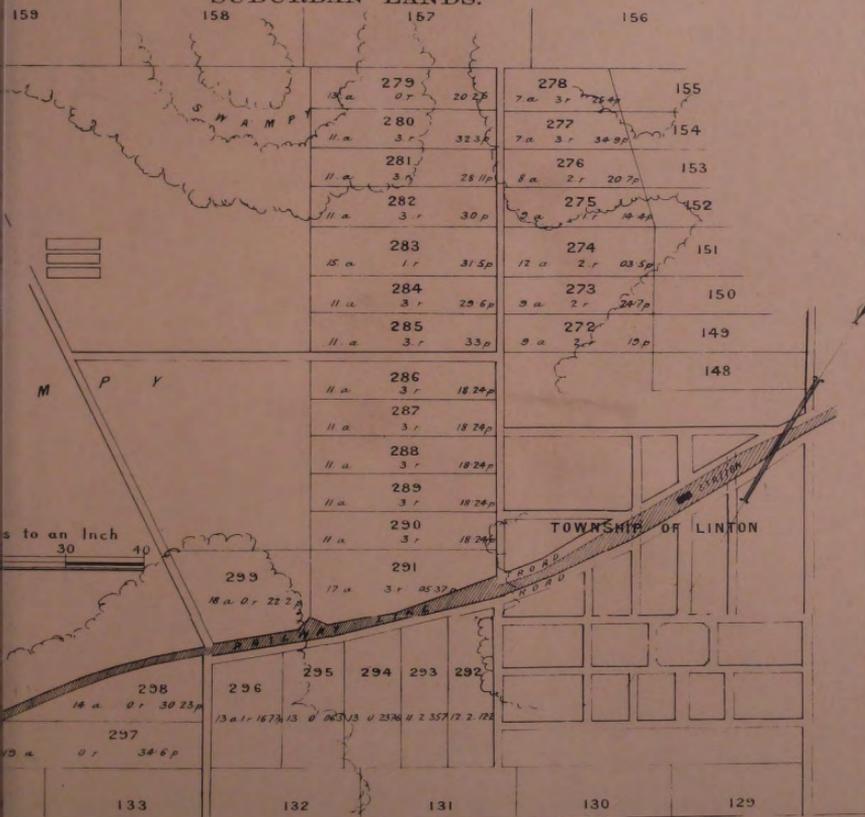
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SCHEDULE OF TOWNSHIP OF LINTON

No. of Sections	Area	Upset Price
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183	4 0 0	7 10 0
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SUBURBAN LANDS.



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CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

# LINTON

• 1889—1989 •

A School and District Centennial History

W.J. Lauridsen



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Linton School and District Crest  
— Designed by Mr D. McQueen, Wanganui  
Education Board.

## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

Linton School and District means different things to many people, in most cases the claim to having lived or worked within the District is spoken of with some nostalgia.

The present prosperity of Linton has evolved over the last 100 years from a bushfelling and timber industry to a highly productive rural and agricultural sector.

Land on the west of the ranges down to the river was later cleared of bush along with what is commonly called the natural clearings, to become the settlement of Linton as we know it today. This was assisted by smaller land subdivisional sales and also embraced a large area of land under the control of the Railway Company, land which was later sold for the development of further farming units. It is interesting to note that the fertile land has retained its popularity for settlement and is now serviced by an excellent roading network for its markets and products along with nearby townships of some considerable size by New Zealand standards, where all the enjoyments of modern shopping facilities exist.

The hill country is a feature of the landscape and is widely noted for sheep, the wool, yield and quality being much sought after by overseas buyers. Mention must also be made of the prowess of many with the shearing handpiece, some fine shearers of note coming from neighbouring farms.

The dairy industry in its early years had a number of skim milk stations and butter and cheese outlets, set up in a variety of places within the District. Horse and cart have now given way to modern milk tanker collection.

Sheep and Dairy farming have stood the test of time well and still form the means of providing a livelihood for most families within the District.

The timing and planning of the timber, flax, sheep and dairy industries form the background to the rural aspect of the book.

Man must not live by bread alone however and Linton can boast a fine Military Camp which is expanding at a rapid pace, with all the facilities expected of such an establishment. Some of those facilities have been shared with and been of benefit to the District as a whole. New Zealand Pharmaceuticals as an important exporting industry, further small subdivisions for the use of horticultural pursuits, and the building of the Linton Detention centre would have been three activities hard to envisage by the early pioneers 100 years ago.

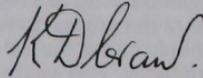
By and large however the ability to provide for and support a family has not changed over the last 100 years but the technology and machinery for doing so has. Perhaps the two major world conflicts which saw our young people joining the services and those people remaining at home with but one goal "To hold the District Together" showed that compassion and understanding were also strengths in times of adversity.

In compiling this book Walter Lauridsen has set out to both entertain the reader and give all an appreciation of the past achievements of our early settlers. During the course of time many incidents and happenings reflect in the lives of residents and people. This book captures some of those moments with photographs and the printed word. Every endeavour has been made by the writer to record the history (no mean effort) of Linton School and District thereby ensuring that this knowledge will be available to us and future generations to also cherish.

The importance of having a strong school and community spirit within a settlement cannot be over emphasised and is as equally important today as it was in

the beginning. Interest has waxed and waned from time to time for various reasons, but in the final analysis many can lay claim to being a part of Linton and share a common bond and a proud heritage. I'm sure the next 100 years is going to be just as great a challenge to everyone both young and old as we all have a part to play. Remember YOU could be that person, be a part of the future.

What others have done for us so may we also do for the following generations. Walter, a task well done and dutifully performed.



K.D. Crow  
Centenary Chairman

# Contents

List of Photographs and Maps	7
Introduction	9
James Linton	11
1. <b>Pre-European Times</b>	13
2. <b>Early Days of European Settlement</b>	17
Notes on Early Settlers	26
3. <b>Later District History</b>	31
4. <b>Linton School</b>	39
Dugald Matheson	43
Boys and Girls Agricultural Club	67
The School Bus	67
Moturimu School	71
Linton Camp School	73
5. <b>Linton Hall</b>	75
6. <b>Government and Local Bodies</b>	81
Makerua Drainage Board	85
Fitzherbert West Water Scheme	86
Electricity	90
7. <b>The Development of the Railway</b>	93
Longburn Freezing Works	103
8. <b>The Dairy Industry</b>	105
9. <b>Other Industries</b>	115
Sawmills	115
Flaxmilling	117
From Farm to Pharmaceutical	121
10. <b>Services to the District</b>	125
Stores in Linton	125
Blacksmiths	128
Transport and Motoring	129
Linton Garage	132
Linton Taxis	133
Post Offices	134
The Saleyards	136
11. <b>A Faith to Live By</b>	139
St. Columbia's Church	139
Roman Catholic Church	145
Brethren Assemblies	146
Undenominational Sunday Schools	147

	Presbyterian Church	147
	St. Martin's Church — Linton Camp	148
12.	<b>Linton Military Camp</b>	151
13.	<b>Manawatu Prison</b>	157
14.	<b>District Organisations</b>	159
	Federated Farmers	159
	Country Women's Institute	160
	Fitzherbert Young Farmers' Club	165
	Linton and District Lions Club	168
	Linton Scouts and Cubs	169
	Linton Guides and Brownies	173
	Linton Kindergarten	173
	Linton Village Playcentre	174
15.	<b>Linton Social and Sports Clubs</b>	175
	Linton Sports Club	175
	Linton Indoor Bowls Club	178
	Linton Tennis Clubs	180
	Linton-Awapuni Badminton Club	183
	Linton Table Tennis and Badminton Club	182
	Linton Football Club	183
	Linton Rifle Club	184
	Linton District Miniature Rifle Club	185
	Linton Camp Golf Club	186
	Linton Pony Club	188
	Linton Settlers Cabaret	188
	Linton Dog Trials Association	189
16.	<b>Home Guard</b>	191
	Emergency Precautions Scheme	194
17.	<b>Previous Celebrations</b>	195
	Appendices	209
	List of Teachers	209
	School Committee Members	211
	Linton School Roll Numbers	215
	Linton School Roll	216
	Maps — Historic Places	226
	Chronology	229
	Bibliography	232
	Index	233

# List of Photographs and Maps

James Linton	11
Map of Ahuaturangi Block	14
Map of Linton area showing sections c. 1920	16
Packing out provisions on the Kahuterawa Road	18
Overlooking Kahuterawa Bridge on the Main Road, c. 1896	24
Present day view of same site	25
Mr George Craw's Homestead	29
Old Kahuterawa Bridge on the Main Road	32
Construction of "Craw's Concrete Road"	33
The new and the old Kahuterawa Bridges	34
Hurricane Damage on Hewitts Road	35
First haypress owned in Linton	36
Merlyn Craw driving in Chariot Race	37
"Black Bridge" after severe damage	38
Earliest known photo of Linton School children	42
Linton School pupils and teachers, c. 1905	46
First Linton School	47
Linton School. Stds. 3-6 in 1925	49
Linton School Senior Classes in 1929	50
First School Bus and some who travelled on it	51
First Calf Club Day, 1934	53
School Committee members and ex-members in 1939	54
Linton School and the children, 1939	58
Combined Football Team, early 1950s	59
Linton School Children with Craig Cup	63
The School and Hall, 1988	65
Present Day Pupils (1988)	66
John Lauridsen and his "Covered Waggon"	68
Peter Lauridsen and his Chevrolet Bus	69
The "International" Bus operated by Linton Garage	70
Old Linton Hall. A wedding group	77
The New Hall under construction	79
The "Marion" Dipper Dredge	86
Old Water Supply Settling Tank	87
Repairing water supply pipeline after flood damage	89
Old Longburn Railway Bridge	95
Linton Railway Station	97
Railway Engine at Linton Crossing	99
Alterations being made to signalling equipment	101
Levin Dairy Co. Cheese Factory and Skimming Station	107
Levin Dairy Co. Skimming Station	109
Pit Cowshed on Craw Property	111
Craw's "Loch Moigh" Cheese Factory	113

Carting flax fibre to the bleaching fields	117
View inside flaxmill	119
N.Z. Pharmaceuticals Ltd. buildings	122
N.Z. Pharmaceuticals Pure Natural Taurine Plant	123
Ward's Store, adjacent to Church	126
Delivering provisions to Hilltop	127
Linton Store, in the 1960s	128
J. Tomlin's Blacksmith Shop	129
Craw's Blacksmith Shop	130
Mr W. Craw and his car	131
Linton Garage, before rebuilding	132
H. Witherington driving his car in procession	133
Early view of St. Columba's Church	141
St. Martin's Church, Linton Camp	149
Early view of "Block" at Linton Camp	153
RNZE Corps Memorial Museum and Library	155
Linton C.W.I. celebrates 21 years	162
Institute Members and Ex-members in 1964	164
Kendalls Line Water Trough	168
Lions Club receiving Charter	169
Original Linton Scout Troop and Cub Pack, 1959	170
Official opening of Camp Kilsby	171
The Ala-Ala Award	172
Linton Sports Day at Craw's Race Track	176
"Nelson Derby", a trotter owned by Mr Craw	177
Group of Sports Club Officials	178
Linton Tennis Club, c. 1900	181
Whitmore Lawn Tennis club, c. 1900	182
An Early Football Team	184
Linton Rifle Club Team, 1909	185
Linton Roll of Honour. 1914-1918	192
Linton Roll of Honour. 1939-1945	193
Past and Present Teachers in 1939	196
Mr A.E. Currin and his sister, Mrs Young	197
Past and Present Teachers in 1964	198
Cutting the cake at 1964 celebrations	199
Ex-pupils of 1889-1900, at 1964 celebrations	200
Ex-pupils of 1900-1910, at 1964 celebrations	202
Ex-pupils of 1910-1920, at 1964 celebrations	203
Ex-pupils of 1920-1930, at 1964 celebrations	204
Ex-pupils of 1930-1940, at 1964 celebrations	205
Ex-pupils of 1940-1950, at 1964 celebrations	206
Ex-pupils of 1950-1964, at 1964 celebrations	207
Map showing historic places	226
Plan of original school	228

## INTRODUCTION

In view of the rapidly changing nature of the Linton district particularly in recent years, the extension of Massey University property right to its boundary, the massive development at Linton Military Camp and the changes in Local Body boundaries, it seems doubtful that Linton will remain in its rural form for another one hundred years. It is therefore regarded as desirable that something of the past should be placed on permanent record before some aspects of it are lost for all time.

To date, comparatively little in the nature of written records exist that describe the history of the Linton District. In 1939 the Golden Jubilee of the School and District was celebrated, and to mark that occasion the then Headmaster, Mr L.E. Schwabe compiled an informative 32 page booklet which described aspects of the district's history up to that time. This booklet is long since out of print and is now quite rare but some families still possess and treasure a copy of it. In 1984 Mr Ian Argyle published "To Argyle's Last Acre" describing the history of the Kahuterawa Valley-Hilltop area. Ian's own experiences of living in that area for a number of years enabled him to bring history vividly to life and his book has enjoyed wide readership. In view of the fact that that book has been published in recent years, this present effort does not refer to the Hilltop area to any great extent except in a few instances where additional information has since come to light.

On the occasions of the two celebrations held since 1939, suggestions were made that a written history would be desirable but nothing was done at the time, but now, this being the centenary, it was agreed that an effort should be made in this direction.

Certainly the claim cannot be made that this present publication is an exhaustive history of the district and there is no doubt that much has been left out that perhaps might have been included. A much greater length of time than has been available would be needed to do justice to such a task. But it is hoped that the information presented in this volume will serve to awaken the memories of those who have had past connections with the district, and may encourage some to take a greater interest in its history and perhaps, to engage in further research on the subject.

The research undertaken during the last 2½ years has been a very enjoyable exercise but would not have been possible without the co-operation of a very large number of people. The help and information that has been forthcoming has been of great assistance in carrying out the task. This includes, of course, the support of the Centenary Committee chaired by Mr Dale Crow. Also, the management of N.Z. Pharmaceuticals Ltd. is kindly providing some financial assistance to the project which is much appreciated.

From a research point of view, mention must be made of Mr Ian Matheson, Palmerston North City Council Archives and Records Officer, who has given much good advice and also made available for research, County, Roads Board, Cemetery and other records that are held in that department. The Wanganui Education Board, the Palmerston North Public Library, the Feilding Library, the Dairy Factory Records section of the Massey University Library, the National Library and New Zealand Railways Head Office have all willingly allowed access to information held which is relevant to this district. Mr K.R. Cassells of the N.Z. Railway and Locomotive Society has also provided helpful information. Although some records of the Linton School were lost in the fire of 1934, the Minute Books, Log Books, etc. which are still available have been most helpful as have also the records, where available, of local organisations. Acknowledgement should be made of the good

work done by former Headmaster, Mr E.G. Whitehead who, in 1964, copied many old photographs and also arranged taped interviews with older residents. It would not be possible to mention all who live or have lived in the district and who have provided valuable information or the loan of photographs. Some also have contributed separate articles which are noted.

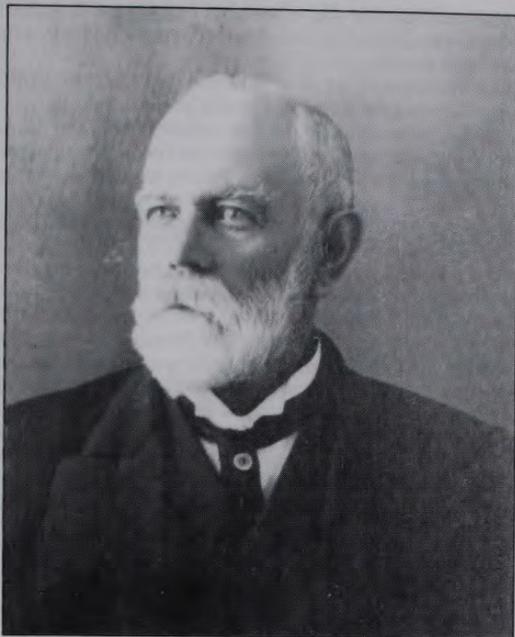
A production of this nature requires much background contribution which is greatly appreciated. This includes the proof-reading by Mrs Janet Toogood of Tokomaru and the co-operation and guidance of G.P.H. Print, the printers. My own family has supported me in this venture and Murray has assisted greatly with his technical knowledge and skill.

I would like to add a more personal note — I especially acknowledge the assistance, support and encouragement given by my wife, Corenne, to me and to the project in its early stages. And now, since her sudden passing, the task has been completed, which, I know, is exactly what she would have wished.

Walter Lauridsen



In this book units of measurement and currency are generally expressed in the units in use at the time.



James Linton — Photo, P.N. Public Library.

## JAMES LINTON

This district gained its name from Mr James Linton so it is appropriate that reference should be made to this pioneer of the Manawatu although he personally did not reside in the Linton area at any time.

James Linton was born in Dumfries, Scotland on 25th July 1839. He followed the gold rushes, going to Australia in the 1850s then moving to Central Otago, New Zealand in the 1860s. On moving to Wairarapa he became a Government Land Valuer and it was while living in that district that he married Sarah Kibblewhite in 1869.

Mr and Mrs Linton and their small daughter arrived in Palmerston North very early in 1871 travelling on horseback from Wairarapa and carrying with them all their worldly possessions, a journey that Mr Linton described as "mud and misery." Mrs Linton was the second European woman to reach Palmerston North and their little daughter was the first white child to arrive in the settlement. They set up their home in Terrace End where Mr Linton built the settlement's first dwelling house.

In addition to his association with the Manawatu Roads Board which is recorded elsewhere, he was also elected to a Local Town Board in 1876 which was formed to promote the development of the small township of Palmerston North. He was elected to the first Borough Council in 1877 and later served as Mayor from 1879 to



# 1

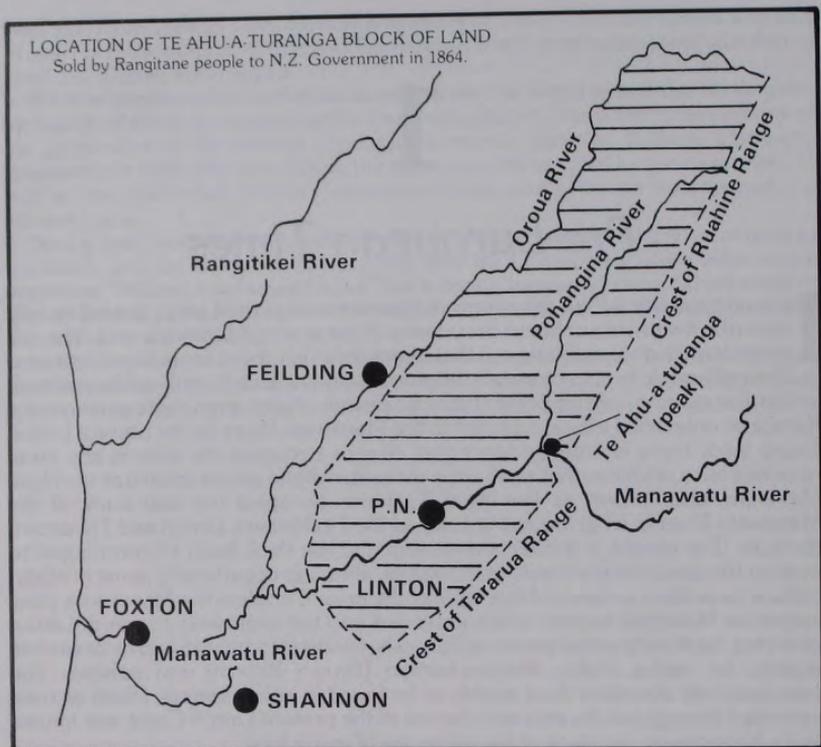
## *Pre European Times*

**I**t is not possible within the scope of this narrative of the Linton district to fully describe the history of Maori occupancy of the general Manawatu area. There is considerable documentation of that information in other historical publications.

There seems, in fact, to be very little information available regarding Maori history within the confines of the present Linton district. Apart from the existence of a Kainga or unfortified village adjacent to the Manawatu River on the present Linton Camp land, there is little evidence that Maoris occupied the area in any great numbers but it is known that a sub-tribe of the Rangitane people known as the Ngati Mairehau, also known as the Ngati Tuahuriri occupied the east bank of the Manawatu River in what are now known as the Fitzherbert, Linton and Tokomaru districts. The ranges, the river, the swamp and the thick bush all contributed to making the area comparatively inaccessible, although occasionally items of Maori culture have been unearthed throughout the area. Certainly the Makurerua (now known as Makerua) swamp which extended into the southwest corner of Linton provided the Maoris with a source of flax, eels, freshwater crayfish and birds such as pigeon, tui, weka, Kaka, Matuku-hurepo (Brown Bittern) and kakapo. The comparatively abundant food supply to be found in either swamp, forest or river extended throughout the area and the site of the present Linton Camp was known as Te Kairanga or the place of the gathering of much food.

There are two particular items of history that may be of interest. The first is recounted by Dr G.C. Petersen in "Palmerston North. A Centennial History" describing the circumstances of a mighty tribal battle that was fought at Te Kairanga. A fortified pa belonging to the Rangitane tribe and known as Te-Motu-o-Potoa once existed near the present Fitzherbert Bridge on what is now known as Anzac Park. From time to time occasional skirmishes had taken place between Ngatiapa and Rangitane tribes, then in about 1820 a raiding party of the Ngatiapa from Rangitikei raided the pa while its fighting men were away hunting and there were few to defend it. The Rangitane, enraged by this action were determined on revenge and challenged the Ngatiapa to meet them in battle at Te Kairanga, which challenge was accepted. The Rangitane proceeded to gather their warriors from throughout their territory. This included the sending of smoke signals from the summit of Arawaru (Baldy) summoning a sub-tribe from the other side of the Tararua Range to assist them in the battle. A terrific battle ensued and the Rangitane tribe led by Te Awe Awe were victorious. Dr Petersen states that hundreds were killed in the battle and that their bodies were piled up in heaps and destroyed by fire.

The other item of interest has been recorded by Mr George Allwright, a former resident of Linton, who has made a detailed study of Maori and Polynesian history. This incident may be associated with Linton although there is some doubt as to its



Map of the Ahuaturanga Block.

actual location. His record reveals that the people living near the river at Moutoa in the 1850s were the Ngati Ruakawa, the Ngati Whakaterere and Rangitane. After the completion of the well known Rangiatea Church at Otaki in 1850, the people at Moutoa decided that they should also have a church of their own. A meeting or hui was called to discuss the matter and at the hui an elderly Rangitane chief named Hiha claimed that the previous night he had had a dream. Mr Allwright describes the dream as follows:

“He dreamed that he was standing at the foot of two great Totara trees somewhere on the bank of the Manawatu River and these trees were talking to each other. The first tree said. ‘Do you know who I am?’

‘No’ was the reply.

‘I am whanau rae (the god of the forehead)’ said the first.

‘Oh. Do you know who I am?’ asked the second. ‘I am whanau ihu (the god of the nose).’ And they both chanted an incantation.”

The Chief Hiha remembered the Karakia or incantation and recited it to the assembled meeting. It was agreed that a search should be made for the trees so on an appointed day three large canoes were prepared and men of the tribe made their

way up the river. The trees were finally discovered at Kairanga adjacent to where the Linton Camp now stands. They were cut down and floated down the river to Moutoa and there they were pit sawn into timber which provided sufficient to build the church and also to construct the furnishings which included a beautiful carved altar, a piece of which was later inlaid in the staff presented to Bishop Bennett when he was ordained as first Maori Bishop.

The church was known as the "Turongo" Church and the site of its construction was at Marotiri, near Bowe Road at Moutoa, as the area was then known. The building was moved to Poutu Pa near Shannon Bridge in 1963 but it appears to have been completely rebuilt twice during its history so there would be some doubt as to how much of the original building remains in the present church.

Several versions of this story have appeared with various suggestions as to the location of the two Totara trees. In a deputation to the Kairanga County Council in November 1958 Mr W.K. Te Awe Awe (Larkins) together with Mr Allwright objected to the change of name of the present Camp Road from its former name of Kairanga Track claiming that it was an historic highway famed in Maori tradition. At that meeting Mr Te Awe Awe recounted the story relating to the Totara trees but indicated that they were found on the Longburn side of the river in the area now occupied by the Seventh Day Adventist College. However there are certain obvious journalistic errors in the newspaper article that reported the deputation, so casting some doubt on the accuracy of the details as reported. Another possibility is that the trees stood close to the river on opposite banks while yet another version places the location of the trees in the upper Manawatu Gorge area. The story is certainly an interesting one irrespective of which version is correct but there seems to be little reason to doubt the accuracy of the version given by Mr Allwright.

It was about 1858 that the Awahou block near Foxton was sold by the Maoris to the Government and almost immediately after, negotiations commenced by the Rangitane chiefs for the sale of the Ahuaturanga block. After some differences between the Ngati Ruakawa and Rangitane chiefs it was agreed that the Rangitane tribe had the right to sell so preliminary surveys to define the boundaries of the block were commenced in October 1958. The Ahuaturanga block which is named after a famous landmark in the Ruahine Ranges above the Manawatu Gorge stretched from the southern boundary of Linton to Apiti in the north, including the present site of Palmerston North, and covered 250,000 acres. The land was eventually sold to the Government in 1864 for £12,000. Finally on 19th July 1866 a notice in the "New Zealand Gazette" confirmed the sale of the Ahuaturanga block.

The land now occupied by Linton Camp remained a native reserve for almost another 20 years when Hanita Te Awe Awe sold it to Fritz Jensen, Sawmiller of Palmerston North for £1320 on 11th November 1885.



# 2

## *Early Days of European Settlement*

**L**inton occupies the south-eastern section of the large block of the Manawatu known as Te Ahu-a-turanga block which was sold to the Government in 1864. The general boundaries of the present Linton area can be described as the Manawatu River in the North-west, the boundary of the Horowhenua County near Tane Road in the South-west, the Tararua Ranges in the South-east linked back to the Manawatu River by the Kahuterawa Stream in the North-east although properties adjacent to the eastern bank of the stream upstream from the Main Road bridge have also always had close connection with the Linton district. The early surveyors recorded: "There is a considerable sized piece of land called Te Horo on the south side of the river lying surrounded by bush at the foot of the hills." This was "the Fitzherbert Clearing" on which the original Linton settlement was founded.

Jack Duff, an early explorer, travelled up the Manawatu River in 1840 and is believed to be the first European to discover the Manawatu Gorge. Mr C.H. Kettle made an historic journey about 2 years later, travelling up the Manawatu River, through the Gorge, then returning to Wellington through the Wairarapa. It was C.H. Kettle who noted a tributary to the Manawatu River known as the Katiraua, which is what we know today as the Kahuterawa.

Mr J.T. Stewart, the surveyor and his helpers who were mostly Maoris carried out the almost insuperable task of surveying the area, coping not only with the inaccessibility of the country but also with the millions of mosquitoes that at times, made life a misery. Mr Stewart's notes, on a number of occasions, comment on how bad the mosquito problem was on that particular day. Eventually, by late 1866 the first sections were offered for sale.

The three earliest known European settlers in the area were Mr G.H. Engels who is noted elsewhere, Mr C. Shute and Mr A. Coborough, but it appears that Messrs Shute and Coborough did not stay for any length of time. Their names certainly appear in Mr D. McEwen's census of 1868 but they are not recorded in the Wellington Almanac of 1871. At that time Mr Engels' name appears as the only settler in this area, although it is believed Mr William Akers had moved into the area by then.

The Fitzherbert area which included the present Linton, Tiritea and Aokautere was named after William (later Sir William) Fitzherbert who had been M.P. for Hutt and later in 1871 became Superintendent of the Wellington Provincial Government. Access to the area continued to be a formidable problem but a few settlers gradually drifted in. 1874 saw an early subdivision (D.P. 12) take place forming the Township of Fitzherbert involving Sections 35-46, 65-68 and 78-84 of the original plan. This covered the area from Akers Road to Eyre Road and from the Main Road to Browne Street, a surveyed street which extends from Akers Road and adjoins Eyre Road



Packing out provisions on the Kahuterawa Road, about 1896. Almost certainly the site of later "Black Bridge". A Hilltop settler is believed to have drowned at this ford.

— Photo, P.N. Public Library (W.H. Smith Coll.)

just a short distance before the end of the present tar seal. This subdivision involved the formation of over 300 Lots of varying sizes complete with a central square. A considerable number of the lots were purchased over a period of years as well as some being allocated for public and commercial buildings, however nothing came of the area as a settlement. Two smaller blocks were also sub-divided, one on Eyre Road in 1878 and the other on the Main Road in 1879 these also totalling almost another 300 lots.

The Manawatu Roads Board had been formed in 1872 but little roading was carried out in this area until the Fitzherbert Bridge was built in 1877 and it was still not until 1878 that the approaches to the bridge were completed. The first Fitzherbert Bridge was built by Mr A.H. Ihle at a price of about £7000. Most of the timber used in its construction came from the Aokautere area where it was pit sawn and rafted down the river to the bridge site. Construction was completed six months ahead of schedule. The settlers at the time made two requests to the Manawatu Roads Board — one that the Fitzherbert area be formed into a separate Ward, this being an effort to try to persuade the Board that the money collected in Rates from the Fitzherbert district should be spent on roading in that district. But not everyone seemed to share the same opinion as to the value of the area in question. A Board Warden claimed that the land was not worth the money and that he "would not spend a copper on it if he could help it." The second request was that a bridle track be formed from the bridge to the Town of Fitzherbert. A momentous entry appears in the Board's Minute Book dated 21st November 1878 — "Tenders were called for

the formation of a bridle track from the Manawatu Bridge to Fitzherbert". This appears to be the first effort to provide roading access to this area.

It is most unfortunate that the records of the old Manawatu Roads Board from 1878 to 1885 have been irretrievably lost, presumably in a fire which destroyed the old Public Hall building in Palmerston North in 1885. Those particular years marked the period when the earliest roads were formed in this area and the records would have been of very great interest to us today.

In the absence of road access much of the earliest land ownership was adjacent to the river. Mr Wm. Akers bought part of the Riverdale property from Marshall Bros. in the early 1870s then obtained other sections adjacent to the river as they became available. Section 160 had been owned by R. Brammell and sections 77, 158, 159 and 162 had originally been New Zealand Company sections held in the names of Thomas Hodgson, J.W. Flower, E.M. Chaffers and Thomas Robertshaw, respectively. Whether these people ever lived on the sections is very doubtful, the only access being via the river, either downstream or across to the Karere or Jackeytown Roads. Mr Akers had a horse Beswick, called "Beeswax" which, when it swam the river kept so high out of the water that the rider could arrive dry on the other side. Mrs Akers crossed the river on this horse by sitting on the back of the saddle with her feet on the knee pads, thus getting across without getting wet.

Further upstream was the Fitzsimons family who had established their farm there (the present McEvedy farm) by about the mid 1870s. A few years later Mr Fitzsimons is believed to have drowned in the river. He and a boy whose name is thought to have been MacKenzie were attempting to ford the river. Nothing was known of the accident until they failed to return and the riderless horse was found. It was believed that Mr Fitzsimons who was known to be a powerful swimmer, sacrificed his life in an endeavour to save the boy. Mrs Fitzsimons bravely and cheerfully continued on the farm for a number of years. The Fitzsimons children first attended Longburn school then attended Linton School when it opened. Later, from 1905 Meredith Fitzsimons was employed as a cowboy and general station hand on the Akers property.

The Munro family were pioneers of the very early days. John Munro had been a member of Mr Stewart's survey party so had gained a considerable knowledge of the area. He and his family first settled at Jackeytown just after the sale and sub-division of the Ahu-a-turanga block. A great flood occurred in 1880 which inundated his farm. His wife and family took refuge in a whata or pa-ta-ka built on piles 4 ft. high while he rescued his stock with the help of some Maoris in a canoe. It was then he decided to move to Fitzherbert where he built his new home, making his own bricks on the spot. In order to reach her new home Mrs Munro walked across country, was ferried by canoe across the river, then sledged through a bush track for most of the remainder of the journey. Their family made up a considerable proportion of the first day pupils of the Linton School.

Another Munro family lived at Whitmore and were associated with the sawmill there about 1890.

Mr J. Millrick had already established himself on Sections 121 and 122 by 1878. The first Headmaster described Mr Millrick as a very kindly old batchelor whose farm was in an already advanced form by the time the school was opened.

Captain J.D.R. Hewitt was a very early settler, establishing himself in the district in the 1870s. He settled in the Kahuterawa Valley and soon had extensive holdings of land in the area adjacent to the ranges, much of it being Educational lease land. He took a prominent part in the development of the district and is referred to elsewhere.

Other early settlers recorded in the 1878 Electoral Roll include G.J. Bruce, John King, P. McCafferty, A. McGregor, J. McCarthy, A.C. Shaw and E. Toomath but little is known about these people. It is believed that Mr W. Coombs who later owned considerable property in the district, arrived about 1879 or 1880.

One of the well known settlers who came to the district prior to 1890 was Mr William Cameron who was a bachelor. He had cleared the bush on his small farm and kept a few sheep, a cow and some poultry. After living in the district for a number of years he thought of moving on, but his mind was finally made up for him when his neighbour bought a piano. Mr Cameron decided that his environment was becoming far too civilized so he sold his sheep and built a cart to be drawn by his horse, loaded his poultry in a box into the cart plus a few other worldly possessions and tied his cow so that it could walk behind, then set off for the Bay of Islands where he lived for many years and is believed to have died about 1943.

Mr George Kendall arrived in New Zealand in 1875 in the "Edwin Fox", a ship that has gained some prominence in recent years in connection with its restoration at Picton. In 1883 Mr Kendall arrived in this district and was manager of Capt. Hewitt's property for 10 years. His brother, Mr William P. Kendall had arrived in New Zealand in 1874, also in the "Edwin Fox" and was employed by the Government for 12 years, 4 of which he was foreman of the Rimutaka Railway line construction. In 1886 he came to this district and took up 647 acres of what was then all bush. He took an active part in public affairs and was a member of the Linton School Committee for 4 years. His name is perpetuated in the district in the name of Kendalls Line.

Another settler of the 1880s was Mr John Lynch whose descendants have been well known in the district since that time. Mr Lynch was born in Bantry, Co. Cork, Ireland in 1852. He came to New Zealand in 1876 and on arrival at Napier proceeded to the Manawatu district where, in the 1880s he purchased 6 acres of bush covered land at the corner of Featherston Street and Wood Street, Palmerston North. There, he built his first home but soon after acquired 150 acres of land at Linton. He farmed this until 1907 and in the meantime had acquired further blocks in this district which then totalled approx. 1000 acres. Mr Lynch moved to Kairanga for a few years then retired to Palmerston North in 1912. The original farm at Linton has continued to remain in the possession of the family to this day. Mr Lynch was actively involved as a committee member of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Parish, Palmerston North. He died in 1931.

The Wellington-Manawatu Railway Company had been allocated considerable areas of land in the Hilltop area and these sections were sold to the public about 1889-90. There was a great deal of interest in this land, possibly because of the timber resources of the area but in the following 10 years or so most of the sections changed hands a number of times. Access to that area was a formidable problem. Although formation work on Kahuterawa Road had been carried out at a very early date, and Scotts Road soon after, maintenance proved most difficult because of the hilly terrain and in the case of Kahuterawa Road in particular, slips, erosion and fallen trees were constant problems.

But to return to the sub-divisions of the district. By 1885 the number of residents in the district was increasing and two further sub-divisions took place about that time. The first being the Township of Linton which was sub-divided by the Wellington-Manawatu Railway Company. This appears to mark the first application of the name of Linton to the area, but for a number of years the name was not applied to the whole of the district as we know it today. The block of about 250 lots

was formed from Sections 138 to 147 of the original plan and was first offered by the Company for sale by auction in Wellington on 19th February 1885 by T. Kennedy MacDonald, Auctioneers. This block also included a square and sites reserved for public buildings as well as centring on the railway station and its associated services. Generally, sales of Lots in this block were poor and apart from the central area which extends from the school to the railway, most of the sub-division is now included in the local farms.

The second sub-division to take place at that time was the Whitmore sub-division producing 114 lots from Sections 62 and 63. This area was sub-divided by Captain George Augustus Preece who also at the time owned the land adjacent to the Main Road from Camp Road to both sides of Whitmore Road.

Captain Preece was then a land and commission agent and valuer in Palmerston North, the Cyclopaedia of New Zealand of 1897 claiming that his business extended throughout the colony. He had previously seen military service as Captain of the Militia and as a sub-inspector in the Armed Constabulary and had gained the New Zealand Cross for distinguished service. He was brought up in the civil service in which he had served for 28 years and had been resident magistrate in Napier for 12 years. Evidently he named the sub-division in honour of Sir George Stoddart Whitmore who had been his senior officer in the wars. It had been the then Col. Whitmore who recommended that the then Lieut. Preece be awarded the New Zealand Cross. One of their efforts in the wars was the pursuit of the noted Te Kooti. Sir George Whitmore was later appointed to the Legislative Council. It is evident that neither of these men ever lived in this area.

The Whitmore sub-division was advertised for sale by auction on 18th August 1886 by Messrs Stevens and Gorton, auctioneers, Palmerston North. The advertised description of the area included:

"The Township is situated on high level land, mostly all in grass, and adjoining the Wellington and Manawatu Railway Line, near Longburn Bridge. The Township is the nearest point on the Wellington and Manawatu Railway to the junction of the proposed road to Pahiatua with the Fitzherbert road. Money had been placed on the estimates for the construction of this road. A good dray road runs through the sections to the Township.

The rapid increase in the number of settlers in the Fitzherbert district calls for a genuine and well situated township on the railway line.

The land is all level, and the soil not to be surpassed by any in the district, and is peculiarly adapted for dairy pursuits, successful growing of fruit trees, etc."

The advertisement went on to indicate that the sections adjacent to the Main Road which were also being offered in the sale had already been mostly sown in English grasses.

As with the other sub-divisions, neither was this one particularly successful, although for a few years it was the most successful of all of them. The Township sub-division provided sites for a railway station, a school and a public reserve, none of which ever eventuated. Various sites were sold and by 1890 a number of families were associated with the area, a sawmill having been established by that time and some railway employees were also living there. It was not until the end of 1890, more than four years after the first sale of sections, that Whitmore Road was vested with the Crown. The Fitzherbert Roads Board then raised a loan of £350 to form the road in 1891 and met it in 1892, Mr A. Forsaith gaining the contract for this work.

It is of interest to note that during the mid 1890s a Mr John Henry Murcott and his family moved to Whitmore and remained there until 1904. Mr Murcott was

employed at the Longburn Freezing Works and he walked across the railway bridge to get to work. Three of his children attended Linton School, walking along the railway line as their means of access to school. History repeated itself some 60 years later when Mr Murcott's grandson, Malcolm and his family came to live in Linton and their children also attended Linton School.

After leaving Linton, John Bell who had been an early settler and a member of the first School Committee wrote a romantic novel with its setting in early New Zealand. There can be no doubt that the early sub-divisions in this district provided him with a background for one of the paragraphs that he wrote:

"Some, indeed, of these so-called townships never reached any further stage than the initial one in which they appeared on paper, in all the glories of the sale plans, with streets of high sounding titles, and terraces and squares; never, it is to be feared, to resound to that busy roar of traffic which the promoters, or at least the unfortunate individuals who were induced to buy sections there, may have looked forward to."

So the Linton area, certainly at that time, was not destined to become a city or even a closely settled suburb but to become farmland in spite of the unlikely appearance of it for that purpose when the early settlers arrived — the thick forest, the inaccessible ranges and the forbidding swamp. But the countryside, before the settlers had cleared the forest, had a beauty all of its own. The Fitzherbert hills, untouched by axe, were a most beautiful sight especially at Christmas time when the Rata was in bloom and the hills were a blaze of colour. Thomas Bevan, who was an early traveller on the Manawatu River relates:

"Only those who saw the country in its virgin state can realise the prodigality of nature and the beauty that has for ever passed away, leaving in the settled districts not a trace behind. Mountains and plains alike were clothed with magnificent forest, abounding with bell-birds, pigeons and tuis, and vocal at sunrise with their music . . ."

Today, the argument continues as to the natural beauty of the native forest as compared to clearing the land for productive purposes. There is no doubt that both are correct given the particular circumstances of each situation. Perhaps the argument is an expression of the natural human attitude that the things most valued are the things we haven't got. But the early settlers of this district had little choice. The sheer economics of providing a place to live and an income to live on, together with the challenge of the task, required that much of the natural state must go. To quote again from John Bell's novel:

"To the artistic eye, the bush clearings, especially in their earlier stages, may appear as a sore blemish on the face of the landscape. Thickly strewn with blackened logs and branches, and with, perhaps, some remaining giants of the forest still standing, but scorched and dead and gaunt in leafless nakedness, these clearings certainly stand out in ugly contrast with the virgin native bush, whose hundred shades of green, and wealth of feathery fronds, and rich carpet of fern growth must ever delight the eye of the lover of the beautiful in nature. But viewed only with regard to the utility of things, these bush clearings, unsightly though they may be, afford ample grounds for satisfaction. The vigorous growth of grass that springs up from the seed sown after the fire, soon covers thickly the dark brown soil, and gives evidence of great fertility, and sheep or cattle may then be counted amongst the logs in such numbers as would delight the heart of many an owner of open arable land. But even the roughest of these primitive clearings give to experienced eyes promise of

smooth pastures or abundant harvests in the not very distant future."

The early days of settlement also brought problems that are quite unknown to us today, notably the millions of mosquitoes that made life a misery, particularly during the months of November and December of each year. The Manawatu mosquito was a large ferocious specimen that thrived and flourished on the swamps and lagoons and the damp floor of the forest. The early explorers and the surveyors were the first to encounter these creatures, occasionally driving the men out of their camps, then as settlers came they had to suffer the "plague of the man-eating mosquitoes, which persecuted the inhabitants with the persistency worthy of a better cause" as Mr T.L. Buick described them. The men working in the bush wore hats with wire frames and veils attached to them as well as tying their sleeves at their wrists and tucking their trousers into their socks. Sometimes at night a small fire would be kept burning outside the house to attract the mosquitoes before they found their way inside. Mr Rix recalled that as late as 1903 and 1904 it was the practice to make "smudge fires" which involved making a bright fire then covering it with green vegetation to make a lot of smoke which helped to keep the mosquitoes at bay. Mesh was placed around and over beds to give some respite from their attacks. Settlers gradually built up a degree of immunity to their bites but new arrivals suffered considerably until they had also become immune.

Much of the early development of the district took place under the guidance of the Fitzherbert Roads Board which was constituted the same year that the Linton School was opened. Gravel pits were established at several points to provide roading material and usually 26 year loans were raised to pay for the roading contracts, with special rates being imposed on the land affected by each contract to pay off the loan.

The tediousness of the administration work involved in raising these loans resulted in the following comment at the Roads Board Annual Meeting in 1891:

"It is to be regretted that there is not a more simple and less expensive method of raising these loans, and one by which more time could be saved, as at present under the existing cumbrious Act it takes some four months to accomplish what ought to be done in a month.

The whole Local Government law much needs consolidating and simplifying."

In many cases farmers took on the roading contracts to augment their meagre incomes. Roading contractors at the time included G. McCarty, J.C. Nathan, A. Forsaith, Clausen and Anderson, N. Griggs, J. Carmody, T. Butler, P. Honeybone, T. McCarthy, P. O'Reilly, C. Byrnes, J. Stretton and J. McColl.

The Kahuterawa Stream had eroded the top end of Hewitts Road, thus cutting off access to Captain Hewitt's property. It was necessary, after lengthy negotiations, to obtain adjoining land so that the road could be diverted.

The formation of the Main Road adjacent to the Lynch property near the southern boundary of the district proved to be quite difficult. It was necessary to avoid the swampy gully that lay right in the path of the original road line, so a road diversion was necessary at that point. In 1899 the Fitzherbert Roads Board was able to note that the Main Road through this district had been formed throughout, and with the exception of a short distance, had also been metalled.

The Roads Board appointed a Ranger to control wandering stock. This position was held by Mr A.E. Currin for a short time, then for a much longer time he was dog registrar for the Board. Fees in 1889 were: 2/6 for sheep and cattle dogs and 10/- for others dogs. These fees remained the same for many years.



A view, about 1896 overlooking Kahuterawa Bridge on the Main Road. The roof of Mr Engel's house can be seen in the distance. Shepherds employed by Mr C. T. Keeble later lived in that house which was known as "Meadowbank".  
— Photo, P.N. Public Library (W.H. Smith Coll.)

The following extract from the 1939 Linton Jubilee Souvenir Booklet gives us a word-picture of some aspects of early life in the district:

"The homes which the earliest pioneers made for themselves were built of slabs split from the fallen trees, with floors of mud and roofs of shingles. Water was stored in barrels and running creeks were utilised where they could be found. This meant heavy lifting and carrying of water, sometimes over a considerable distance.

The only means of transport in those days was the good old pack horse, along a bullock track through the dense bush. In the development of the district the horse played a very large part and Linton was noted for its fine horses and the wonderful horsemanship of its men and women. It was a great sight to see both parents and children riding through to Palmerston North. Later on, Mr Coombs bought the first dray which caused much interest amongst the farmers. This was borrowed so much by the settlers that Mr J. Kennard and Mr Rankin bought a dray each and began contract work on the roads and altogether assisted farmers in many ways. It was a common sight to see these teams stuck in the mud with their heavy loads, which meant unloading, much to the disgust of the driver.

With the difficulties of transport it was not uncommon for the women to walk along the railway line to Longburn or Palmerston North for the requirements of the home. It was a great burden off the residents when Mr J. Nash of Palmerston North started a grocery delivery once a week."

A description of the early days of European settlement must surely include a



A present day view of the same area as the previous photo.

tribute to the womenfolk of that era. In this day of modern appliances, easy transport, good roads, excellent medical and educational facilities and comparative prosperity, the conditions under which the families were forced to live in those early years can hardly be imagined. Much of what we today would consider to be the sheer burden of living was bravely, courageously and cheerfully endured by the wives and mothers of the district. Mr Murray Rix records in his reminiscences that they were happy and contented with their lot. It is appropriate to again quote from John Bell's novel and adopt as ours, his tribute to the women of the very early years of the bush settlement.

"Of the many hardships which the pioneers of settlement have to undergo, of the many difficulties and discomforts under which they must labour for at least some years after making a home in the wilderness, perhaps the larger share falls upon the woman. Shut in by roads or tracks that for a greater part of the year are almost or wholly impassable, at least for her; cut off, it may be, except at long intervals, from fellowship with those of her own sex; with household necessaries of the roughest and barest description; devoid of luxuries of every kind, or of anything approaching luxuries; and often, indeed, wanting many of those conveniences which her more fortunate sisters deem necessary to existence — her lot is a hard one.

Her husband's occupation is out of doors. There is variety and change for him, but for her there is none. He mixes with some of his fellow-men almost every day. . . . but his wife's dull routine of household duties and family cares is seldom broken. If in the bush districts, the discomforts of the wet and mud of winter, and the annoyance of the mosquito pest during the hot nights of

summer are, by her more sensitive nature more acutely felt. Yet she is, as a rule, ever cheerful and uncomplaining. Brought up, it may be, under brighter influences, and amidst the comforts and refinements of a more advanced civilisation, which are so dear to her feminine nature, she yet hopefully enters on her new life and rough surroundings, and is her husband's true friend and helpmate. Those who have travelled into the most remote settlements will have found her even there — patient, brave, contented. Heaven's blessing be upon such women."

## NOTES ON EARLY SETTLERS

### GERHARD HENDRICK ENGELS

It seems that Mr G.H. Engels should be credited as being the first settler in the Fitzherbert West area, certainly the first to stay any length of time. He was born in Holland in 1842 and arrived in New Zealand in the "Ravenscreig" in 1864 landing in Nelson. After a short experience first at goldmining at Hokitika then involvement in military service in Taranaki, he arrived in the Manawatu in November 1866 coming to reside at Kahuterawa, making his home on the banks of that stream on Section 172. His name certainly appeared on a census of residents of the Manawatu taken by Mr David McEwen in 1868. In addition to Section 172, now part of the Camp land adjacent to the Main Road, he purchased Section 173 on the opposite side of the Main Road extending between Hewitts Road and the Kahuterawa Stream, and Section 96 at Kendalls Line. He also later purchased several parcels of land adjacent to the Shannon township.

Mr Engels was obviously a man who was willing to accept public office. His service on the Manawatu Roads Board and the Oroua and Horowhenua County Councils is recorded elsewhere. Dr G.C. Petersen records that Mr Engels was one of four nominees from amongst whom was to be chosen the first Manawatu member for the Wellington Provincial Council and the House of Representatives. The four men were asked to introduce themselves to the electors in Palmerston on 23rd November 1870 at Coles Hotel in Main Street, however Mr Engels did not turn up, perhaps thinking he had better things to do. The other three candidates, Messrs. W.W. Johnston of Wellington, E.S. Thynne and W. Osborne, both of Foxton, met the electors and had lunch with them, and Mr W.W. Johnston was duly elected. There were probably less than 40 electors in the whole of the Upper Manawatu at the time!

In 1872 Mr Engels submitted a plan to the Provincial Government for the introduction of 50 married couples to be selected from Holland and Scotland as immigrants, apparently to settle in a special settlement proposed for the Fitzherbert area but the plan did not eventuate.

Mr Matheson, the first Headmaster, who knew Mr Engels personally has recorded for us the following:

"Mr Engels selected for his home in the wilds a beautiful spot by the Fitzherbert Road on the left bank of the Kahuterawa Stream. One day in the early 90s I saw him busy treeplanting while others were destroying the beautiful forest with feverish haste. In the subsequent conversation I received my first lessons of

any value in regard to afforestation and the encouragement to proceed with our first Arbor Day celebration. In the early days there was not even a horse track to his farm and he was compelled to carry all his stores on his back."

He was regarded by others who later settled in the district as a good neighbour and a true friend.

It is claimed that Mr Engels visited his homeland on one occasion and on his return brought with him some of a new-fangled material called barbed wire. He sold his Fitzherbert properties about 1898 but continued to own property at Shannon until about 1909. Mr Matheson believed that Mr Engels who remained a bachelor, left New Zealand and spent the remainder of his life in the United States. Engles Road at Shannon is named after him but the spelling is incorrect.

### **JAMES STANLEY BRUCE**

Mr J. Stanley Bruce was the first Chairman of the Linton School Committee. His profession was that of civil engineer and architect and he was very actively involved in that profession both before and after living in Linton.

He came to New Zealand in 1869 in the "Matoka" and at first, established himself as a civil engineer in Christchurch. Many roads in the Canterbury area were built under his direction. It was claimed in 1897 that he had built more roads and bridges than any other engineer in New Zealand. He also designed a number of large homes and public buildings. Mr Bruce moved to the North Island for health reasons and took up farming in Linton in 1887, immediately taking a prominent part in the development of the district. He held the distinction of having introduced the first Jersey cows to the district and was influential in Linton gaining its first Post Office. In April 1888 he became Chairman of the first provisional School Committee which accepted the responsibility of persuading the Education Board to set up a school in Linton. In May 1889 he gave his report to the first householders meeting after the school had opened and in his meticulous style described the events leading up to the opening of the school. None of his children ever attended Linton School. Mr Matheson, the first Headmaster observed at a later date:

"His clear and concise account of the early struggle for a school is evidence of his energy, perseverance and organising ability. His resignation was a serious loss to the school."

Mr Bruce designed at least two houses in the Linton area, one for Mr F.E. Clapperton and one for Mr William Akers, but it is understood that in later years these were both destroyed by fire.

He resigned from the School Committee in July 1889 and left the district to become Secretary and later Engineer to the Fitzherbert Roads Board until about 1900 when ill health forced him to retire. He was very exact in his profession and some plans that still exist of a bridge that he designed to be built in the Tiritea Valley illustrate that fact. He died at Palmerston North on 3rd February 1902.

### **NILS ANDERSON**

Mr Nils Anderson, with his wife Anne, were early pioneers of this district. They arrived from Norway at Napier in 1872 on the ship "Hovding" and travelling with

them were their three children who had been born in Norway, Axel, Harold and Valborg. They travelled by bullock dray from Napier to Dannevirke where they settled for some time but when Mr Anderson was offered 30 times more for the section in Dannevirke than he had paid for it, he sold it and decided to move to Palmerston, travelling along the rough track that had then recently been formed through the Manawatu Gorge. Mr Anderson selected a piece of land in Fitzherbert West on what is now Camp Road but was then only a muddy track.

The family settled at what was then the extreme end of the road where the rest of the children were born in a crude slab whare amidst the heavy bush. Doctors and nurses were not available so the father assisted the mother in her confinements. One daughter, Elizabeth, was born in a tent while the men were away bushfelling and roadmaking. The mother delivered the baby herself and when the men arrived home for their evening meal they found the new arrival. Elizabeth grew up and later married Mr Ernest Greer, their children being Enid, Gordon and Malcolm.

When the Andersons came to Fitzherbert the only road to Palmerston was a bush track via Old West Road, the present road later known as Riverbank Road did not exist at that time. To augment their finances and to provide money to develop their farm the Andersons took on bush felling and road making contracts, and were contractors for the construction of the road from the Linton Camp turn-off, across the Kahuterawa Stream, then past the end of the Kahuterawa Road towards the Tiritea School. Mr Anderson was later the contractor for a considerable part of the road through the Aokautere area, employing over 100 men to carry out the task.

But Mr Anderson had other interests as well. He played a part in the founding of the United Farmers Co-operative Association, a large department store in Palmerston North, the business later being purchased by Watson Brothers. The U.F.C.A. drapery department was on the site of the present P.D.C. and was called in those days Victoria House. The first manager of U.F.C.A. was Mr Maurice Cohen, a prominent citizen who became Mayor of Palmerston from 1905-1907. Mr Anderson and Mr Cohen shared an interest in music, both being accomplished violinists.

Mr Anderson purchased a six acre property in Te Awe Awe Street. A family home was built on that site after his death in June 1907. It remained as the family home for many years.

## GEORGE CRAW

Contributed by Mrs Elva Craw

From the hills of Banks Peninsula to the low damp swamps of the Manawatu there came, in 1897, a young man of vision. With him came his wife and three young children. It could be said that he came, he saw, and yes he conquered this hostile country. George Craw was a man of unlimited ability, foresight, integrity and above all, a love of the land that offered him a chance to follow his dream. By his side was a woman of great courage and fortitude who was to stand by him through the years of hard work, heartaches and problems that lay ahead. Had they known of all the difficulties they would have to face, one wonders if they would have chosen to make their home in this desolate country. It was a challenge and he had heeded the call of "Go North, young man and make your fortune." This was George Craw's dream and he did not falter in his bid to establish the flax industry in Linton. He made and lost a fortune in flax. He left however, something much more important to his family



Mr Geo Craw's homestead, later altered considerably in the 1940s. Photo, Mrs L. Whitelock.

than a fortune. He left them a future life made richer by his just being there and by being the strong man he most assuredly was.

Having decided to settle in this area he erected a two roomed corrugated iron shanty with a clay floor. The family lived there until they built a three roomed house which provided some conveniences for his wife and children. The family grew to five with the birth of two more girls. Two sons and three daughters completed the family.

The fortunes and misfortunes of Mr Craw's flaxmilling ventures have been recorded elsewhere. He was also to make a considerable contribution to the dairy industry in the region and his innovative ideas in building construction, particularly in the use of concrete are well known. George Craw could always be counted on to give his support to the school, the hall, the clubs and sporting activities of the district, and in public service he was a Councillor of the Kairanga County Council for nine years.

It was in the year 1916 that George and Elizabeth Craw and their family were to suffer their greatest disaster. Their elder son and brother was killed in the battle of the Somme in France. Hector was not to see the fruition of all the work he and his brother had done. What this sadness did to this closely knit family can only be imagined. However other families in the district were suffering the same tragedy as the war took its toll. The remaining members of the family, Juanita (Monrad), Loyal, Adelle (Moody) and Dorothy (Brighty Rix) were to give many years of service to the Linton district. The only remaining member of the original Craw family is Adelle now living in Auckland. Iris, wife of Loyal, who at 90 years passed away recently was an inspiration to her family, her grandchildren and her great grandchildren.

Were George to return today he would be happy to see the present generations of

the family still living and working in the Linton community, some of them on the land he loved. The mill is still standing and has been at various times used as a shearing shed, an implement shed and a hay shed and has always been kept in good repair. It overlooks the lowland where once the flax flourished and where now he would see not only dairy stock grazing but red deer, wapiti and Canadian elk farmed by his great grandson Mark, son of his first Crow grandson Merlyn. Stories of this remarkable man passed on to the present and future generations of the Crow family will surely cause them to say "This must have been the finest man we 'never' met."

## WILLIAM AKERS

It is evident that the Akers family have continuously occupied land in what is now the Linton district for a longer period than any other family. This occupancy has extended over a period of not far short of 120 years.

Mr William Akers was born in Hellingly, Sussex, England in 1847 and came to New Zealand to the Wairarapa district in January 1868. It was there in 1869 that he married Mary Ann Matthews of "Waiorongomai" Featherston and soon after moved to take up a property at what was then known as Fitzherberton, as it was almost 15 years before the name of Linton was applied to the district. He established the well known "Riverdale" property by purchasing several small pieces of land then extending his holding along the river by leasing considerable areas of Crown and Native land. Over the years he was able to purchase much of the leased property and eventually he occupied some 7221 acres with a river frontage of 22 miles extending from the end of Eyre Road in Linton to the far end of Poplar Road in Opiki. It was as early as 1872 that he established his Riverdale stud Romney flock (Flock No. 73). The only practical means of access to the land in the 1870s and early 1880s was by crossing the Manawatu River from the Karere side.

The first Headmaster of Linton School spent his younger days in Karere and he has left for us a word-glimpse of life in those days which referred particularly to the Akers family. It is as follows:

"One evening in the early eighties when a group of small lads from the other side went for a bathe in the Manawatu, two pictures were firstly fixed in their juvenile minds. The treacherous and wayward river had undermined the forest on the near bank to such an extent that a tangled network of timber stretched across to the other shore — a fearsome place, to be avoided by horse and canoe. In the calmer and deeper waters above was moored a Maori canoe, the Riverdale ferry boat. On the far side, nestling in a small clearing fringed by a beautiful forest in its natural state was a solitary residence with its attendant outbuildings and stockyard of massive timber. Not a sign of human life was visible excepting a nurse escorting two or three small children out for their evening romp. The little infants appeared so far away and remote — children of another world. Probably they, Mr William Akers' family, were the infant pioneers of Linton."

In 1907 Mr Akers' elder son Hugh took over responsibility for the stock and in 1910 also assumed control of the flaxmilling (The Akers Mills were in the Opiki area). Mr William Akers passed away in 1912. After that date the Riverdale property was operated by Hugh and his much younger brother, Arthur, as Akers Brothers. In 1920 the property was divided into two, the Riverdale block from Rotopiko Lagoon to Linton being operated by Arthur. The Linton property is now under the control of William's great grand-daughters.

# 3

## *Later District History*

The district, generally, was taking shape about the turn of the century with the railway, the school, the hall, the store and the Post Office all having been established by that time and those facilities provided a nucleus for the further development of the young settlement. Most of the history of Linton since that time is included under various subject headings, but the following few notes may be of interest.

One of the recorded memories of those early days was the almost indescribable night cry of the Bittern, a swamp bird that was well known in this area although it was very secretive by nature and not often seen. Another memory associated with the swamp was the difficulty encountered in using horses on the soft ground. It was sometimes necessary to bolt rectangular pieces of timber to lugs provided on the horses shoes to give a greater area of support on the ground. It was then necessary to unbolt the pieces of timber after the work for the day had finished, however, that idea was not particularly successful. Mr Earle Crawford recalled memories of "the young Lash boy" using an eight-horse team pulling a triangle made of railway line to remove the flax plants at Craws when the swamp was cleared for dairying.

An entry in the Kairanga County Council Minute Book dated 15th December 1903 stated that the provision of water troughs on the 5 main roads leading out of Palmerston North would be investigated. The trough at Kendalls Line corner was later built but the date of its construction is not known. It was there in 1921 when it was connected to the local water supply but it almost certainly dates back a number of years prior to that when it was probably supplied from the cheese factory or possibly the skimming station. Recently the local Lions Club embarked on a project to make the historic trough something of a landmark — with pleasing results.

In the earlier years the Kairanga County Council used horses and drays to carry out its works. Mr Hugh Sutherland will be remembered in this connection. An entry in the County minute book in April 1928 indicates the form of transport in use at that time: "That tenders from N.Z. Loan and Merc. Ltd. at £6.12.6 per ton for chaff and 4/3 per bushel for oats be accepted." Then in November 1930 a further entry — "That the Engineer go into the matter of location of trucks in the Fitzherbert Riding and doing away with the team." The first truck to be used was a solid tyred Thornycroft and was driven by Mr C. Fitt. He was followed by Mr F. Haley, then later by Mr W. Woods. Mr Hallman and Mr A.C. (Mick) Wilson will be remembered as members of the local County staff.

Mr George Berquist, a well known resident of Linton of some years past, was also employed by the Council as a truck driver. He retired in 1966. Other members of his family had also been employed by the Council and it is worthy of note that the combined service to the County of the Berquist family which included George's father, brother and nephews easily exceeded one hundred years.



Old Kahuterawa Bridge on the Main Road.

— Photo, Kairanga County Council.

As new types of equipment were introduced to carry out road and other works, the Council staff was gradually reduced so that there is now no resident Council staff in the Linton area.

Mr George Craw had for many years been an enthusiast for the use of concrete for many purposes, so much so that he was occasionally referred to as "Concrete George". In 1918 during his term of office as a member of the Kairanga County Council he tried to encourage the Council to look at the possibility of providing concrete roads so to support his claims regarding the value of concrete for roading, he researched similar efforts in other parts of New Zealand. Members of the council were not entirely convinced so Mr Craw offered to lay 5 chains of experimental road which, he estimated, would cost £30 per chain, his offer being that he would pay for it if the experiment proved unsuccessful. This, the Council agreed to. The section of road thus laid was on Rangitikei Line extending out from Boundary Road (now Tremaine Avenue) corner. The road lasted for many years but with the railway moving into the area part of the present overbridge now occupies the site of the old concrete road.

Mr Earle Crawford recalls that in the 1920s a typical journey from Hilltop to Palmerston North would involve riding a horse down from Hilltop, leaving it in the stockyards at the railway station, then catching the 9.15 a.m. train to Palmerston North. Then after a day in town, catching the 4.15 p.m. "Field's Express" to Linton, saddling up and riding home, calling at the store and picking up any mail on the way.

Te Puna Road, as it exists today, is a comparatively new road having been constructed about 1930. It replaced an earlier road that was closer to the river extending through the Akers property, and was used for the transport of flax



Laying of 5 chains of concrete road, looking west from Tremaine Ave. corner towards Mangaone Stream. Some known to be in photo are: Frank Cahill (with pipe in mouth), Tom Kilpatrick (holding bucket), Arthur Hopwood (standing by cement bags), Ted Henry (with left hand on hip), George Check (rear), Harry Mouldley (in centre of concrete strip), Loyal Crow (one foot on concrete strip), Dick Moxon (with foot on wheelbarrow), Dave Crow (hand on shovel), Ahi Tapu (in front with shovel), George Crow (far right).  
 — Photo, Denzil Crow.

products from the Tane and Rangitane Mills to Linton Railway Station prior to the erection of the Opiki Bridge in 1918.

Another short section of road that was formed and metalled about that time was a section of Camp Road. Mr A.J. McEvedy had a home built on Camp Road at that time so the road from Greers (now Daly property) to his new home was constructed then.

Prior to 1932 the Kahuterawa Bridge on the Main Road crossing the Kahuterawa Stream was a one way wooden trestle bridge that had been erected in the 1880s. From 5th May to 24th May 1931 a traffic tally was taken at the bridge revealing a daily average of users of the bridge to be as follows:

221	Cars	15	Drays
22	Light motor lorries	2	Saddle horses
4	Motor buses	13	Cycles
11	Motor cycles	13	Vans
2	Gigs		

Total 303



The new and the old Kahuterawa Bridges on the Main Road. Demolition of the old bridge is taking place, late 1932. — Photo, Kairanga County Council.

It was agreed that a new bridge was needed so in February 1932 the Main Highways Board agreed to a contract to build the present bridge, the contract being let to Mr W.M. Henderson of Palmerston North at a cost of £1834 and the bridge was in use by October of that year. Because of the comparative narrowness of the bridge for modern traffic and the curved approaches it has been a problem area of road with many minor accidents occurring, then a major one in May 1988. According to a recent traffic count the present daily tally on that piece of highway is about 3200 vehicles.

One notable tortuous piece of highway in Linton was the sharp corner just below the Anglican Church, that short section of road being part of the main highway until about 1941. The possibility of improving the road by constructing a deviation through Section 108 had been considered at least as early as about 1920. Then in 1927 the Wellington Automobile Association suggested to the Kairanga County Council which was then the controlling body, that a deviation be made at that corner. Further representations were made regarding improvements to the road by a deputation led by Mr J.L. Nash, to the Council in 1935, but their request was that the road from Beckett's corner to Massey College be sealed. The estimated cost of sealing was £14,000 and it was hoped that a £4 for £1 subsidy might be obtained. Further discussions took place but no results were achieved. The dangerous corner also still remained a problem. Some will remember the loaded sheep truck that tipped on its side while trying to negotiate the bend in about 1939. Soon after that, the Public Works took over the highway and an extensive realignment, reconstruction and tarsealing programme took place from about 1939 to 1942.



Hurricane damage on Hewitts Road, 1936.

— Photo, Kairanga County Council.

The severe storm that lashed the district on 2nd February 1936 is well remembered. The roof of Beckett's Store was blown off and as the sheets of iron hurtled through the air, they cut the nearby transmission lines. There was a complete loss of power for several days. Many roofs were blown off homes, trees were blown down all over the area, and one person recalls that trucks were blown over in the Linton Railway Yard. In recorded memories Mr M. Rix said that the front of his house was blown off and that in some cases steel telephone poles were bent. The old Craw flaxmill which was quite a large building in its day was completely flattened by the storm. Memories have been recalled of having to crawl on hands and knees to get from one point of shelter to another. The storm left a massive trail of damage and devastation in Linton and also throughout the Manawatu.

In 1914 the country was called upon to face the trauma of the first world war or the Great War, as it was known. The Roll of Honour records the names of those who went to the war from the district, some never to return. There was considerable civilian effort put in to providing amenities for the troops. Mrs J.A. Nash, whose husband was then Mayor of Palmerston North, organised sewing guilds in the Palmerston North and surrounding districts so that useful items could be made and sent to the soldiers overseas. She arranged one such meeting in Linton in May 1916 which was well attended. Mrs Martin acted as both Chairman and Secretary of the sewing guild that was formed in Linton.

The second World War again resulted in a number of men of the district serving their country. Two did not return. Of those who served overseas, several gained awards. Ray Peters who later was lost over the English Channel received the



First haypress owned in Linton. A John Deere used on the Craw farm. — Photo, Denzil Craw.

Distinguished Flying Medal (D.F.M.), and Merlyn and Denzil Craw were both awarded the Military Medal (M.M.). Fundraising in the district for patriotic purposes was encouraged and parcels were sent overseas to the troops and also to the people of Britain. The war years saw the construction of Linton Military Camp, the setting up of the Home Guard and the E.P.S., the introduction of rationing which continued to some extent for a number of years after the war, and a general shortage of vehicles, materials and labour.

The establishment of the Camp brought its own peculiar problems. Ray Carter in his recent book "Beyond the call of Duty" records that the police regularly gathered up stolen bicycles that had been abandoned on roadsides and in drains in the vicinity of the Camp by soldiers who had used them to get back to Camp in the small hours of the morning. Up to 100 bicycles per month were abandoned in this way until more severe penalties were imposed for the offence. In later years, well after the war, when units were in Camp for their annual camps there were times when the Linton Taxi was almost run off its feet (or tyres) ferrying boys to town. They had obviously sneaked across the paddocks to try to get a ride to the city.

After the war an occupational force known as J. Force went to Japan. Dale Craw was a member of that Unit.

In the 1960s the Kahuterawa Valley was the focus of some attention. Early in 1964 the old "Black Bridge" was badly damaged in a flood so later that year the Council agreed to replace it. Then in 1968 the County in conjunction with the Lions Clubs set up a picnic site in the valley adjacent to the stream. The site is within easy access from Palmerston North and is a popular spot for city as well as country people. It is



Merlyn Crow driving in chariot race at Palmerston North Showgrounds, about 1938.

— Photo, Mrs L. Whitelock

extensively used throughout the summer, both as a daytime picnic venue and in the long daylight evenings.

In about 1984 a gas pipeline was installed from Longburn under the Manawatu River to supply the factory of New Zealand Pharmaceuticals Ltd. The gas supply was extended to the prison at the end of 1987, then in 1988 was continued as far as the Hewitts Road-Honore Place settlement. Gas has been supplied to the new houses that are under construction at the Camp.

On 24th July 1986 Mr M.J. O'Donoghue, in his capacity as Chairman of the School Committee, called a meeting of those interested in arranging the centenary celebrations to be held in the district. It was agreed that School and District celebrations should be held and a committee was formed to make the necessary arrangements. Mr Dale Crow is Chairman of that Committee. Saturday, 18th March 1989 marks one hundred years to the day since Linton School was opened so it is appropriate that the function should be held on that particular weekend.



“Black Bridge” in Kahuterawa Valley, after severe damage by flood in early 1964.  
— Photo, “Manawatu Standard”.

### TO JOG YOUR MEMORY

Manawatu Standard. 16th April 1904: “At the Kairanga County Council meeting today, while asking for information as to the Council’s intention re extraordinary traffic, Mr McGregor, the Fitzherbert sawmiller mentioned that he had discovered a deposit of a special kind of potting clay in the Fitzherbert. Probably on this account the traffic could be heavier.”



One early landowner in the district built a new cowshed on his farm then very soon after, decided to sell his farm and go to town to live. On being asked why he was taking this sudden action after building the new cowshed he remarked that he was selling out because his daughters-in-law had refused to milk the cows!

# 4

## *Linton School*

— TO 1900

**B**y 1887 new settlers had arrived in Linton in sufficient numbers to justify some action relative to establishing a school within the district so a provisional committee was set up to secure a site and make representations to the Wanganui Education Board for a building. Mr J. Stanley Bruce was the first School Committee Chairman and at the first Householders Meeting held on 19th May 1889, just two months after the school had opened, he presented a meticulously prepared report which outlined in detail the early struggles for a school. His report is reproduced in full overleaf.

At a meeting on the 23rd April 1888, held at the home of Mr John Bell, the first authorised committee was elected and the following resolution setting out the boundaries of the district was passed:

“That it be suggested to the Board of Education to appoint the following boundaries for the School District:— On the North-East the Kahutarawa Stream from the top of the Tararua Ranges to its outfall in the Manawatu River; on the North-West the Manawatu River to the boundary of the Horowhenua County; on the South-West the boundary of the Horowhenua County to the top of the Tararua Range; and the South-East along the said Range to the starting point.”

In due course the Board agreed to adopt the boundaries as set out in the resolution.

The school site, having been selected as described in the report, it needed then to be cleared of bush. The cost of this was met by public subscription, much of the work being carried out by Mr Munro and his two or three sons who later became pupils of the school. This work was mainly done in December, the height of the mosquito season!

Thus the School was opened on 18th March 1889 with Mr Dugald Matheson as Teacher. In 1939 Mr Matheson placed on record the following memories of this event:

“On the 18th day of March, 1889 I found a beautiful, well finished school building, set in such a small cleared space that one could scarcely ride between it and the mass of black stumps and logs which covered the whole section. The recently sown grass had barely taken root in the ashes of the previous season’s fire. Across the road in front was a beautiful forest; also on two sides, growing luxuriantly right to the boundary lines. Not so the western side, where a field of blackened timber reached to the railway line, beyond where were the gaunt unsightly skeletons of fire-scorched trees — giant Kahikateas, Pukateas, Tree ferns and Nikaus, forming a drab and depressing screen to hide the wilderness of swamp behind.

"Being the first report of the Linton School Committee it may be well to give a general resume of what has been done from the beginning.

The first trouble was obtaining the site which after a lengthy correspondence extending from 16th September 1887 to 9th June last (1888) it was ultimately secured and consists of Lots 66 to 73 containing in all 4a-2r-29 $\frac{3}{4}$ p, and perhaps a better site could not be procured.

Next came the difficulty of obtaining the erection of the Schoolhouse. On the 1st September 1887 a petition was prepared and signed by all the residents in the district urging the Wanganui Board of Education to erect a Schoolhouse on the site referred to, a list of all the children in the district, and all the information procurable on the subject was obtained and forwarded at the same time.

In reply the residents were informed that the Board of Education were then entirely without funds for works, and for the time being there seemed little prospect of the building being erected. The matter was constantly kept before the Board until on 3rd April last year Messrs. J.H. Fry and Sanson were deputed by the Board to meet the provisional committee at Linton. On that day they drove over the district and made themselves acquainted with the absolute requirements for a School. On 2nd August last, the Committee were informed that a tender had been accepted for the erection of a Schoolhouse for 60 children which was completed and furnished about the end of January last. On the 8th March last, the Committee recommended Mr Dugald Matheson for the appointment of Teacher, to which the Board consented, and he took office on the 18th of that month on which day the School was opened.

The residents subscribed and had the whole of the bush felled on the School section and Messrs. Stevens and Gorton, Cohen and Petersen of Palmerston North kindly gave the requisite grass seed for sowing it down.

A provisional committee was first elected and fixed the suggested boundaries of the district which were afterwards adopted by the Board, and on 23rd April last the first authorised Committee was elected (that would be 1888) and which consists of Messrs. Wm. Coombs, John Bell, John Munro, F.E. Clapperton, George Ward, James Jackson, and J. Stanley Bruce (Chairman) and who retire this evening.

On Application to the Postmaster General a Post Office was established at Linton on the 5th May last (1888).

This portion of the district is making most rapid strides and at the present rate every available acre of land will soon be purchased and but a small amount of bush left standing, so that your Committee anticipate that your School will soon have its full complement of scholars on its book."

J. Stanley Bruce, Chairman.

I have no recollection of any opening ceremony. A score of children, inexperienced in school life, and varying in size from taller than the teacher down to tiny tots just happened along and met their new teacher who was as raw and untutored almost, as they were. This was the commencement of a period of which the teacher, after half a century, still retains many happy recollections."

As indicated by Mr Matheson, about 20 children were present on opening day, one source of information suggesting that there were 15 boys and 5 girls, but these figures are by no means certain. It is known that the school roll reached 24 during the first quarter after the school was opened. Those believed to have been first day pupils are as follows:

BELL, Leonard and Harold  
FITSIMONS, Dora, Nellie and Meredith  
JACKSON, Willie  
LARSEN, Gustav, Caspira, Henry, Sena and Oscar  
LYNCH, Daniel  
MUNRO, James, Simon, Robert, John, Angelina and Catherine  
WARD, Albert, Alex and Isabella

The Inspector visited the school during May 1889 and his report reflected credit on the teacher, particularly as the school had been opened such a short time.

In those early days the school laboured under some drawbacks. Grounds were unfenced and logs everywhere. Cattle from neighbouring sections chose the area as a camping ground at night; there was no clock for time; no teacher's chair; no blinds for windows and no broom. On Fridays, however, the boys borrowed a broom from a neighbour and made everything spick and span. The grounds were a quagmire for much of the time and it was only the respite of summer that allowed the surroundings to dry out. Each summer, as funds allowed, an effort was made to place gravel on pathways etc. to overcome the problem of the mud. The big boys piled up the logs that lay scattered in the schoolgrounds, ready for burning on the first wet day, but leaving a particularly large Kahikatea log to serve as a seat at lunchtime, it also provided an obstacle for horse-jumping after school. Josh Brownlie and Archie Cameron used to take it double-banked on Archie's pony when they thought the Master was out of sight.

A football was presented to the boys at the school, the bladder of which was burst the next day so the generous donor rose to the occasion and a few days later provided a new bladder of stronger materials. This might be said to have been the beginning of the "Linton Toughs."

The Committee's income for the first year was £6.19.3. and the expenditure was £1.12.6.

In December 1889 over £30 was subscribed to the Picnic and Prize Fund enabling end-of-year entertainment to be held at the School, evidently organised by Mrs Bell, and prizes were presented. The amount collected also provided a reserve fund so that in December 1891 the annual picnic was held in conjunction with the country athletic meeting which was successfully held in Mr Syme's paddock. For the occasion, willing helpers made a rough circular track which was marked off for races from 100 to 400 yds., and high jump. Mr Matheson was both Secretary and competitor on that occasion so had a strenuous but enjoyable day. One lady complained in eloquent terms because her boy was made to have the sack up to his chin in a sack race, while a boy six inches taller had the sack up to his armpits only.

The Inspector's report in May 1890 lists 48 children but it is noted that there were



The earliest Linton School photo known to exist, taken sometime before the end of 1893. Headmaster — Mr. Matheson. — Photo, M. Greer.

# Dugald Matheson

## First Headmaster of Linton School

Based on information supplied by Mr Ian Matheson (Archives Officer of P.N.C.C.) whose grandfather was first cousin to Dugald Matheson.

Dugald Matheson was born in 1868 in the farming district of Miller's Flat (now known as Wharehuanui), between Queenstown and Arrowtown. He was the fourth child of Murdoch Matheson, a Scottish farmer who had migrated to New Zealand from the Isle of Skye in 1864. In 1878 the family moved to Turakina and remained there for a few months before settling on a farm on the northern side of Foxton Line (now State Highway 56) midway between Karere Road and Tiakitahuna Road.

Dugald attended the Karere School (now known as Longburn School) from 1879 until 1883 and then was enrolled at the Tiakitahuna School which had then only recently been opened on Foxton Line almost opposite the Matheson farm. He received his teacher training under the "pupil teacher" system which involved him in the teaching of junior pupils while still receiving instruction as a senior pupil. The passing of a required examination made him eligible to apply for a full-time teaching position and he was appointed to the newly established school at Linton which was opened about three weeks prior to his 21st birthday.

After almost five years at Linton, Dugald became Headmaster of the two-teacher Stanway School. He remained there until 1901 then moved to Wellington to join the staff of the Wellington Boys' College. He commenced a part-time study of zoology and geology at Victoria University but because of ill health, could not complete a degree, and resigned from Wellington College in 1913.

Dugald was an enthusiastic member of the army volunteers, being a foundation member of the Manawatu Mounted Rifles in 1891 and later he held the rank of Sergeant in that unit. He continued this interest in Wellington, rising to the rank of Major, and was the officer in charge of the cadet unit at Wellington College. During World War One he was appointed Commandant of an internment camp on Somes Island which was used to accommodate civilian "aliens" of German, Austrian and Turkish nationality, who were believed to pose a threat to national security. Up to 400 people were interned on the island between 1914 and 1919.

There was a shortage of trained teachers in the late 1920s so Dugald again took up teaching, as Headmaster of the Makirikiri School at Upokongaro, on the Wanganui River. He retired from that position in 1933 and moved to Tauranga where he became involved in local body politics and was elected to the Borough Council. He died at Tauranga in 1944 at the age of 76 years.

During his stay in the Halcombe area, Dugald married Marion Alice Ferguson, daughter of a Marton farmer. They had a family of four sons whose descendants now live in many parts of New Zealand.

no children listed in Standards 5 or 6 (Forms 1 and 2). Ages ranged from 5 to 14 apart from one Standard 3 boy who was 17.

The Inspector made the observation that Standard 1 was a very moderate class, some of the pupils coming to school very late in life and as a consequence reading was very poor. He further remarked:

“This school is a very difficult one to teach, many of the pupils being very old before they learn anything.”

On 19th November 1890 the teacher made the following comment in his Log Book: “The mosquitoes were so troublesome this morning that the children had to be dismissed for half an hour until the enemy was overcome with camphor smoke.”

Although there were about 20 children of school age at Whitmore, not more than two of them had been attending school for the previous two weeks” — so ran a report dated 8th August 1890. An attempt had just been made to establish a school at Whitmore where a section had been reserved for that purpose when the subdivision was surveyed prior to 1886. It was thought that parents at Whitmore were indifferent about sending their children to Linton School any longer because they thought a local school would soon eventuate. However the proposed school at Whitmore was not built so Linton remained the closest school for children of that area. It is evident that the difficulty of access from Whitmore remained something of a problem because in 1897 Mr G.H. Aldrich wrote to the School Committee advising that his children had been stopped from walking along the railway line to school and asked what he should do. The Committee suggested that if he could obtain the help of settlers at Whitmore to clear a track along Brown Street, it would be a shorter route than along the railway line.

An extract from the School Log Book (since destroyed by fire) stated on 11th December 1890:

“No children made an appearance. Three-quarter of the parents taking advantage of the half-crown railway fares to Paekakariki took their children for a day's outing to the seashore.”

It was evidently the annual picnic of the Railway Company and became an annual event for many people of the district and in subsequent years the school closed for the occasion.

It was observed in 1892 that roll numbers were falling owing to the tendency of people to buy larger blocks of land, and also that a great part of the district is owned by bachelors who certainly subscribe well to the prize fund at Christmas time but are no help in maintaining the school roll.

A fence was erected in front of the school then on 4th August 1892 the first Arbor Day Celebration was held at the school. The school was closed for the day and the residents of the district came out in force to celebrate the day by assisting with tree planting and further fencing. The team consisted of 24 workmen, the pupils and quite a number of ladies. One hundred trees were kindly presented by Mr J. Laird of Wanganui and were planted that day, the working bee continuing until 5.30 p.m. Again we turn to Mr Matheson's reminiscences for a description of the event:

“Following the erection of the front fence came the first Arbor Day celebration — an occasion to remember on account of the fine work carried out by the men and the excellent refreshments provided by the ladies who supplied a full dinner such as hungry and tired men enjoy, including a fine hot plum pudding made by Mrs J. Lynch.

The whole of the front boundary was planted and securely protected by a

second line of fence. The following spring the plantation was continued along the railway side of the ground.

In after years when passing by train it was a joy for me to imagine our early Arbor Day labours to be the outstanding feature of the landscape, bringing to mind so many memories of the happy days that were, until one day I observed that the devastating axe had commenced its work, when I comforted myself with the belief that my dear old trees, whose development I had left to other hands, were now giving way to better improvements."

An early "learn to swim" campaign that was held in an old backwater of the Manawatu River near the end of what is now Akers Road ended rather abruptly when a young eight year old who had twice pretended to be drowning, later almost did, but because of his previous antics no one took the matter seriously until almost too late. It was only the quick thinking and very quick action of the teacher that saved the boy.

In 1892 and 1893 there was insufficient attendance at the householders meetings to be able to hold elections so Mr James Jackson and Mr Charles Young were appointed Commissioners for those years to conduct the business of the school.

Mr Matheson left the school in December 1893, transferring to Stanway and Mr A.H. Evans came to the school as Headmaster and remained for the next 14 years.

Early in 1896 discussions took place regarding the erection of two 9 ft. x 12 ft. shelter sheds and in October a tender of £13.10.0. was accepted for their construction. The Board offered £1 for the painting of the sheds but the Committee replied that the offer was totally inadequate so the Board increased its offer to £1.5.0. The final cost was £15.10 which the Board agreed to pay.

Mr Rankin was a sergeant of Volunteers and in 1898 he requested the use of the school for drill purposes. An entry in the Minute Book states: "Mr and Mrs Rankin's offer to drill the children was accepted with thanks, the time to be arranged with Mr Evans."

Picnics, concerts and Arbor Days continued to be held, then in October 1899 Messrs. Jackson and McBride conferred with the Linton Cricket Club and the Tennis Club regarding a combined picnic, concert and dance to be held on New Years Day.

### LINTON SCHOOL — 1900-1915

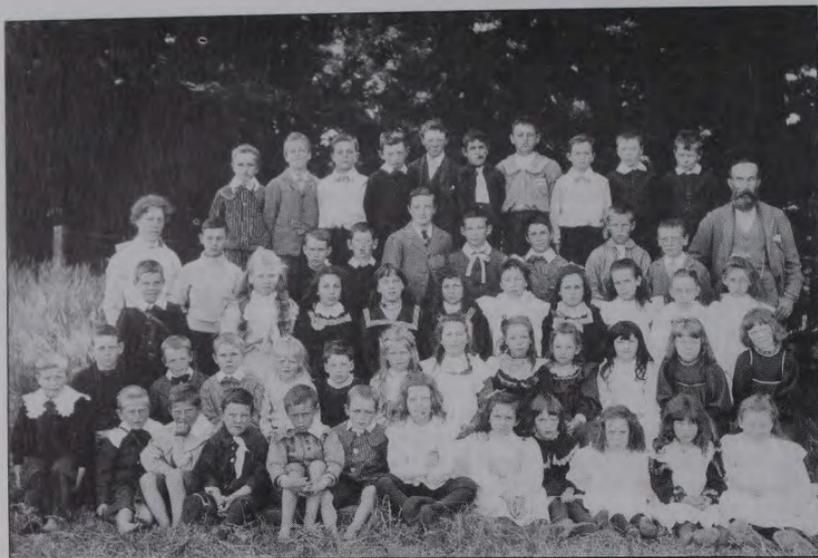
In the year 1900 there was again insufficient interest in the Householders Meeting to be able to elect a Committee so Mr Geo. G. Jonathan was appointed Commissioner for that year.

The following year a Solicitor in Palmerston North provided prizes to the value of £1.10.0 for competition at the school for the best essays on dairying. The prizes were won by Winnie Evans and Harold Stallard.

In 1902 the school was closed for some time in October owing to an outbreak of measles, so when the school was closed at the end of the year, it remained closed for only four weeks instead of six.

A flagpole was provided for the school that same year and the Board provided a New Zealand Ensign free of charge. The pole was duly set up and the new flag was first hoisted by Messrs. J. Jackson and C.J. Young on 22nd May 1903 at 3 p.m.

It was during the early years of the century that a great Linton School "institution" came into being, that became an annual event for a number of years. Of course it could be none other than the great mud fights, the boys from the eastern side of the



Linton School pupils and teachers, probably about 1905. Headmaster — Mr Evans. Lady teacher — Miss Mead (?). — Photo, Mrs N. McKenzie.

school versus the boys from the western side. A date would be agreed upon for the great event, then for several weeks beforehand the opposing teams would prepare their ammunition in the form of mud balls which would be carefully hidden in drains or other suitable places where they could keep moist yet concealed from the "enemy," then as the day drew nearer shields would be made to give a measure of protection to the combatants. All this was done entirely without the approval of either teachers or parents. The great day would arrive and a battle royal would take place along what is now Akers Road in front of the school and by the end of the battle those involved would be covered with mud from head to foot. Sometimes the teacher would conduct "court proceedings" after the event and called witnesses to give evidence which made the occasion even more interesting. But quite irrespective of what penalties would be imposed on the children by teachers and parents, the same ritual would take place again the following year. There doesn't seem to be much information as to who generally won but perhaps the battle was more important than the victory.

The girls too, had their share of pre-occupation with mud. On the site now occupied by the present hall there was an area of sloping ground which was carefully prepared by water being carried and lavishly poured on the surface. With the proper attention this became a perfect place for mud slides, much to the horror of the parents who had to afterwards cope with the muddy clothes.

Mr Murray Rix has recorded for us a typical boys-will-be-boys incident that took place about that time. On one occasion, while the Master was out of the room, the 5th and 6th Standards boys took his strap out of the draw, cut it up, then stuffed the pieces through a knot hole in the floor. Later, when the Master went up get his



First Linton School, destroyed by fire in 1934.

— Photo, Linton School.

strap and found it was missing, he told Murray Rix to go over to his father's bush and select some supplejacks and bring them back to him. Murray carefully selected dry ones and took them to the teacher. At an opportune time during the afternoon the Master told the 5th and 6th Standard boys to come out to the front of the class, and he gave them each four of the best for cutting up his strap. Mr Rix concluded, "So we learnt that it didn't pay to cut up the Master's strap!"

The original school was of one room only, so with the appointment of an assistant teacher at about the turn of the century, the room was divided into two with a red curtain. Many were the pranks in those years associated with that curtain. Although records are rather incomplete for that period it appears that the building was extended by adding another room in 1912 and in the following years the grounds were greatly improved.

Early in 1912 a disagreement occurred between the Education Board and the then Headmaster, Mr T. Stagpoole. The passage of time and the profuse "wordiness" of the newspaper reports at that time have largely obscured the original disagreement but it evidently led to newspaper reports that Mr Stagpoole considered libellous so he took action against the "Feilding Star" and the "Manawatu Standard" and sought damages. The Court found in favour of Mr Stagpoole and awarded him one farthing damages in satisfaction of his claim. It is clear that the Linton parents and residents regarded Mr Stagpoole in the highest esteem and when he left the school in March of that year, a presentation was made and the very best wishes of the district were extended to him at a well attended farewell function.

One of the highlights for the children attending school in 1913 was the trip by train to Wellington along with children of other schools to visit the Battle Cruiser "New

Zealand" which the New Zealand Government presented to Britain. The children were taken on a conducted tour over the ship. During a ten week period the 19,000 ton cruiser visited many ports around New Zealand and it is estimated that almost half a million people inspected the ship.

### LINTON SCHOOL — 1915-1930

By 1917 the school roll had increased to the extent that an extra teacher was appointed to the school. The school grounds had received attention and a concrete path and block outside the school door had been laid with the help of local labour. At a school picnic held on Mr Rix's property on 19th December 1917 Mr Buick M.P., Mr J.A. Nash, Mr E.L. Broad and Mr J. Bryant as well as the Chairman and Committee members of Tiritea School were all invited to attend — then Tiritea Committee invited Linton members to their picnic the following February. In 1918 application was made to the Board for a further room to hold 40 infants but this was apparently not agreed to.

The first ANZAC Day observance was held at the school on 30th April 1919 where Mr Monrad and Mr Allwright, both returned soldiers, addressed the children. Arbor Day celebrations continued to be held regularly and for the observance in 1919, 85 trees were procured for the south side of the playground. Sewing competitions and garden plots began to appear and became a regular feature of the school programme. Miss E. Young was asked to judge the sewing class and Mr G. Rix judged the garden plots. In later years Mrs A. Currin was frequently asked to judge the sewing entries, the plots being judged by various men of the district.

Although a special effort was made to encourage parents to attend the Householders meeting in April 1920, only 8 people were present, the Chairman, Mr A. Smith expressing regret at the poor attendance. It was that year that Mr J. Batchelar presented a ball to the school so that a game known as "Basket Ball" could be started. Also in that year the Linton School Committee resolved to join the Manawatu School Committees' Association.

An entry in the Minute Book relating to the picnic and dated February 1921 states "that books be purchased, races and games be indulged in as funds allow." One of the regular items that appeared with unfailing regularity was the arrangements for the provision of firewood for the school.

It appears that Mr Murdoch who had been Headmaster since 1917 had planned to leave the school in 1922 but changed his mind and stayed on for a further ten years. During this era school picnics were often held at Plimmerton, generally in alternate years, with the picnics held in other years being at local venues. Those held at Plimmerton seemed to be always acclaimed as a huge success, the train trip no doubt adding to the excitement of the day. By joining with College Street School and Bunnythorpe School a special train would be put on which would travel at express speed all the way. The Committee endeavoured to keep the cost of tickets to pupils as low as possible by subsidising them out of the picnic fund. A very early start was required and long before the train drew up at the station the platform was crowded with people, both old and young. An interesting day was always spent, all ages being catered for. Each family brought an ample supply of eatables while the Committee undertook to supply hot water, tea, sugar and some extras.

For a number of years the Kairanga County Council asked schools within the county to co-operate in a scheme to destroy small birds eggs (starlings excepted). The Headmasters were asked to administer the scheme, four pence per dozen being



Linton School. Stds. 3-6 in 1925.

Back Row: Barbara Proctor, Nita Collis, Cora Mills, Poppy Aldrich, Myrtle Collis, Eulalie Greer, Ethel Proctor, Thelma Davies.

3rd Row: Phyliss Hook, Glee Ancell, Amelia Currin, Alma Sharp, Mavis Carr, Eva Collis, Sarah Murdoch, Sylvia Davies.

2nd Row: Albert Tucker, Noel James, Lloyd Patchett, Ken Moyes, Geoff. Rix, Melville Wilson, Harold Lash, Cecil Dunshea, Gordon Greer, Norman James.

Front Row: Eric Missen, Harold Gretton, Charlie Missen, Fred Knipe, Cyril Paget, Jens Enevoldsen, Peter Sheridan, Frank Proctor, Reg. Carr.

Headmaster — Mr Murdoch.

— Photo, M. Greer.

paid for the eggs that were destroyed, threepence per dozen being paid to the child and one penny per dozen was paid to the School improvement fund. The counting and destruction of the eggs was carried out on Friday afternoons and keen rivalry existed among pupils to put up the largest tallies.

Another practice carried on for many years was the supply of a cup of hot cocoa to the children at lunch time during the winter months. Sometimes a fund-raising event was conducted to pay for the cocoa but if there were no funds available the costs would be met by the modest charge of sixpence per month per pupil, although no child went without if they couldn't meet the charge.

School concerts in the old hall were always popular events. Miss O'Brien who was a teacher in the 1920s was a trained singer and she did a remarkable job teaching the children singing for the concerts and other events.

A polio epidemic occurred in New Zealand at the beginning of 1925 so school was closed for some time. A restriction was placed on the number of children allowed to congregate in any one place so Mrs Saunders of Hewitts Road who was a trained schoolteacher conducted a small school class at her home for a few of the local children.



Linton School Senior Classes, 1929.

Back Row: Francis Gretton, Douglas Ladd, Martin Sheridan, Melville Greer, Peter Wilde, Lance Crow, Walter Crowe, Leslie Lash, James Nash, Leonard Ladd, Maurice Heap.

3rd Row: Harold Aldrich, Laurie Hook, Gordon Sheridan, May Crowe, Muriel Paget, Merle Hallman, Sybil Young, Mary Knipe, Russell Gretton, Denzil Crow.

2nd Row: Betty Hampson, Bobbie Saunders, Nita Rix, Ngaire Davies, Enid Greer, Rita Davies, Marg. Rix, Royce Tucker, Elsa Gretton, Joy Hallman.

Front Row: Joe Lash, Charlie Foster, George Heap, Merlyn Crow, Ron Smith, Fred Knipe, Ian Paget.

Headmaster — Mr Murdoch.

— Photo, Mrs J. Hight.

For many years the children who attended Secondary School in Palmerston North after leaving Linton School either boarded in town or travelled by train. Because of the amount of time spent travelling and walking from the Palmerston North station to the school a great deal of time was wasted, not that the pupils necessarily minded. Early in 1925 complaints were made that the late arrival of the morning train at Palmerston North seriously disadvantaged the country secondary school pupils who travelled by train to school. The member of Parliament, Mr J. Linklater was appealed to and within a month the train was expedited by over half an hour, the train thus becoming known locally as the “expedited Linklater.”

Those who attended school in the early 1920s may remember the installation of the artesian water supply. A new 600 gallon tank had been installed at the school at the beginning of 1920 but it was found that during the dry season the supply was still inadequate so some other source of water needed to be obtained. The installation of an artesian was favoured. It was an expensive venture but in 1924 it was decided to press on with the idea. Donations were received from the residents, as well as a grant from the County Council and a subsidy was forthcoming from the Education Board so sufficient money was soon raised and, as Mr Murdoch later commented, “It only remained for the parties concerned to put their faith to the test.” The



The first school bus and some who travelled on it, about 1927.

Left to right: Dorothy Collis, Ken Cook, Nancy Patchett, Hardie Croucher, Margaret Barr, Elwyn Croucher, Ruth Galpin, Lloyd Patchett, Russell Gretton, Mary Gretton, Elsa Gretton, Gordon Greer, Francis Gretton, Jens Enevoldsen, Enid Greer, Noel James, Harold Gretton, Daphne Barr, Eric Wilde, Rita Barr, Tom Galpin, Mr J. Lauridsen, Peter Wilde, Toby Patchett.

Secretary and the Architect of the Board visited the school, the object being to "divine" for a flow of water. Both Board officials managed to get willow sticks oscillating in great style but neither Mr Batchelar nor Mr Murdoch seemed to have the necessary "power". However, it didn't seem to matter much because when the contractors arrived they paid little attention to such things as the bending of willow sticks but were quite confident that the result would be successful. As the pipe went deeper the locals began to doubt the wisdom of the idea but then at a depth of 335 feet water was reached which flowed out in great style. Again, to quote Mr Murdoch, "Quite an exciting moment! The children measured the flow and everybody was satisfied that there was enough for man and beast." The good supply of water allowed a septic tank to be installed which had not previously been possible.

In September 1925 enquiries were made regarding the possibility of providing a tennis court at the school. In May of the following year the ladies of the district met to discuss fund raising for the tennis court, then in June subscription lists were sent out inviting residents to contribute. The Education Board provided a subsidy on the funds raised and the Agricultural Inspector, Mr Lange was asked to draw up plans for the court and tenders were called in February, 1927. The successful tenderer was Mr R. Webb of Palmerston North whose price was £87.16.0. The court was officially opened by Mr Jos. Batchelar, Chairman of the Kairanga County Council on 25th May 1927.

## LINTON SCHOOL — 1930-1945

By 1930 the school roll was again dropping rapidly, the number being down to the 60s in 1930 then dropping to a little more than half that by 1934. Mr Murdoch was still Headmaster in 1930, with Miss Blake as assistant.

Although Calf Clubs did not start until 1934 there is reference in the minute book to a private calf club as early as 1931, however the Committee opted not to support the idea in the meantime. A cycle shed was built in 1931 at a total cost of £9, the Board paying half the amount.

In February 1932 householders were given the opportunity to indicate by vote where they would prefer the picnic to be held, and were given three options. Results were: Paekakariki — 34, Locally — 5, Shannon Bridge — 1, therefore Paekakariki it shall be! It was in that year that Mr Murdoch resigned from the school and on 27th September a farewell was held and a presentation made on behalf of the district. Mr Murdoch had taught at the school for 14 years and was held in the highest esteem. Two of his daughters, Naomi and Rachel also entered the teaching profession and gained their first experience in their chosen career at Linton School.

Some discussion took place regarding the possibility of erecting a swimming pool but it was decided to leave the matter in the meantime, instead it was recommended that facilities at Craw's dam be improved.

During the night of 25th May 1934 the school was destroyed by fire. The Senior Inspector had visited the school that day and after he left the school soon after the close of school for the day, the Headmaster remained on the premises until about 4.45 p.m. Everything appeared normal at that time. The fire was noticed just after 1 a.m., the building being already a mass of flames when the Headmaster arrived on the scene. Mr F. Moody had also noticed the fire and had reached the scene about 1.15 but nothing could be done to save the school or any records. All the walls had fallen in by 2.10 a.m. Mr Stewart, the Headmaster reported the fire to the Board so Mr Hodge, the Architect and the School Committee met at 10 a.m. the next day. Arrangements were immediately made for the hire of the supper room and the dressing room at the Linton Hall at 12/6 per week and Mr Hodge advised that the school would be rebuilt in eight weeks.

The Board held an enquiry into the fire on 26th June 1934, the verdict being "a complete mystery" no blame attachable to anyone and that the method of cleaning out (fireplaces) was an excellent one. The opinion of the Police, the School Committee and the Headmaster was that it was nothing more or less than a faulty chimney. It is true that several house fires had occurred in the Millricks Line area during the few years previous to the school fire but there was no indication of any link between them and the school fire.

It was, in fact, 14½ weeks before the first material for the new school arrived on the site and it was just one day short of 16 weeks after the fire that the three W.E.B. carpenters arrived to commence work. But from that time it took just about nine weeks to have the building finished and ready for occupancy.

Later, the Linton School and District Souvenir of 1939 recorded:

"Until 16th November school was held at the Hall in the supper room and dressing room. The walls being of corrugated iron, conditions were not agreeable for teaching owing to the extremes of temperature. Despite the difficulties arising through shortage of equipment and books, through lack of space in the rooms and through outbreaks of measles, colds and influenza, Mr



First Calf Club Day — 1934. Placings: 1st. Zelma Terry, 2nd. Alan Lynch, 3rd. Winnie Terry. Other entries: Bill Hampson and Neil Beckett. — Photo, A.J. Lynch.

Stewart and Miss Green carried on right throughout the winter months. There must have been no happier teachers in New Zealand than those who commenced in the new Linton School on the 19th November.

Preparations were made for the official opening of the new two roomed school on 30th November 1934. The following self explanatory entry appeared in the school Committee minute book on 14th November:

“Resolved that the Secretary write to the Secretary of the Wanganui Education Board inviting the Chairman, Architect, Secretary and members of the Board to the official opening of the new Linton School at 1.30 p.m. Friday, 30th November 1934. The Committee wish to take the opportunity of thanking the Board and Architect for the exceptionally fine job that has been made of the new school. We wish also, to place on record our appreciation of the exceedingly fine work done on the new building by the carpenters, plumbers, with special mention of the painting and effect of the varnishing.”

Board representatives present on opening day were Mr Hemmingway (Chairman), Mr Boulton (Secretary), Mr Hodge (Architect), Col. Whyte, Mr Tingey and Mr Oram. The Chairman of the School Committee, Mr Lynch gave an outline of the history of the school to the approximately 100 people present, Board members were introduced and they each addressed the gathering then Mr Hemmingway officially opened the school. The National Anthem was sung and following the ceremony the ladies served afternoon tea. Thus was reached an important milestone in the history of the school.

1934 marked the first year of operation of the School Calf Club, strongly



Members and ex-members of the School Committee at 1939 celebrations.  
 Back Row: J.L. Nash, F.J. Batchelar, E.S. Crawford, —, D. McBrearty, W. Jackson, C. Aldrich, —, —,  
 J. Lauridsen, C. Crawford, J. Collis.  
 2nd Row: E.W. Croucher, Mrs Jeffs, C. Jeffs, C. Terry, W. Gilliland, G. Greer, E. Greer, R. Beckett,  
 C. James, T.D. Lynch.  
 Front Row: M. Moody, S. Wilson, F. Young, G. Rix, Jos. Batchelar, —, G. Allwright, S. Young.

supported by Mr E.H. Lange, the Board's Agricultural Inspector. There were 5 entries that year, the placegetters being: 1st Prize — Zelma Terry, 2nd Prize — Alan Lynch, 3rd Prize — Winnie Terry.

Early in 1935 Mr Lange visited the school and a plan was drawn up for improvements to the grounds. These improvements were obviously achieved for in 1936 the Board included Linton School as a new award in the list of schools for that year that had gained environment awards and this award was regularly endorsed in subsequent years. By this time the artesian had almost ceased flowing so it was cleaned out and deepened slightly to enable it to again give an abundant flow of water. A special ceremony was held at the school in May 1935 to mark the Silver Anniversary of the King's reign. Mr Murdoch was invited to return to the school and address the gathering on that occasion.

Mr K.M. White commenced as Headmaster after the May holidays in 1935. He approached his task with a precise and rigorous attitude and at the end of that year recorded the placegetters in each class, namely,

Form II	1st Alan Lynch	2nd. Audrey Russell	3rd. Zelma Terry
I	1st. Winnie Terry	2nd. Tony Beckett	
Standard IV	1st. Bill Gilliland		
III	1st. Winton James	2nd. Connie Perfect	

	II	1st. Dawn Batchelar	2nd. June Copeland
	I	1st. Wendy Harrison	2nd. Valmai Merriman
Primers		1st. Betty Collis	2nd. Ian Gilliland

Alan Lynch was described as Dux of the school for the year.

On 2nd February, the day before school was to open in 1936 a severe gale hit the district. The following entry in the school log book describes the damage:

"A heavy south-easterly raged yesterday, stoving in the east wall of the school; beams in the ceiling were projected through the wall allowing the entry of wind. To gain an outlet the rush of air tore seven sheets of iron from the roof; the school building was wrenched bodily  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches out of position. Much damage is recorded throughout the district, the local store and post office being roofless today, while many residences including that at the school suffered in a like manner."

Board carpenters arrived on the 4th and repaired the school roof then returned near the end of the day with material to repair the Headmaster's house but before repairs could be effected, that night  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches of rain fell causing a great deal of ruin. It was necessary for Mr White to live in Palmerston North for about a month while repairs were made, the opportunity also being taken to carry out certain needed improvements. The house was repapered and repainted throughout.

In 1936 a Dr Barnardo's Helpers League was formed at the school. The end of that year also saw the end of the old proficiency examination system. In mid December a polio epidemic had broken out in Dunedin and the Government announced that all schools in New Zealand were to close immediately until further notice. Children were warned against congregating in picture theatres or going out into the bright sunlight without hats. School was not re-opened until 1st March but right through to May there were paralysis "scares" in parts of the country and some neighbouring schools including Massey College were closed for additional varying periods. Mr White left at the end of 1937 to become first assistant at Palmerston North Central School.

In 1938 Mr Schwabe took up his appointment as Headmaster and by this time the roll was again slowly but steadily climbing. Although occasional inter-school sporting events had taken place in earlier years, mostly with Tokomaru School, it was mainly from the mid 1930s that greater attention was paid to this form of activity, particularly with Tokomaru and Opiki Schools. At the beginning of each year opportunities were provided for swimming at a pool adjacent to the old flax mill, then in 1939 at the Kahuterawa Stream. On 27th July 1939 a light snowfall covered the Linton lowland area, something that most of the children then at school had never previously experienced. Naturally it was the perfect opportunity for the building of a snowman and for snowfights, the teachers too, joining in the good natured fun and coming in for their share of bombardment. Classes commenced rather late that day.

Calf Club activities continued each year and in 1939 Wendy Harrison won the Cup for "rearing" at the Feilding championships. The garden plot competition was also firmly established with a number of entries each year.

Early in 1940 the Feilding Primary Schools Centennial Sports was held with Linton children gaining two firsts (John Berquist, 1st under 8s and Stewart McBrearty, 1st open high jump), three seconds and three thirds. The second World War was being fought at this time and fund raising ventures were being undertaken for patriotic purposes. Emergency drill was also carried out at unexpected times.

Two interesting trips for the older children were arranged during the year. Early in

the year a party of children were taken in the school bus to the Centennial Exhibition in Wellington as well as viewing two large liners at the Wellington wharf. The children enjoyed an exciting and educational day, nine hours being spent at the Exhibition. Then later in the year a trip to Palmerston North was made by train to see the workings of the Fire Station, a seed-cleaning and stock-food mill, the Manawatu Standard printing works and the children's section of the Public Library. The teacher noted that the behaviour of the children was exemplary.

The stock presented at the 1940 Calf Club day was described by the judge as being of an "unusually high and even standard," Wendy Harrison winning the Lynch Challenge Cup for the second year in succession — then in the 1941 competition Pamela Harrison won the Cup.

In 1941 the Board agreed to the erection of school baths which were built early in the year on a site just at the rear of the present hall, and also about that time repairs were carried out to the School and Residence. A note in the Log Book on 31st March 1941: "Emergency drill — School cleared in 13 seconds." 1941 saw the commencement of the apples-in-schools scheme where apples were provided free to pupils, the pupils quickly learning to note the "count" on the box to check whether they would be big ones or small ones.

Overcrowding was becoming a problem so just before the end of the second term the Board's workmen arrived to enlarge the classrooms. At the commencement of the third term it was necessary for the primers to go to the church hall and the senior classes to go to the public hall for about a month until the workmen were finished. Educational trips were not forgotten, senior pupils visiting Craw's Cheese Factory and the Linton Railway Station and a further visit to Palmerston North being included in the school activities.

Mr Schwabe left the school at the end of 1941. It is well worthy of note that Mr Schwabe who was actively interested in music, later in 1959 returned to Palmerston North and took over the music department at Freyberg High School then in 1961 established the Palmerston North Youth Orchestra. His son, John, who was born while his parents were at Linton is at present well known in Palmerston North musical circles.

In 1942 the Board agreed that the senior pupils attend manual training classes in Palmerston North. The children travelled by train to attend the three hour classes that were held each fortnight. Mr D. S. Dale, the new Headmaster reported that the school roll was still climbing so the Committee applied for the appointment of a third teacher and the erection of a third classroom. The extra teacher arrived in May and the church hall was again used as a temporary classroom. A slight respite to the increasing roll problem occurred in June when three families totalling sixteen children left the district. An exciting trip by train to Wellington took place that year when the children were able to visit The House of Representatives, Kelburn Observatory, Petone and Eastbourne, and a further trip was made the following year with a visit to the zoo and a ferry trip across the harbour to Eastbourne.

Mr T.D. Lynch, Chairman of the School Committee, presented a second Challenge Cup to the Calf Club, this time for Junior Care and Rearing, which was won that year, 1943, by Douglas Harrison. Considerable attention was being paid to swimming and tennis early in 1944, and with the interest being taken in tennis it was agreed that the tennis court be re-surfaced. In April 1944 the construction of an additional classroom was commenced and was completed by the end of July. Agricultural and Calf Club and swimming competitions continued to be held and a major sports day was held at the school on 19th December 1945.

## LINTON SCHOOL — 1946-64

1946 marked the end of the era of service of two long standing members of the School Committee. Mr T.D. Lynch had become a member of the Committee in 1928 and apart from 2 years break through illness, served as Chairman of the Committee during that entire time. Mr E.S. Crawford had served continuously as Secretary during his 12 year term on the Committee. There was insufficient attendance at the Householders Meeting to form a new committee so the meeting was adjourned for a week then a new committee was elected. A Parent-Teachers Association was formed at that time.

The Board agreed to improvements to the playing area during 1948 and the Committee formed a working bee to trim trees and attend to other tasks. Special note was made in 1948 of the excellent report of the school that was given by the Inspector. Thanks were expressed to Mr Dale and his staff for the work done to maintain the school at such a high standard. The Diamond Anniversary celebrations of the school and district took place in April 1949. Further reference to this occasion is detailed elsewhere.

In July 1949, the Standards 3 and 4 children were taken on an educational trip to Lower Hutt to the Ford assembly plant and the Railway workshops. Then a trip by the senior pupils in November proved to be both exciting and informative. A feature of the day was to be taken by the Pilot Launch to view the floating dock, a cargo liner and other items of interest around the harbour. The "Evening Post" concluded its report of the trip: "The children caught the 'Fields Express' at 7 a.m., had lunch at the Basin Reserve, made a pre-arranged tour of Government House and visited 2YA for the 'Broadcast to schools' singing lesson to which they listened weekly, and then arrived at the Wharves for their most important engagement of the day. After inspecting the "Wanganella" and the 'Rangatira' they returned to Linton."

The football ground was levelled, drained and resown in 1950 and this improvement allowed greater emphasis to be placed on that sport in the following years. Swimming was also being given greater attention and it was noted that 24 children had been taught to swim in that year. The following year the school picnic was held at Waitare and the Parent-Teachers Association arranged a gala day at the school which featured competition between 4 marching teams, with Valerie Fraser's team gaining first place and Valerie Gadsby's team gaining second. Mr D.S. Dale left the school in May of that year to become Head Teacher of the Te Hora Maori School, North Auckland.

Mr J. Watson followed as Headmaster. Calf Day continued to be a popular event with 29 animals being presented for judging. Mr E. Harrison presented a new cup for competition for the "best led calf" and this was won in its first year by Tresta Merriman.

In 1953 the milk-in-schools scheme commenced at Linton. Discussion had taken place in December 1949 regarding the adoption of the scheme but no action was taken at that time. 1953 marked the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and a service conducted by Rev. P. Munton was held at the school in recognition of the occasion.

Regular visitors to the school included, in the earlier years, Dr Gunn who will be remembered as the School Doctor, then in the 1950s Sister Sutherland, the District Nurse, and Mr Lonsdale who was Physical Education Instructor were regular visitors. Automobile Association Instructors also gave regular instruction on aspects of road safety.

A very popular and highly regarded visitor from the Education Board was Mr E.H.



Linton School and the children in 1939.

Lange, the Agricultural Instructor whose quite frequent visits to the school gave the children a great deal of encouragement and instruction in nature study, gardening, farming interests and particularly, of course, the Calf Club activities. Mr Lange's visits to the school are recorded as early as 1926 and although records show that he was to retire at the end of 1954, there is still reference to a visit he made to the school in late 1959.

At the end of 1955 a combined sports day was held at Linton Camp where about 350 children from Linton and neighbouring schools took part. It was about this time that a football team, formed at the school and coached by Mr R. Boyd, became quite renowned in their games against teams from neighbouring schools, the claim being made that they won every game they played.

From the mid 1950s the school roll began to rapidly increase, mainly because of the increased population in the Linton Camp area. Considerable housing development was taking place, both at the Camp and in the Hewitts Road area. Two new rooms (Prefabs.) were completed in November 1957. The roll continued to climb and it was noted in June 1959 that it was the first time that 4 men teachers had been on the staff at any one time. During this period, and up to 1963 all major school functions such as concerts, break-ups etc. were held in buildings at Linton Camp. These were well attended and were regarded as very successful functions.

Because of the rapidly increasing roll the period from the late 1950s to the end of 1963 was quite a difficult one for the school and credit must be given to the teachers and committee of that era for the excellent manner in which they carried out their responsibilities. The Education Board provided additional accommodation, the second prefab. block being completed at the end of September 1962. In addition, 3



Combined Football Team (Linton-Bunnythorpe-Whakarongo) coached by R. Boyd, about 1952.  
— Photo, J. Hight.

major building projects were also undertaken at the school within a short space of time. Some interior repainting took place in 1960, then in 1961 the erection of a Dental Clinic building was commenced. The school was painted in 1962 and also that year a new residence was built for the Headmaster, while at the same time plans and preparations were under way for the erection of the new hall which was completed in 1963. The children were encouraged to provide the cost of lino tiles for the hall corridor, committee room and toilets as an expression of appreciation to the parents and residents of the district for all the work that had been done in providing the new hall, the tiles to be paid for out of the child's own money and the name of the donor would be written on the back of the tile.

Calf Club activities continued and an effort was made to provide calves so that children from non-farming families could participate if they wished. The A. & P. Show results of 1963 indicate that Linton School gained first place in the class "Group of 3 Calves."

The Dental Clinic was opened early in 1962 with Graham Irvine enjoying the doubtful honour of being the first patient. Nurse Clarke was in charge of the Clinic and she was followed in 1963 by Nurse R.M. Christensen.

An entry in the School Log Book: "Special basketball match between staff and pupils — Result doubtful."

By the end of 1963 the roll had reached approx. 270, by far the highest ever recorded at the school. The Concert and Break-up was held in the new hall, and with the Camp School due to open at the beginning of the following year a number of class parties were held by the children as a parting gesture to each other. Four teachers were farewelled from the school.

## LINTON SCHOOL — 1964-88

With the reduction of the roll to 102 at the start of the 1964 year, the staff was reduced to 4 teachers namely, Mr Whitehead, Miss Rayward, Mrs P. Shaw and Mrs Tasker. The Board immediately moved the small prefab building from Linton School to the Camp School. There was some doubt as to whether the P.T.A. would have sufficient support to operate but with an attendance of 10 parents at the first meeting of the year, that was considered to be sufficient support for the continuation of the Association. In fact there was a marked increase in support for the P.T.A. in the years immediately following.

For the first time in the history of the school, the Lancaster Shield was won. The Shield was a trophy for the highest number of points gained by a school for Calf Club entries in the Feilding A. & P. Show. Clinton Craw, Mark Craw and Deane Craw gained a total of 18 points in all classes for their entries of calves and a 2 year old heifer which they had entered in the show in January.

1964 was also the year that the 75th anniversary celebrations of the school and district took place. Mr Whitehead took the opportunity to encourage the children to take an interest in the history of the district. Some of the children interviewed older residents and the interviews were recorded on tape. The junior pupils arranged a display of "Linton Today" for the celebrations, while the theme of the display arranged by the senior pupils was "Linton Yesterday". At the end of the year a book was presented to each pupil in recognition of the 75th anniversary. A visit by the senior children to Wellington which included a visit to the wharves, Plimmerton Beach and the Rangiatea Church at Otaki concluded an eventful year.

After much debate at the annual meeting of the Manawatu-Oroua division of the Boys and Girls Agricultural Clubs Linton and Taikorea School were, in 1965, jointly awarded the Craig Cup in recognition of the work put into Club activities by the children of the 2 schools the previous year. With a school roll of 100 the entries in the various groups by Linton children (with the previous years figures in parenthesis) were: Calves 34 (22), Senior animals 22 (4), Lambs 20 (9), Plots 18 (27). The Cup was officially presented to the two schools by the Chairman of the Board at a special function at Linton School on 30th July 1965. Linton won the Craig Cup again the following year.

A new flagpole was installed and used for the first time on 6th February 1967 when the flag was raised in observance of Waitangi Day. Saturday morning football was introduced and was organised by a Sergeant Major from the Camp.

At the beginning of 1968 the remaining Prefab was removed to Freyberg High School so space had to be found in the existing buildings for the accumulated contents of the building. On 15th February a decision was made to raise money to build a new swimming pool. The old pool was too small and had proved to be very unsatisfactory. By 7th March it was found that sufficient funds had been raised or promised to allow an approach to be made to the Board to go ahead with the project. Discussions took place regarding siting etc. and by September it was possible to call tenders for the construction. The result was that Mr R. Okey was awarded the contract for the construction of the baths and Mr B. Peters was responsible for the paths, dressing sheds, fences, etc., that part of the work being done with the help of a great deal of voluntary labour. The pool was finally filled on 24th October 1969.

Statistical details are:

Length:	50 ft.	Depth:	3 ft.
Width:	20 ft.	Volume:	18,750 gallons

The exact cost is not available but is believed to have been just over \$3000 including filter, the Board subsidy being \$900 and the remainder raised by the district.

The opening of the new pool on 15th November 1969 by Mr A. Campbell, Member of the Wanganui Education Board, was quite a festive occasion. Special mention was made of the high quality work put into the construction, and appreciation expressed to the residents of the district for their foresight and hard work. The Chairman of the School Committee, Mr Don Rix was the first to enter the pool (involuntarily). A newspaper report of the occasion stated "He was assisted into the pool by willing friends". He was followed by the Head Teacher "assisted" by Mr Campbell. After an afternoon of antics by both young and old, afternoon tea was served in the hall and the children were treated to ice cream, indeed, a memorable and enjoyable occasion.

On 21st November Roslyn Builders arrived with equipment to commence work on the building of a new classroom which came into use the following year.

At the end of 1969 Mr Whitehead found it necessary to relinquish his position because of ill health. He had served the school well during his term as Headmaster, always endeavouring to instill into the children ideals of good citizenship, honesty, courage and morality. He was also a valuable member of the Linton community during his time in Linton.

The new relieving Headmaster who took over at the beginning of 1970 faced the largest P.T.A. meeting in the history of Linton when a "Meet the Teachers Evening" was arranged early in the year and 43 parents were present. One topic discussed at that meeting was the colour of the school bus which, some parents claimed, was difficult to see on foggy mornings.

On 19th February the school held its first swimming sports day using the new pool. The school was divided into 3 teams, Red, Green and Blue. The Blue team led by Andrew Lynch was judged the winner at the conclusion of a rather hilarious afternoon.

A burglary at the school was discovered on Monday, 23rd February, and although several doors and locks had been forced it didn't appear that anything of value had been taken. There is no indication that the culprit was found.

At the school break-up ceremony in 1971 reference was made to the ending of the long association with the school by two families of the district as a result of the youngest of those families leaving to attend secondary school. For Mr and Mrs C. Collis it was the end of 33 years association with the school and during that time Mr Collis had been a member of the School Committee for some 15 years and been Secretary of the Committee for 11 of those years. Mr and Mrs J. Hight had an association with the school for 25 years. Mr Hight also served on the Committee for 5 years and of that, was Chairman for 3 years.

In the early 1970s a few country schools in the Board's area were making decisions to send their Forms 1 and 2 children to Intermediate Schools. The Board favoured the idea in principle but only on the condition that the majority of parents of the school concerned also be in favour of the move. The Linton School Committee that was elected in 1973 decided that this option be offered to the parents for consideration, so after a great deal of discussion in the district and a meeting of parents, votes were taken, firstly of parents who would have children attending the school in 1974 and secondly, of parents of pre-schoolers in the district. The eligibility to vote was confined to these two categories and a requirement was that the parents

had to be residing in the district on 18th September 1973. Both parents were eligible to vote.

The Manawatu Standard reported the results of the ballot as follows:

Those who would have their children attending Linton School in 1974:

37 in favour  
24 against  
8 did not vote

Those who were parents of pre-schoolers:

12 in favour  
8 against  
8 did not vote

As a result of the vote the 2 classes were transported by bus to Palmerston North as from the beginning of 1974. It is understood that about 26 children were affected by the move in the first year.

In 1974 the Agricultural Club entries gained for the school the B. & A. Cup for overall competition and it was placed second in the Craig Cup competition. Mr C.E. Williams moved to Longburn School and Mr C.J. Robertson was appointed in his place. 1975 saw two notable staff changes. Mrs Hepi joined the staff and has remained since that time. Also that year Mr Roger Sheridan resigned as Caretaker, a task he had carried out with commendable efficiency for a lengthy period. A Queen Carnival was organised by the Committee in conjunction with a Gala day that was held in March. The day concluded with a Country and Western Evening where Adrienne Gerritsen representing the Linton and District Lions Club was crowned as Queen. The funds raised by the carnival were to provide improvements to the school grounds. In that year also, the P.T.A. became known as the Linton School and Community Association with Mr S. Boleyn as Chairman.

The school was represented in the Manawatu Primary Schools Gymnastics Competition on 21st October 1976 with Joanne Moynihan gaining first place in the C grade individual results.

All buildings at the school including the hall and Headmaster's house were painted in 1977.

In 1978 the Wanganui Education Board held its centenary and encouraged the children of the schools in its area to take a special interest in the early days of their respective districts. As part of the Linton School effort in this regard a panel of district identities came to the school to answer children's questions regarding early Linton. The senior room also visited Manawatu Museum as part of this effort, then on 8th April a very successful Early Linton Open Day was held. Parents and friends in old style costumes took part and a static display of items of bygone years was arranged. Candlemaking and spinning demonstrations were held. As part of the celebration the Board donated a tree to each school, the one given to Linton School being a *Giriselinia Littoilii*. That same year the senior class visited tree felling operations at Hilltop on the property of Mr B. Rix. Aokautere, Tiritea, Opiki and Tokomaru Schools joined Linton at a concert presented by members of the Wellington Regional Orchestra.

Three aspects of land use in Linton were studied by the children in 1983 with visits to the Stableford sheep farm, Blanchard's dairy farm and horticultural operations at Mr Harrison's property.



Linton School children with Craig Cup.

Back Row: Rachel Kettle, Nina Yeoman, Hamish Johnstone, Brad Cockrell, Shawn Hodgetts, Geoffrey Underwood.

3rd Row: Suezanne Odering, Quentin Harrison, Brian Underwood, Jessica Craw, Craig Hodgetts, Emma Stableford, Hagen Anderson, David Kettle, Craig Drysdale.

2nd Row: Jessica Harrison, Debbie Odering, Melanie Wattes, Abby Craw, Anna Coley, Campbell Craw, Nathan Brown, Glen Anderson, James Findlayson, Brendon Murray.

Front Row: Craig Satherley, James Stableford, Victoria Allomes, Bryce Hazlitt, Ben Allomes, Kirk O'Donoghue, Darryn Findlayson, Cherie Satherley.

— Photo, Manawatu Standard.

A highlight of the 1984 year was a combined camp with the children of Room 9 from Russell Street School at the Boys' Brigade Camp at Foxton Beach. The camp continued for a week and was considered to be of great social value to the Linton children as it gave them the opportunity to be part of a larger group. Activities included estuary study, orienteering (day and night), confidence courses, sand and shore study, a visit to historic Foxton and a visit to Stephens Bremner factory. A well attended concert was held on the Wednesday evening. Camp Father was Mr C. Stableford and Mrs J. O'Donoghue was adult leader. The Headmaster noted that the children were a credit to themselves and to their parents.

Mr Mark Craw replaced Mr Dale Craw as the Linton supervisor at the Boys and Girls Agricultural Club activities at Manchester Street School in Feilding.

Twenty-two children and 5 adults took a two day trip travelling by train to Hawkes Bay in 1985. Visits were made to the Nocturnal Wildlife Centre, Marineland and the Aquarium. The senior children visited Cape Kidnappers while the juniors went to Lilliput Land and a Game Farm. The children were lavishly cared for by relatives of Mrs Hepi which contributed to the trip being an outstanding success.

On 22nd June 1985 Mr Bradley, the Headmaster noted that he had experienced

the Linton wind that he had heard so much about. It blew 6 gum trees over in the plantation and also the chimney above the Play Centre room plus other minor damage. In July the children were taken to the Moutoa floodgates to see flood control in action.

A special treat to the children was the visit to the school of Mr Willie Burton, a 6' 7" American who played basketball for U Bix. He spoke to the children about his life as a player. Another event was the Pot-luck lunch and sports that was held where the girls (with a little help from a couple of mums) played the fathers at netball (5 all) and the mothers played the boys at soccer (1 goal each), although it is believed the timekeeper's watch was "faulty" to say the least! Fun-a-rama Day at Opiki and Tabloid Sports at Aokautere were also included in the activities for the year. A gymnastics festival at Pascal Street Stadium was a credit to the gymnastic prowess and behaviour of the children. The heritage of the Polynesian people of New Zealand was also depicted as part of a visit to the school by the Waiohiki Maori Concert Party from Napier.

A newspaper report indicated that the school received a \$670 grant from the Board towards a \$1006 beautification project, although no date is mentioned.

A science trip to Pukerua Bay and Raumati Beach in 1986 proved very popular. Other items of interest that year included the closure of the Linton School Dental Clinic, the children being taken to the Camp School Clinic for the first time in April; the installation of new fireplaces in senior and junior rooms; the installation of a computer and printer at the school, as well as several trips for the children. Mr Bradley left that year to become Educational Officer at the Manawatu Museum.

The school was awarded the Craig Cup in 1987 as a result of the efforts put into the Agricultural Club at the end of the previous year. The Borthwick's Rose Bowl was also won.

Almost certainly the highlight of 1987 for the senior room was the 5 day trip to Mangatepopo from where visits were made to Turangi, Tokaanu Power Station, trout hatchery, the Chateau and the Army Museum. Tramps, bush walks and hot pools were also on the agenda — a delightful time, enjoyed by all who participated.

The Young Farmers Club in association with the Accident Compensation Commission conducted a safety day which was very instructive for both children and adults who attended. Several other local visits were made by the children during the year. Then the winning of the Craig Cup again for the 1987 season was an excellent effort.

There have been many more sporting events, school trips and visitors to the school than those recorded, education today being very much more than the "three R's" of yesteryear.

The present Headmaster, Mr D. Drysdale came to the school in August 1986. An interesting historical link that he has with the Manawatu is that his great-great-grandfather was Mr Henry Burling, the first European contracted to carry the mail along the coast from Port Nicholson to Wanganui, and for his efforts was paid £1 for each journey. He lived to easily exceed 100 years of age.

For the past 30 years or so, many students from the Palmerston North Teachers' Training College have been sent to Linton School for their section training. It is not possible to list them but their participation in the school and its activities has contributed to the history of the school during those years.

Although there is brief reference to Religious Instruction in the early years of the school there was little regular effort in this regard until in 1941 a Roman Catholic Priest commenced regular visits to the school to give instruction to the children of



The School and Hall — 1988.

Catholic families. It is recorded that in 1958 Padre Rowe from the Camp and Miss Howard commenced religious instruction and it has continued more or less continuously since that time with the courtesy and co-operation of the staff and committee. It is impossible to list all who have assisted but the following is a selection of those who are remembered: Mr and Mrs J. Hight, Mr and Mrs F. Gerritsen, Mrs Vandenberg, Mrs Kennedy, Mrs Raleigh, Mrs A. J. Lynch, Father Richards, Mr and Mrs Gore, Mr H. Lauridsen, Mrs J. Dew, Mrs June Johns, Mrs Corenne Lauridsen, Mrs Denise Satherley and Mrs Sue Allomes, the two latter being present instructors.

This narrative would be incomplete without reference being made to the assistance and co-operation given to the school by successive Chairmen and members of the Wanganui Education Board as well as School Inspectors and members of the administrative staff of the Board. Some names have been mentioned but there are many more who have made a considerable contribution to the school. In many cases the work is done in a background situation and much of it never comes to public prominence but it is nonetheless appreciated, valued and acknowledged.

The centenary celebration on 18th March 1989 marks, to the day, 100 years since Linton School was established. It has not been possible to record all the events that should be recorded or to mention all those who have played important parts in the school's history, but the items mentioned may serve to prompt the recalling of events and people otherwise long forgotten.

The annual roll numbers, list of teachers, School Committee members and the School Roll appear in the Appendices.



Present Day Pupils (1988)

Back Row: Rachel Roberts, Suezanne Odering, Emma Stableford, Jessica Crow, Victoria Allomes, Melanie Wattes, Debbie Odering, Abby Crow, Ben Allomes.

2nd Row: David Kettle, Kirk O'Donoghue, Hagen Anderson, Brian Underwood, Bryce Hazlitt, Craig Hodgetts, Lynden Roberts, Brendon Murray, Craig Drysdale.

Front Row: Rachel Satherley, Rebecca Valentine, Nathan Brown, Victoria Stableford, Hayden Hazlitt, David Odering, Evan Yeoman, Blair Drysdale, Glen Anderson, Andrea Murray.

Teachers: Mr D. Drysdale, Mrs R. Hepi.

— Photo, Mrs Lee Crow.

## BOYS AND GIRLS AGRICULTURAL CLUB

Contributed by Mrs Joanne Hazlitt

Many past and present pupils will have fond memories of calf club days at Linton School. These still exist and cause excitement and enthusiasm amongst families in the district; from pre-schoolers with their parade of pet lambs to parents and grandparents discussing events (sometimes heatedly) outside the ring. The Pet Lambs always bring out the smiles with the leading and calling. Linton School children usually have 100% participation for their calf and lamb days. Believe it or not, the mature animals are appearing again and the grand selection of trophies are still in circulation.

A good number of pupils and parents travel to the Championship Day in Feilding. Yes, there is still a class for a group of 3 calves, which has been a long standing tradition. Over the past 5 years a class for goats has been introduced and this has been well represented.

Within the Boys and Girls Agricultural Club the gardening section has been revived over the past 2-3 years and Linton School children grew 22 individual gardens one year, which in turn made them eligible contenders for the Craig Cup. With enthusiasm in entering the vegetable and craft show to display produce from their gardens, Linton School children actually won the Craig Cup 2 years in a row —1986 and 1987.

Calf Clubs at Linton will always be a tradition and a highlight for the community in general and are held in mid-November each year. Visitors are assured of an entertaining day.

## THE SCHOOL BUS

During 1917 some consideration was given to the establishment of a new school in the Ravenswood area. The proposal gained ground for some time but then the idea was replaced by a suggestion that the children from that area be transported by bus to the existing Linton School. The Education Board tended to favour the transport of children to an existing school where practicable instead of opening a new one.

For a short time during the negotiations Mr Arthur Smith transported his own children plus a few others from the area to Linton School in his own private car, then in 1922 the Board made arrangements with Mr John Lauridsen to convey the children in a horse drawn covered waggon, drawn for a short time by one horse "Lupe" which on one occasion, fell on the hill near the store, so later two horses were used, "Daphne", "Bess" and "Ginger" being horses that were used at various times. Over 20 children were sometimes carried, although the numbers fluctuated considerably.

When the Inspectors came to the school they used to refer to the "Aristocrats of Ravenswood" because of the privilege they enjoyed of "driving to school in a carriage." But the Manawatu winds in those days could blow just as strong and be just as cold as today so perhaps the privilege was not all that great. There is no doubt that those who travelled in the old waggon over the then unsealed roads in all kinds of weather will have retained a store of memories that they will never forget. At times it was not only the horses that required the firm but kind attention of the driver! The service operated comparatively trouble free, the worst threat to life and limb being an occasion when the horses decided to "take off" from the school gate while the children were being unloaded. Quick thinking and reaction on the part of Evelyn Smith who caught the reins and stopped the offending animals saved what could have been a very nasty situation. On another occasion, around 1927, when the horses were being driven by a relieving driver, a front wheel came off the waggon on the homeward run in the afternoon. This occurred on the Main Road not far from what is now the Greatorex family home. A number of children had already been let off the bus at their homes along the way so it was not heavily loaded at the time. The vehicle remained upright and no damage was done but it required quick repairs by blacksmith "Far" Lauridsen to have the vehicle ready for the next morning.

Those who travelled on the old bus in 1924 may recall that when the driver was married in that year, the children gathered hawthorne petals which were used as a substitute for confetti to shower him on his arrival at the pick up spot by the factory yard.

This service was discontinued in 1931 when the number of children dropped to a very low level, then in 1934 was restarted by Mr Lauridsen using first, an Essex car,



Mr John Lauridsen and his "Covered Waggon".

then later a Dodge car with seating adjusted to carry up to twelve children. In 1938 the number of children to be transported from that area was again on the increase and the car was becoming inadequate for the purpose. Mr John Lauridsen decided that the time had arrived when he should withdraw from the work, so Mr Peter Lauridsen entered into a new contract with the Education Board and he purchased a new Chevrolet bus capable of carrying twenty children.

In 1941 the parents of children in the Te Puna Road area requested that a bus service be established from that area but this did not eventuate.

The Board decided, in September 1942 to shorten the bus service by half a mile at the Hewitts Road end. Parents complained at this move and also requested that because of Camp development traffic causing hazards the service be extended down Camp Road where it had not hitherto run. It appears that the Board agreed to these requests.

Mr and Mrs Peter Lauridsen continued the bus service until 1944 when they left the district and the Chevrolet bus and school run was then taken over by Mr and Mrs V.D. Fraser of Hewitts Road who operated it for six years. Mr and Mrs J.J. Bergman then took over the bus and run in 1951 and continued to operate it until 1954.

It was during the Bergman era that the school roll began to rapidly increase, largely brought about by the influx of children from houses being built at Linton Military Camp. Mrs Bergman, who drove the bus for much of the time, at first carried one load but later found it necessary to do two trips to transport the children. In 1954 Mrs Willcox purchased the bus and continued the service, drivers at various times being Mr A.V. Cocks, Mrs Burgess, Mrs McPherson and Mr Watson, the



Mr Peter Lauridsen and his 1938 Chevrolet Bus.

Headmaster. It appears that in later years this bus developed a penchant for breaking rear axles, much to the disgust of the Garage staff.

Ultimately the number of children to be transported became beyond the capabilities of the small bus so Madge Motors Ltd. took over the run, first with one load, then two loads were carried, and by the time the school roll reached its peak in 1963 just before the opening of the Camp School in 1964, three loads were being taken to Linton School from the eastern end of the district.

If the School Inspectors of the 1920s referred to the "artistocrats of Ravenswood" driving to school in a carriage, what should be said of the children of the mid 1950s who travelled to school by taxi! For the 5th of July 1954 saw the commencement of the transport of children from the Millricks Line/Scotts Road area by Linton Taxis operated by Linton Garage Ltd.

When the Madge bus service concluded at the end of 1963, there were, in 1964, still a number of children from that area to be transported to Linton so the taxi picked up some en route to the Millricks Line/Scotts Road area, but soon Messrs. Cocks, Martin and Aldrich who operated the Linton Garage purchased an International bus to cope with the situation. This gave excellent service but economics forced the closure of the bus service which ceased at the end of 1971, thus came to an end a service which had commenced almost 50 years earlier.

Efforts were made about 1980 to re-establish a school transport service but owing to the fact that the school roll projections indicated a general decline in numbers, the proposition was turned down and abandoned.

Secondary School pupils from the Linton area were provided with a bus service to Palmerston North as from the beginning of 1944. Prior to that the children from



The "International" Bus operated by Linton Garage.

Linton travelled either by train or bicycle or the only other option was to board in town. Watts Motors were the contractors to the Secondary School bus service which continues to this day, now operated by Madge Motors. As from 1974 the Linton children attending Palmerston North Intermediate have also been transported by the same means.

## Moturimu School

With the development of McGregor Bros. sawmill at the top of Scotts Road just after 1900, a settlement began to emerge at Hilltop or Moturimu.

Early in 1905 the Education Board had been requested to establish a school in the area. After considering the practicability of conveying the children to Linton School and finding that to be not an altogether satisfactory solution, the Board agreed to establish a school and provide a teacher if the settlers would supply a suitable building. The settlers were also asked to agree to make up the teacher's salary to £90 p.a. if uncertified or £100 if certified, or if a female teacher, to £57.10.0 if uncertified or £76 if certified. By June of that year a teacher, Miss A.G. Hogg, had been appointed and although no exact date is available, the school appears to have been opened about the end of July or early August, 1905, at first under the name of the Arawaru School, then on 21st March 1906 the School Committee was advised that the school would, in future be known as the Moturimu School.

In April 1906 Miss Hogg suffered injury in an accident and Mr H.W. Lock was appointed as temporary teacher until Miss E. Chadwick took up her duties as teacher in October of that year. Miss Chadwick remained for almost three years, resigning in 1909 when Mr E.P. O'Donnell was appointed, to be followed finally in August 1910 by Mr J.D. McKenzie who remained until the school was officially closed in May 1911 when he was transferred to Spur Road school, Colyton.

Throughout the negotiations to open the school and during its entire history the person that the Board dealt with was Mr J. Crawford, an engine driver at the mill (no connection with Crawford Bros. who came to the area some years later). Just after the school opened a householders meeting was called for 6th October 1905 but no details have been found as to what took place at the meeting, Mr Crawford being described as School Committee Chairman from that time onwards.

The roll remained very low right through the School's history, according to Board reports the highest recorded numbers for each year that the school was open being:

1905 — 18	1907 — 19	1909 — 14	1911 — 13
1906 — 12	1908 — 14	1910 — 15	

But in fact, for a greater part of the time the actual roll numbers were well below these figures, dropping to 6 in December 1910 when the Board suggested closing the school but allowed it to re-open for a short time in 1911. Reports to the Board relating to the school are rather scarce but one made in August 1906 lists only seven pupils at the time. They were (with ages in brackets):

Coralie Crawford (13)	Florence Pritchard (8)
Harold Pritchard (13)	Ella Johnskie (5)
Herbert Pritchard (10)	Leonard Pritchard (5)
Charles Johnskie (8)	

The return in 1907 shows the list increased to 11, the additions to the above being:

David Ellis (13)	Ivy Gray (10)
Leonard Ellis (10)	Leslie Gray (9)

And in December 1910 only six names were listed being: Leslie Gray, Ivy Gray, Clarence Pritchard, Frederick Southey, Hector Pritchard and Ivy Addison.

The inspectors seemed very pleased with the standard of work at the school, and in 1910 the teacher, Mr McKenzie commented: "If the school remains open I propose to commence geometry and nature study. I have arranged to give instruction in these subjects, but have refrained from commencing them until it is decided whether the school will be permanently closed or not."

It is evident that the mill activities ceased about 1911, the only names listed under Moturimu in the Post Office Directory for 1912 being sheep farmers in the area.

# Linton Camp School

A school was opened at Linton Camp in 1964. This school catered for the children from the Camp housing areas as well as a number of other children from that end of the district. It is not possible to detail the history of the School — it is, in fact, creating its own history and plans are under way at the present time for a 25 year reunion to be held later in 1989.

The School opened with a roll of 147 and with Mr T.J. Smith as Headmaster. He was followed successively by Mr Rex Pilcher, Mr Alan Lyttle and Mr Leo Roache. Mr John Steele and Mr Stuart James have been relieving teachers in recent years and it is expected that Mr Roache will return to the School in 1989.

Because of a changing population in the area there have been many changes to the membership of the School Committee. The Chairman of the Committee when the School was opened was Mr J.W.H. Duggan. Other Chairmen since that time have included Messrs. N.C. McPherson, D.J. Powley, M.D. McKay, P. Ferry, B.J. Quinn, G.F. Brogden, M. Smith, B.G. Hight, M. Marshall, S.H. Quinn, and R. Hiha (Present Chairman).

The School has regularly adopted the practice of recognising a Dux of the School each year. Those pupils who have gained that recognition are:

1964 — Robert Heaphy	1972 — David Blyth	1982 — Paula Jensen
1964 — Nicholas Shorter	1973 — Neil Cunningham	1983 — Anita Murphy
1965 — Dennis Hibbert	1974 — Patricia Browne	1984 — Dayton Hight
1966 — Phillip Heaphy	1975 — Cindy O'Brien	1985 — Kristen Couchman
1967 — Janine Hook	1976 — Lynn Corney	1986 — Joanne Short
1968 — Janine Hook	1977 — Donald Neal	1987 — Sonia Alexander
1969 — Bryan Hayhow	1978 — Judith Ryan	1988 — Daniel Ray
1970 — Fiona McMichael	1979 — Karen Moors	
1970 — Patricia Blyth	1980 — Judith McInnes	
1971 — Susan Turner	1981 — Nicola Beal	

The roll at present (late 1988) is 146 and there are 7 teachers on the staff. A considerable increase in roll is likely in the near future as a result of the housing development programme at present being carried out at the Camp.

## TO JOG YOUR MEMORY

On one occasion when Dugald Matheson was travelling en route from Linton to his home at Karere he was met by a cow that apparently took a decided dislike to him and proceeded to charge him. Dugald was standing by a dray at the time, and as the animal approached Dugald neatly side-stepped with the result that the cow's head came very forcefully in contact with the dray — and the cow dropped dead!



Mr Hepworth, an early settler of the district, built Mr Young's house. As he worked he was always ready for a lengthy talk to any passers by. One afternoon as Dugald Matheson was on his way home he saw Mr Hepworth up in the rafters and as he worked he was addressing Mr Edwin Akers and punctuating his remarks with the blows of his hammer. When Edwin Akers saw Dugald approach he whispered to him that he should take his place and Edwin cantered off leaving Dugald to listen, Mr Hepworth being quite unaware of the change of audience.



The children who, in their return home from school would get under the railway cattle stops allowing the train to pass over them. A highly dangerous practice, especially if hot water was released from the steam engine just at that moment.



A small bridge over a creek supported the tramlines from the bush to the Whitmore sawmill. Certain boys cut upwards through the stringers of the bridge so when the next load was taken across, it collapsed.



The children of the 1920s who swam in the flooded creek on their way home from school, their parents thinking they had got wet because of the rain.



Mr J.N. Christensen's neatly thatched hay stacks, standing as straight and trim as soldiers on parade.



To avoid damage to the floor of the new hall by stiletto heels, women wearing such shoes were given rubber protective pads for their heels just before entering the hall.

# 5

## Linton Public Hall

In 1896 the little settlement of Linton existed in comparative isolation. The chief means of contact with the outside world was via the railway which had by then been operating for about ten years, or otherwise, over a rather indifferent bush road to Palmerston North. It was in that year that the residents of this small but rapidly growing country district decided to build a public hall which could become a social and recreational centre for the area.

Lot 193, Township of Linton, was a piece of Crown land quite near to the railway and it was on this land that the first hall was built by Mr L. Laurensen. It was not until 1911 that the section was granted to the Linton Public Hall Society Inc. and the title to the property was received several years later. The hall consisted of an unlined shell lit by kerosene lamps hanging from the ceiling. The equipment in the supper room was confined to the galvanised bath or milk pan and to obtain hot water a copper needed to be lit. The copper was housed in a small shed about a chain to the rear of the building. Funds to pay for the erection of the hall were raised by donations from the settlers and also from takings from entertainments that were held in the school which had by then been in existence for about seven years.

As the population of the district grew the existing hall facilities became inadequate so it was agreed that the hall should be enlarged. In 1909 money was borrowed from the Bank of New Zealand on guaranteed overdraft, the guarantors being M.A. Moody, G. Grace, A. Beckett, W. Gray, G. Rix, H. Akers, G. Craw, J. Batchelar and G. Ward. The Linton Hall Society was also formed that year and registered in 1910. The signatories to the deed of incorporation were Wm. Gray, M.A. Moody, Frederick Luers, R.B. Hall, Jos. Batchelar, Donald Thomson, H. Powell, H.N. Kennard, James Jackson, George J. Ward, John Tomlin, E.H. Whitmore, John Lynch, George Rix and James Peterana. With the money provided on overdraft by the Bank the hall was lengthened and the side rooms were added but the financial commitment to the Bank also brought with it a period of continual financial anxiety and the coffers of the Society remained perpetually empty. However the Committee of the day made a determined effort to place the hall finances on a better footing. A bazaar was held which provided £42.15.3 towards the hall funds. Entertainments and card parties arranged by Mr and Mrs M. Moody and Mr and Mrs A. Currin also augmented the funds so in the course of time the finances of the Society were much improved.

In 1913 it was agreed that a new piano should be purchased. Although the exact cost is not recorded, it was evidently about £60, the arrangement being that it be paid off at the rate of £1.7.4. per month. By March 1916 the six members of the then committee agreed to each make a personal loan of £3 to pay off the amount still owing on the piano, and that they be reimbursed in 12 months time. It appears that some of these loans ultimately became gifts to the Society.

Prior to the installation of electric lighting in 1925 the hall was lit by an Alfa lighting system which required the lamps to be pumped up before use. 1932 to 1934 saw several improvements. A new copper was installed in the supper room, some structural repairs were carried out and improvements were made to the parking area.

A feature of the hall in the later 1940s was the mural that was painted on the back wall of the stage by Mr T.W. Dear, the local storekeeper at the time. Mr Dear had previously been engaged in the signwriting business in Wellington.

The first Hall Committee in 1896 is believed to have consisted of: Mr F.E. Clapperton (Chairman), Messrs. Wm. P. Kendall, Wm. Rankin, M.A. Moody, Geo. G. Jonathan, Jas. Jackson and Chas. Young. Chairmen that have served since that time have included Messrs. J. Jackson, W. Rankin, G. Craw, M.A. Moody, G. Rix, G.H. Currin (17 years), T.D. Lynch, W. Gilliland and E.W. Harrison. Those who have occupied the position of Secretary have included Messrs. R. Ross, J. Tomlin, A. Goldsbury, T. Stagpoole, M. Rix, O. Batchelar, D. Currin, Mrs Fraser and Mr D. Martin.

Repairs and maintenance continued to be a recurring item of expenditure but a time was reached when the inadequacy and deterioration of the building, aggravated by the second World War years when neither money nor materials were available, made further attempts at maintenance uneconomic. The building faced con-

## LINTON — ENTERTAINMENTS

Manawatu Standard — 3rd May 1906

The practical interest taken by the residents of Linton in the progress and welfare of their business town, Palmerston North, was manifested in no uncertain manner at the Town Hall, Linton, last night, where a concert and dance was held in aid of the clock and chimes fund. Practically all the countryside was present and the greatest enthusiasm was shown in the proceedings, particularly in the dancing. Mr W.T. Wood M.H.R. presided at the concert at which the following programme was submitted. — Overture, Mr W. Rankin; song, Mr Wallace; glee, Mr J. Bett and party; recitation, Mr Laurensen (encored); song, Miss Chandler (encored); song Mr Russell (encored); dance, Miss Ricki Wood (encored); song, Miss Wood (encored); recitation, Mr Harris; song Mr Rankin; farce by Moto Rimu amateurs, 'The Jealous Husband'; glee, Mr Bett and party; song, Mr Sharp (encored); song, Mr Wallace; song Mr Thomas; song, Mr Oldfield (encored); song, Mr Jos. Batchelar; farce 'Honey Bee' Moto Rimu amateurs. The accompaniments were tastefully played by Mrs Russell, all the items going well and being heartily received. At a suitable interval the Chairman, on behalf of Mrs Wood, publicly thanked those present for their attendance and assistance to the project, which was now nearly brought to a successful completion.



The Old Linton Hall. A wedding group. Date unknown.

— Photo, D. Rix.

demnation as being structurally unsound and it was realised that some £5000 would be needed to bring it up to an acceptable standard, therefore it was decided to dispose of it and build a new hall. Mr R.E. Boyd, who was at the time involved in potato growing, purchased the old building and used it for storage purposes.

The decision to build the new hall was comparatively simple but considerable discussion was yet to take place as to the style and size of the building, where it should be sited, and then of course, the old problem of how it should be paid for. Many ideas were tossed around the arena of discussion, some being unacceptable either because of cost or practicability. Finally a proposal was developed between the Hall Society, the Chairman at the time being Mr E.W. Harrison and the School Committee chaired by Mr M. Main, and the Wanganui Education Board whose chief Architect was Mr L.S. Barsanti, all encouraged by the close interest taken in the project by the then Minister of Education, Mr W.B. Tennent who had always taken a special interest in the Linton district. The proposal arrived at was a very practical plan that was generally favourably accepted.

Linton School was not large enough to qualify for an assembly hall but it was agreed that if the district could raise the necessary money to provide the basic building, a hall could be built on the school property and attached to the school, thus making use of the present services to the school such as water, sewage, electricity, etc., and that the Education Board would undertake to provide the architectural services. Also that the building be passed over to the school and would qualify for a grant from the Board for general maintenance and upkeep, yet with the proviso that it be allowed to be used for general purposes in the area. It was to be under the control of the School Committee but a sub-committee should be appointed

representing both the School Committee and the district to attend to the letting and general oversight of the building.

During the four years immediately prior to the opening of the new hall approximately £1500 per year was raised within the district and this, together with a grant from the Golden Kiwi lottery provided the bulk of the money to allow the venture to be proceeded with. A considerable sum was still required to complete and furnish the hall when building commenced. This was raised by Society members guaranteeing an overdraft at the Bank which was finally cleared in 1966. The building was constructed by Townshend Construction of Palmerston North and cost £12,000, approximately £10,000 being the district contribution and the balance was contributed by the Education Board.

Thus it was possible, on 29th June 1963 to open a new hall which would provide a venue for social gatherings in the district as well as an assembly hall for the school. The opening of the hall was quite a notable event. The Minister of Education, Mr Tennent who was also M.P. for Manawatu officiated. In addition to Mr and Mrs Tennent there were also present, Mr and Mrs Barsanti, Mr P. Townshend (Building Contractor) and Mr and Mrs W.H. Brown. Mr Brown was M.P. for Palmerston North and Chairman of the Wanganui Education Board. Also present was Mr A. Campbell, Education Board member for this ward. Mr Tennent commented: "Halls are great meeting places — one of the keystones of the community in fact." During the proceedings Mr Murray Rix presented the President of the Hall Society, Mr Harrison with a Parker Pen as a memento of the occasion. Afternoon tea was served by the ladies of the district, then at 8 p.m. that same evening the hall was used for its first major event, a social and dance which included performances by a magician and also by dancers from Thailand who were at the time, food technology students at Massey University.

## **"ONE HUNDRED & FIFTY NIGHTS IN LONDON"**

Early in the century the Linton people were endeavouring to raise funds for the hall and so successful was one of the performances of a local theatrical effort on home ground that the promoters decided to take it to Palmerston North. That day had been Race Day and the result was a full house. The audience became restive and were sparked into action when a huge Maori who had evidently been celebrating wins (or losses) rose and shouted "Pai Kore! — Amateurs!" This was too much for the long-suffering audience. There was a rush for the ticket office, followed by loud demands for "Money back!" Two stalwart policemen were needed to help restore order. It could be said that the "One Hundred and Fifty Nights in London" was "a riot" and was for long talked about by disgruntled Palmerstonians. The good news was that the Linton Hall Committee benefited to the extent of £75.



The New Hall under construction in 1962.

— Photo, Wanganui Education Board.

The new hall, the main body of which measures some 80 ft. x 36 ft. contained all the latest conveniences and amenities and would have compared favourably with any other structure of its kind in the Manawatu, its central position contributing in no small way to its usefulness. Mr E.G. Whitehead, the Headmaster wrote in the School Log Book on that day:

“The Hall is a magnificent monument to the efforts of all the people and children of this district and the school is justly proud of this Assembly Hall — District Hall — Community Centre.”

Perhaps the last comment could be that by Mr Murray Rix who wrote at the time:

“To those who have known the district for many years a pleasing thing has revealed itself. The same resolute spirit which prevailed in 1896 has been evidenced again in the 1960s, may the district derive many years as a just reward for their four years of energetic endeavour.”

At a meeting held prior to the opening of the new hall a discussion took place regarding its future administration. After a few minor misunderstandings had been cleared up and the functions of the Education Board and the proposed Management Committee had been defined, the meeting proceeded to elect its representatives to the Hall Management Committee. It was agreed that the representation should consist of four members from the Hall Society plus its Chairman, and four members from the School Committee. Those elected from the Society were Messrs. D. Rix, J. Robert, D.J. O'Connor and D.J. Martin as well as Mr E.W. Harrison who was Chairman of the Society at the time. A select committee was appointed to consider the siting of the Rolls of Honour and a number of other small matters also required attention. There was still a certain amount of money required to fully pay for the hall

so it was agreed that the Hall Society should continue to operate and remain responsible for the final payment of the amount owing. Mr D. Martin continued to act as Secretary of the Society with Mr D. Rix as Treasurer.

By the end of 1965 practically all the required money had been raised and the Society had also undertaken to provide certain extra items which included a hand wash basin, extra chairs and some curtains. The Hall Management Committee at the time consisted of Messrs. E.W. Harrison, D. Rix, D. Martin, R.S. Allomes (replacing Mr Robert who had left the district) and D.J. O'Connor as Society representatives, and Messrs M. Craw, J. Whitelock, J.R.B. Williams and A.J. Lynch as School Committee representatives.

Having completed its task the Linton Hall Society was no longer relevant to the situation so in 1966 notice of motion was given to effect the winding up of the Linton Hall Society. The Society ceased to exist as from 13th October 1966 thus ending 56 years of service to the Linton district since its incorporation in 1910.

The first meeting of the Hall Management Committee took place on 27th June 1963 and since that time the Committee has continued to supervise the day to day running of the hall. A wide variety of matters have received the Committee's attention ranging from the provision of additional furniture and fittings, negotiations re insurance and cleaning as well as fixing charges for letting the hall plus the many other matters that require attention in the administration of a public building. In 1983 a number of improvements and repairs were obviously urgently needed so the committee approached the district for financial assistance and about \$2250 was raised which was considered to be a good response, thus enabling the more important work to be carried out without making heavy demands on the general funds of the committee.

In 1967 it was agreed that the Headmaster of the school should be a member of the Hall Management Committee *ex officio*. The committee now includes representatives of the School Committee, and representatives of regular users plus some district representation. Those who have served as Chairman and Secretary since 1963 are:

<b>Chairman:</b>		<b>Secretary:</b>	
E.W. Harrison	1963-73	D.J. Martin	1963-67
R.S. Allomes	1973-78	D.J. O'Connor	1967-73
M.H. Batchelar	1978-84	D. Rix	1973-85
K.B. O'Connor	1984-	M. Marshall	1985-

The Linton Hall Management Committee continues to carry out its functions responsibly and efficiently, exhibiting pride in keeping the hall in good condition enabling it to be used as a centre of activity for many purposes in the district.

# 6

## Government and Local Bodies

### PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVES

Throughout its history the people of Linton have been represented in Parliament by either the member for Manawatu, or the member for Palmerston North, and for one term only, the member for Otaki, depending on the position of the electorate boundary at the time. The following are the names of those who have represented this area since 1871. Owing to the boundary changes the dates given do not necessarily indicate the total number of years each person has served as a member of Parliament.

W.W. Johnston	(Man.)	1871-1884	C.L. Hunter	(Man.)	1935-1938
D.H. McArthur	(Man.)	1884-1890	J.G. Cobbe	(Man.)	1938-1943
J.G. Wilson	(Pal.)	1890-1893	M.H. Oram	(Man.)	1943-1957
F. Pirani	(Pal.)	1893-1902	W.B. Tennent	(Man.)	1957-1966
W.T. Wood	(Pal.)	1902-1908	L.W. Gander	(Man.)	1966-1972
W.H. Field	(Otaki)	1908-1911	A. McCready	(Man.)	1972-1978
D. Buick	(Pal.)	1911-1918	M.E.C. Cox	(Man.)	1978-1987
J.A. Nash	(Pal.)	1918-1922	D. Robinson	(Man.)	1987-
J. Linklater	(Man.)	1922-1935			

Mr J.A. Nash had a special association with the Linton area right from the days when, as a young man, he worked for Nathan's Ready Money Store delivering groceries to the early settlers of this area. Dr G.C. Petersen describes him as:

"The boy who came out with the packhorses carrying the family groceries and provisions over the road where sometimes the mud reached to the horses' bellies, singing as he wended his way through the bush."

He became a prominent citizen of Palmerston North, was Mayor from 1908 to 1923, and was Chairman of the Palmerston North Hospital Board for 12 years out of a total of 40 years service to that Board. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, High Schools Board of Governors, Manawatu and West Coast A. & P. Association, and the Manawatu-Oroua Electric Power Board, to name just a few of his interests. It is interesting to note that at the Mayoral election in 1912 Mr Nash was elected with a majority of 1309 out of a total vote of 3203. Mr Nash was awarded the CBE for public service. He passed away in July 1952 at the age of 81, his gravestone in the Terrace End cemetery bearing the inscription: "His Life is His Monument." His son, Mr J.L. Nash farmed at Scotts Road, Linton for a number of years.

Mr M.H. Oram at one time owned land on Kairanga Track, now Camp Road. It appears that he didn't live in the district but took an active interest in its development being initially involved in the setting up of the Fitzherbert West Water

Supply and also the Ravenswood Co-operative Cheese Company. With his legal background he became Speaker of the House from 1950 to 1957. He was knighted in 1952.

Mr W.B. Tennent, in his capacity earlier as Chairman of the Wanganui Education Board and later as a Member of Parliament always took close interest in the Linton district, being particularly helpful in the district's acquisition of its new hall. He was Minister of Education from 1960 to 1963. He was awarded the CBE in 1973. Mr and Mrs Tennent claimed a special interest in the Linton district in that Mrs Tennent was a daughter of Mr W. Coombs who had been an early settler in this district and a member of the first School Committee.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In 1852 Provincial Government was introduced to New Zealand though that system did not affect this area greatly as the provincial system of government was already giving way to more localised bodies by the time settlers arrived in any number.

## MANAWATU ROADS BOARD

In 1872 the Manawatu Roads Board was formed, Mr G.M. Snelson of Palmerston being its first Chairman. Although records from this Board from 1878 to 1885 have been lost, it is known that Mr G.H. Engels represented the Fitzherbert district on that Board sometime during that period. Mr John Bell was Fitzherbert representative on the Board from 1886 to 1888 and he was followed by Mr W. Coombs from 1888 to 1889. The Engineer to the Board was Mr Armstrong and the first Secretary was Mr James Linton in whose home some of the meetings of the Board were held although its first meeting on 14th September 1872 was held at the Royal Hotel. The jurisdiction of the Board extended from Horowhenua to the Rangitikei River including Foxton and Palmerston. When the Board was formed there were only 100 names on the roll and the rates collected in 1873 amounted to less than £300 so with such a small source of funding the Board had a difficult task meeting the demands for roading in the developing area.

Counties were first established in New Zealand in 1876, the Manawatu County being the first to be established south of the Rangitikei River.

## OROUA COUNTY COUNCIL

The Oroua County seceded from the Manawatu County in July 1883, the new County's area of jurisdiction including what is now known as Linton in the form of the Fitzherbert Riding. Again Mr Engels was the Fitzherbert representative on that Council from 1883 to 1885.

## FITZHERBERT ROADS BOARD

The Fitzherbert Roads Board was constituted on 2nd September 1889, the first meeting of the Board being held at the home of Mr Sam. Greer on 17th of October of that year. Chairmen of that Board were:

J.R. Forster-Pratt	1889-1892
L. Wallis	1893-1896

Dr Charles Lemon	1896-1897
Wm. P. Kendall	1897-1902

The Board was divided into three Wards, each Ward having two members on the Board. Members of Ward 3 (Linton area) were:

John Bell	1889-1891
F. Caldwell	1889-1891
W. Akers	1891-1892
W. Sobyte	1891-1894
Wm. P. Kendall	1892-1895 also 1896-1902
F.R. Linton	1894-1896
Wm. Coombs	1895-1897
F.E. Clapperton	1897-1902

Members of Ward 2 who had close association with Linton district were:

Capt. J.D.R. Hewitt	1891-1897
Geo. Kendall	1897-1902
S. Greer	1896-1902

Engineers to the Board were Mr Dundas (1889 to 1891), Mr Scott (1891 to 1892) and Mr J. Stanley Bruce (1892 to 1900).

Secretaries to the Board were Mr J. Stanley Bruce (1889 to 1900) and Mr A. Guy (1900 to 1902).

The Roads Board representative on the Hospital Board was Mr Wm. P. Kendall. The last meeting of the Fitzherbert Roads Board was held on 27th March 1902.

The Horowhenua County Council was formed in 1885, its north-east boundary coinciding with the boundary of Linton near the present Tane Road. Mr Engels of Fitzherbert also became a member of that Council at one time. He owned land near Shannon and this qualified him to represent the Tokomaru Riding on that Council from 1893 to 1899, being elected Chairman for one year in 1896.

### KAIRANGA COUNTY COUNCIL

The Kairanga County Council was formed in 1902 taking over the function of the Fitzherbert Roads Board which had ceased to exist and also part of the Oroua County Council which was re-formed into a smaller County the following year. The first meeting of the Kairanga County Council was held in the Old Roads Board Offices on 14th May 1902. Originally the Fitzherbert Riding which included Linton extended almost to the Gorge with three representatives on the Council. Later this was reduced to two then was split into Fitzherbert East and Fitzherbert West with one member each.

The Chairmen of the Kairanga County Council throughout its history were:

S.W. Luxford	1902-05	P.J. Small	1923-24
Robert Were	1905-07	S.R. Lancaster	1924-25
Christian Voss	1907-10	Jos. Batchelar	1925-32
M.A. Moddy	1910-11	David Collis	1932-39
L.R. Bryant	1911-12	W.R. Hopcroft	1939-57
Charles Collis	1912-13	M.G. Hansen	1957-59
L.R. Bryant	1913-14	R.M. Collis M.B.E. J.P.	1959-74
David Collis	1914-17	T.E. Wilson J.P.	1974-83
J. Linklater M.P.	1917-23	C.A. Osten J.P.	1983-88

Those members of the Kairanga County Council who have represented this district and resided in the Linton area are:

S. Greer	1902-05	J.H. Hillas	1944-47
Wm. P. Kendall	1902 (d. 1902)	V.D. Fraser J.P.	1947-62
M.A. Moody	1902-20	J.R. Aldrich	1950-59
Geo. Crow	1911-20	H.D. Harris	1959-62
J. Batchelar	1920-41	J.R. Aldrich	1962-65
M.A. Moody	1923-35	E.W. Harrison	1965-74
T.D. Lynch	1935-44	D.J. O'Connor J.P.	1974-83
E.W. Croucher	1941-50	K.D. Crow	1983-88

The first County Clerk was Mr W. Rutherford who was appointed in 1902 at a salary of £225 for the first year and £200 per annum after the first year, but this was increased to £300 per annum in 1904. On the retirement of Mr Rutherford, his business partner Mr F.W. Connell became County Clerk. Mr Connell died suddenly in England in May 1930 so a young partner in the same firm, Mr N.I. Nielsen was appointed County Clerk, Treasurer and Returning Officer which appointments he faithfully and meticulously carried out as a part of his accountancy practice for almost the next 30 years.

By 1958 the Council decided to purchase its own office premises and employ its own full time clerk and clerical staff so the Breeders Club building adjacent to the showgrounds was purchased from the Manawatu-West-Coast A. & P. Association. In mid 1968 a proposal was put forward that the Kairanga County Council and the Palmerston North City Council should merge but the idea was quickly laid to rest. County Clerks during the existence of the Kairanga County Council are as follows:

W. Rutherford	1902-16	J.A. Gregg	1963-71
F.W. Connell	1916-30	G.A. McPherson	1971-81
N.I. Nielsen	1930-58	T. Jackson	1981-87
R. Milligan	1958-63	Miss R. Sykes (Act.)	1987-88

Engineering appointments to the Council have been as follows:

Mr Armstrong	who had previously been engineer to the Manawatu Roads Board was appointed Engineer to the Council in 1902.
Mr T. Bastin	was appointed County Inspector in Dec. 1903 which position he held until Dec. 1915.
Mr Matthews	was engineer from Jan. 1916 to May 1916.
Mr Scott	temporary engineer until arrival of Mr Wright.
Mr A.H.M. Wright	commenced in August 1916 to May 1924.
Mr J.E. Menzies	appointed June 1924.
Mr L.C. Pickering	appointed in 1935 but had already been acting engineer for some time.
Mr A.L. Lyall	appointed 1965 but had been assistant engineer for a number of years. He retired in 1977.
Mr A.D. Truebridge	appointed consulting engineer from 1977-1988.

From about the mid 1980s pressure was being brought to bear by central Government on local bodies to consider amalgamations, allegedly in the name of efficiency. Discussions took place between representatives of the Counties of Manawatu, Kairanga, KIWITEA, Oroua and Pohangina as well as town authorities

within those counties. After protracted discussions a plan of amalgamation was agreed upon between Manawatu and Kairanga Counties, replacing the two with a new body to be known as the Manawatu District Council. The result of this decision was that the two counties ceased to exist at the end of March, 1988, with the new Council coming into being in April and having a representation of five members from each of the areas of the old councils. The last meeting of the Kairanga County Council was held on Tuesday, 29th March 1988.

### **MANAWATU DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Nominations were called for the new Council and the five elected from the Old Kairanga County area were previous Councillors. At the first meeting of the new District Council on 6th April 1988 Mr C.A. Osten, previously Chairman of the Kairanga County Council was elected to the Chair. Mr K.D. Craw, previously Deputy Chairman on the old Council, continues to represent this area on the new Council.

Present administration staff are:

Mr R. McAlister	Manager
Mr H. Riach	Secretary
Mr P. Cassidy	Engineer
Mr G. Waller	Foreman

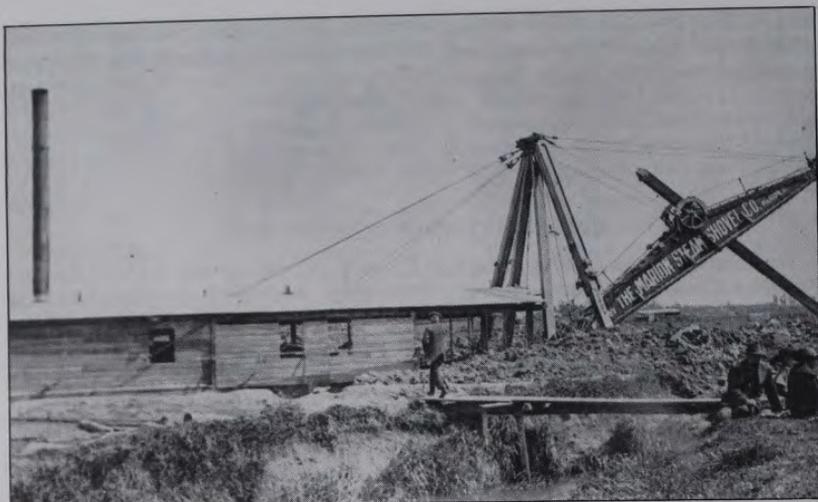
### **FURTHER LOCAL BODY REFORM**

At the time of going to press further local body reform is taking place, (late 1988). It is intended that the Manawatu District Council will be re-formed to also include the present KIWITEA, Pohangina and Oroua Counties as well as Feilding Borough and it is anticipated that the new administration will be based at Feilding.

The Palmerston North City Council sought to have the whole of Linton included within the city but so far the Local Government Commission has extended the city boundary only as far as Camp Road/Hewitts Road. A final decision should be made by the end of the year.

## **THE MAKERUA DRAINAGE BOARD**

The Makerua swamp, mainly situated in the area known as Opiki, extended into the south-west corner of the Linton District. This included much of the land between the present railway and the river, south-west of Akers Road. The area was occupied in the early days of European settlement by Mr William Akers whose land was adjacent to the Manawatu River, while much of the low lying swamp area was allocated by the Government to the Wellington-Manawatu Railway Company. The lowest lying part of the Linton area is only some 12 m. above sea level so it quickly became evident that any use of this land must first be preceded by drainage, as it was at that time, an almost impassable swamp. The Railway Company constructed the first Linton Main Drain in 1889, a much smaller drain than it is to-day. As the railway land passed into private ownership the work of draining was carried on throughout the swamp area and it became obvious that a co-ordinated system of drainage management was needed, so by Order in Council on 24th September 1906 the



The Marion "Dipper" Dredge working on the Main Drain in the 1920s.

— Photo, P.N. Public Library.

Makerua Drainage Board was formed and it was that body that continued to develop the drainage system of the swamp.

In 1922 the Board purchased a "Dipper" dredge from the Marion Steam Shovel Company, which was a coal powered punt mounted model capable of moving 30,000 cu. yds of material per month. This machine was used to deepen, widen and bank the Linton Drain thus making it a waterway of considerable size and provided an adequate drainage system right into the low lying Linton area. The draining of the land has allowed it to be developed for various types of pastoral and agricultural purposes and the land to-day is considered to be some of the best in New Zealand.

## THE FITZHERBERT WEST WATER SCHEME

As farming developed in the Ravenswood-Whitmore area, probably the most serious problem that the farmers had to face was the question of an adequate water supply for their stock. Some open wells were dug ranging from 8 to 15 metres deep but they were not particularly reliable and involved a great deal of work drawing the water by bucket. At the time, of course, an electricity supply had not been provided in the district. It was necessary at times for farmers to drive their stock to either the Kahuterawa Stream or the Nguturoa Creek near the Anglican Church so that the animals could get access to water.

The first reference to a proposal to establish a local water supply is found in an entry in the Minute Book of the Kairanga County Council dated 6th June 1916:

"Messrs. Oram, Stallard and Smith waited on the Council and stated that they represented the farmers in the Ravenswood Block in the Fitzherbert District. The farmers there, found that there was a scarcity of water and



The old water supply settling tank in the Kahuterawa Valley.

asked that some scheme be instituted to pump water from the stream to a retaining reservoir on the high table land, and from there, distributed to various creeks and watercourses."

The Council examined the legal aspects of the proposed scheme then visited the locality. At one stage the ratepayers concerned proposed convening themselves into a River Board.

In January 1917 Mr W. Smith and other ratepayers in the area, also a well known Palmerston North Engineer, Mr Robert Edwards waited on the Council in respect to the proposed water supply. Mr Smith addressed the Council as did also Mr Edwards who outlined various possible schemes. It is evident that the original idea was soon discarded in favour of a piped supply to the farms in the area. At a meeting of the Council in February 1917 Messrs. Smith, Anderson, Hansen and O'Connor together with Mr Edwards submitted plans of the proposed water works district, plans of suggested piping, and a petition from the ratepayers. It was resolved at that meeting that the question of raising a special loan for the purpose be left in the hands of the Chairman, Engineer and Clerk of the Council together with the County Solicitor. Mr S. Jickell of Palmerston North was appointed as advising engineer but he was soon replaced by Mr Sladden.

The area of land included in the suggested plan was considerably greater than that which is now supplied by the scheme, the original proposed area extending along the Main Road to Kahuterawa Road, plus several other sections, but several owners requested that their land be excluded from the scheme. A Special Order passed by the Kairanga County Council created the Rating area of some 2250 acres and the district was constituted a Water Race District from and after 22nd September 1917.

An initial loan from the Government for £5000 was granted, Mr R. Edwards was appointed Engineer for the construction of the scheme and work commenced at about the end of 1918. The construction of the scheme was quite a massive undertaking considering the fact that the work had to be done by hand tools and the pipe traversed some rather rough country. The supply was gravity fed from a settling tank that was built about ½ mile beyond the present County Reserve in the Kahuterawa Valley. Because of the geography of the valley the pipe crossed the river in three places and in the event of major floods it was common for at least one of the crossings to be washed away. The settling tank also required cleaning every few months. In order to keep costs to a minimum the bulk of the maintenance work was done by the Committee members with the help of other ratepayers on the scheme.

The Management Committee was appointed by the County Council to maintain the scheme from the time it came into operation in 1921. At its formation the Committee was given full powers of the Council to administer the scheme including the power to strike rates, but not to raise loans unless prior permission of the Council had been obtained, also with the proviso that the County Clerk act as Clerk to the Committee. The County Engineer was appointed Engineer to the scheme after the resignation of Mr Edwards in 1933. The excellent relationship between the Council and the Committee continued for the remaining 55 years of the Council's history.

The pipeline followed the course of the river to the top of Hewitts Road, continued cross country to the Main Road, thence to Whitmore Road corner. Sub-mains to supply other areas of the scheme led off at suitable points. During the construction two additional smaller loans were required to complete the work, the scheme costing in total in the vicinity of £10,000.

The system had been built with steel mains and galvanised reticulation pipes being the only materials available at that time. Corrosion took its toll over the years and the problem was at its worst during and after the second World War when replacement materials were unavailable so most ratepayers suffered severe water shortages during those years. In order to by-pass some of the corroded piping a pump and soak well was installed in 1955 to boost the supply. Then as the gravity supply became less a second pump was installed and the gravity system was abandoned. The two pumps operated for some years then in 1978 a centrifugal pump was installed which had considerably more pumping capacity than the other two pumps put together.

In 1963 a new four inch fibrolite main was installed from the pumps to Whitmore Road, no attempt being made to restore the gravity supply as the cost of piping would far outweigh the cost of power at that time. Since then the rest of the system has been progressively replaced with non-corrosive pipes.

The scheme originally supplied water for the stock on the land within the rated area and for the houses associated with the farms. Over the years, as a result of subdivision, a large number of houses have enjoyed the benefit of the scheme, there being now over 70 houses supplied. Supply of water is permitted for normal farm use and stock requirements and also for normal household use. The water may not be used for commercial horticulture or pasture irrigation.

In more recent years, with the advent of heavy machinery, major works have been carried out by the staff of the Kairanga County Council. A recent amalgamation of Counties has now resulted in the formation of the Manawatu District Council.



Repairing the water supply pipeline in the Kahuterawa Valley after a severe flood. Date uncertain  
—late 1930s. — Photo, Kairanga County Council.

The scheme at present (mid 1988), is debt free, it is not subsidised in any way and the cost of its operation must be borne by the ratepayers. Finances are administered through the Council system and costs are met by rates and charges.

Restrictions on the normal use of the water are avoided as far as possible but it is a comparatively low capacity supply so consideration and care in the use of the water is needed, the Committee relying heavily on the goodwill and commonsense of consumers.

The Management Committee consists of six appointed members who must be ratepayers. Those who have served on the Committee are:

<b>Chairmen:</b>	W.J. Harris	1921-1931
	T.H. Gretton	1931-1941
	E.W. Croucher	1941-1947
	C. James	1947-1949
	J.R. Aldrich	1949-1968
	M.M. Greer	1968-1984
	W.J. Lauridsen	1984-

### Committee Members (including periods as Chairmen):

W.J. Harris	1921-31	T.R. Gretton	1962-70
H.J. Lauridsen	1921-31	M.M. Greer	1964-85
J.J.P. Lynch	1921-31	A.L. Aldrich	1969-82
I. Croad	1921-30	J.E. Hight	1970-77
A. Smith	1921-31	D.J. Martin	1974-84
T.H. Gretton	1921-54	W.J. Lauridsen	1977-
D.K. Cameron	1931-44	E.C. Harrington	1978-83
G.H. Collis	1931-37	K.B. O'Connor	1978-
R. Greatorex	1931-33	M.J. O'Donoghue	1983-
A.J. McEvedy	1931-61	R.G. Perry	1984-
J. Lauridsen	1931-61	B.D. Sinclair	1984-87
C. James	1937-49	A.J. Lynch	1985-
E.W. Croucher	1937-53	C.B. James	1987-
J.R. Aldrich	1944-68		
N.C. James	1949-78		
C.C. Collis	1953-73		
D.J. O'Connor	1954-78		
J.W. Robert	1961-64		

### Engineers to the Water Scheme:

Robert Edwards		to 1933
L.C. Pickering	(Kairanga County Council)	1933-1965
A. Lyall	(Kairanga County Council)	1965-1977
A.D. Truebridge	(Kairanga County Council)	1977-1988
P. Cassidy *	(Manawatu District Council)	1988-

Mr Lyall was Assistant County Engineer and was closely associated with the scheme for a number of years prior to 1965.

### Secretary/Treasurers to the Water Scheme:

F.W. Connell (K.C.C.)	to 1930
N.I. Nielsen	1930-1958
R. Milligan	1958-1963
J.A. Gregg	1963-1971
G.A. McPherson	1971-1981
T. Jackson	1981-1987
Miss R. Sykes	1987-1988
H. Riach (Man. Dist. Council)	1988-

## ELECTRICITY

It is difficult to believe that less than 70 years ago electricity was unavailable in this area. For household lighting, candles were generally used and early residents have recalled that frequently candlegrease would be accidentally spilt on clothes and a hot iron or some other means would be needed to remove it. Many modern amenities, all dependent on electricity were also unknown. The advent of this source of power would be one of the major influences in the changing lifestyle in the last one hundred years.

Not until about 1924 did a supply of electricity become generally available in the Linton district. Mr Geo. Graw had operated a generating plant in his flax mill some years earlier but public supply did not eventuate until the reticulation of the area in conjunction with the establishment of a source of supply.

As early as 1906 surveys were carried out in the Mangahao area near Shannon with a view to setting up a hydro-electric power station. Soon after that discussions took place regarding the possibility of a power project at Makuri Gorge in northern Wairarapa. About that same time Mr Robert Edwards, civil engineer of Palmerston North advocated the harnessing of the water power available in the Manawatu Gorge. It was thought that such an undertaking would provide power requirements for the southern half of the North Island. Mr S. Jickell, then engineer to the Palmerston North Borough Council reported favourably on the proposal of a power station based at Mangahao. By 1915 this site was regarded as the most suitable, and again it was considered that a station on that site would provide sufficient power to meet the requirements of the southern end of the North Island.

The wheels of progress turned rather slowly, probably even more slowly because of the fact that it was wartime, until in June 1918 the Palmerston North Borough Council promoted a conference of delegates of interested bodies, including local bodies, industrial users, Chambers of Commerce, Farmers Union and Dairy Companies representing all the southern portion of the North Island. This conference recommended that the Government pursue the Mangahao project and decided to set up a local Hydro-Electric League to promote the idea.

As soon as the war ceased, attention was paid to the development of the project and the work was vigorously pushed ahead. It involved driving a tunnel through the Range from Mangahao River to Arapeti, a mile long and seven feet in diameter, and another tunnel to the surge chamber  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length and eight feet in diameter. The two pipelines from the surge chamber then split into four ultimately supplying three machines of 5000 kilowatts each and two of 2500 kilowatts each. The station was opened on 3rd November 1924. In the meantime bulk supply lines were built. The line to Bunnythorpe is well known to Linton residents as it passes right through the middle of the district. Linton School children of that time recall that a representative of the power authority came to the school and gave a talk about the scheme to the children. The old wooden poles that traversed the Linton area cost £1.10.0 each and were dragged to the sites by bullock teams. The insulators cost 10/- each. During recent years work has been carried out progressively replacing the wooden poles with concrete ones. This 110 kV line was commissioned in December 1924 and is now one of the smallest in the region.

Attention also needed to be given to the setting up of a local reticulation authority and the outcome of earlier meetings with interested potential users was that on 10th December 1920 a provisional Oroua Electric Power Board was set up with Mr G.J. Harford, the then Mayor of Feilding as Chairman. It was intended at the time that the Palmerston North Borough Council and the Kairanga County should set up a separate Board but this was not approved by Mr J.G. Coates, the then Minister of Public Works who was not in favour of numerous small authorities so at a rather stormy meeting on 27th June 1921 it was agreed to set up a larger Power Board. The first meeting of the provisional enlarged Board was on 29th July 1921, which was presided over by Mr J.A. Nash with Mr J.R. Hardie, Town Clerk of Palmerston North acting as Secretary. It was decided to name the supply area the Manawatu-Oroua Electric Power Board which was finally constituted on 29th November 1921 with Mr J.A. Nash as Chairman. The first Engineer was Mr W.A. Waters who held

that position until 1945 and the first secretary was Mr K.W. Eglinton who served until 1958.

Plans for the reticulation were laid out with power to be made available to the Board through the State sub-station being erected at Bunnythorpe, however, power was not yet available from Mangahao so a temporary supply from the Palmerston North generating station at Terrace End was obtained, the power at the time being only used for lighting. In August 1924 the first milking machine was converted to electric drive on Mr Bennett's farm on Rangitikei Line and after the success of that first venture there was a general rush by farmers to have their milking machines driven by electric power. The Board had also purchased a power plant from the Feilding Borough Council which did good service until power was received from Mangahao at 5.30 p.m. on 19th December 1924. The Board's sub-station at Bunnythorpe was officially opened on 29th August 1925.

The early supply arrangement for the Linton area was via an 11 kV feeder which crossed the river from Karere Road and ended at Linton Store, with a 3.3 kV line extending to the Kahuterawa Stream. The original river crossing was on two 40 ft. hardwood poles but debris floating down the river during floods often became entangled in the lines, consequently two steel towers were erected providing a total height of 106 feet. The span was 29 chains with a sag of 75 ft. In 1930 the line from Linton Store corner to Tiritea Road was converted to 11 kV, the work being carried out at night with the use of six floodlights mounted on a Model T Ford truck, the power for the lights being supplied by a 110 volt Delco generator. The gang worked seven hours at ordinary rates but were paid for eight, and the job was completed by Christmas Eve, 1930.

In 1960 a river crossing was installed at Walkers Road and an 11 kV line was brought along the Camp Road to the main Shannon/Palmerston North highway. The crossing is on 52 ft. hardwood piles with a 13½ chain span and a sag of 13 ft. A new 33 kV line from Bunnythorpe to a sub-station built at Tiritea on Old West Road further boosted the supply for the University area.

In the 1970s the State Electricity Department planned and erected a new sub-station known as "Linton" which is, in fact, constructed at Harts Road, Tiritea. This provided another supply point for the Manawatu-Oroua Electric Power Board which included giving an additional line to the Linton area thus giving adequate alternative supply in the event of breakdowns. In June 1981 the Electricity Department, now Electricorp, commissioned a 220 kV line from the "Linton" sub-station to Judgeford. This line through the Linton area follows the foothills of the ranges and is the most modern and heaviest line in the region.

The local power authority has seen many changes in its almost 70 years of existence. The modern equipment used today for installation and servicing is a far cry from the days when the Board depended on a carrier with a waggon and four horse team to transport the poles to the sites where they were to be installed. A development that could be considered to be one of the most important during the Board's history was the advent of radio-telephone allowing the outside staff to keep in contact with each other and with their bases.

Mr J.A. Nash who had always had a close association with the Linton area was the first Chairman of the Manawatu-Oroua Electric Power Board which position he held for ten years and he remained on the Board for a further twenty years. Two Linton residents have been members of the Board as representatives of the Kairanga County Council. They were Mr J. Batchelar — 1932-35 and 1941-43, and Mr V.D. Fraser — 1971-72.

# 7

## *The Development of the Railway*

**L**inton is a settlement that came into existence as a result of the establishment of the Railways so it is appropriate that some background information should be given regarding the history of the Wellington-Manawatu Railway Company. However, it should be remembered that not only the original survey of the district but also the major subdivision of the Township of Fitzherbert (D.P. 12) which extends from what is now Akers Road to Eyre Road, adjacent to the Main Road were completed long before the railway was ever thought of. For the most part the sections and lots were only lines on a map but they provided the basis for the future occupancy that was to come later with the advent of the railway.

Up to the early eighties of last century the region between Wellington and the tiny settlement of Palmerston was a wilderness of forest, flax and swamp, an area described at the time as "encumbered with timber and water." The only other means of overland travel to Wellington was by means of an eight horse coach which travelled along the beach for most of the way.

As early as 1871 Public works Policy had included recognition of the need to open up access from the Port of Wellington to the extensive country in the north of the province but no action was taken. A plan by the Government to build a railway to Foxton had been proposed in 1878 and by the next year construction had started on a short section between Wellington and Johnsonville and a survey had been made of the route to Foxton. Due to a change of Government in 1879 which brought with it a change of policy on Public Works expenditure, the project came to a sudden halt, the Government of the day claiming that it had run out of money. The building of railways and other public works had proceeded at a very rapid rate during the preceding years and by 1879 New Zealand had a greater mileage of railway track in proportion to its population than practically any other country in the world so it is not surprising that money for new works was scarce.

However this situation did not satisfy a group of business men in Wellington who could see vast potential in the almost trackless wilderness of the western coastal strip north of Wellington. On 30th September 1880 a public meeting of business men interested in the development of a west coast railway line was called. About 30 people were present and an investigating committee was formed. Mr James Woodward was appointed Chairman and Mr James Wallace was appointed Secretary. The provisional committee acted very swiftly deciding that "without delay" a railway should be constructed between Wellington and Manawatu. A deputation waited on the Government, the Premier, Sir John Hall stating that although the Government had no money for the project, it would favourably consider the idea that the citizens take the initiative and build the railway as a private venture and that the Government would be prepared to make certain concessions

to a company formed for the purpose. To facilitate the project the Government in 1881 passed "The Railway Construction and Land Act" and on the 23rd August of that year, the day following the second reading of the Bill, the Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company was registered with an initial capital of £500,000 later to be increased to £850,000. The first directors were: Messrs. J.E. Nathan (Chairman), Jas. Bull J.P., C.H. Johnston M.H.R., W.H. Levin M.H.R., Jas. Linton J.P., J. Plimmer, J.S.M. Thompson, W. Turnbull J.P., and Jas. Wallace. Mr T.W.L. Travers was appointed Solicitor for the Company.

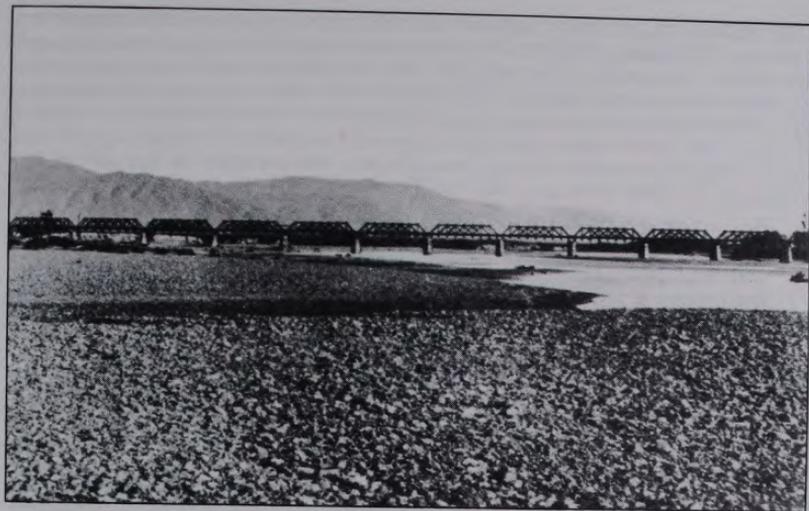
A contract was signed with the Government on 22nd March 1882. The conditions of the contract included the endowment of land to the Company to the value of 30% of the cost of the undertaking which ultimately amounted to about 215,000 acres, the blocks of land to be handed over to the Company as the line was completed. All such land was to be within 15 miles of the railway. The Government also agreed to hand over to the Company the works that had already been commenced near Wellington. The Company was required to conform to Government standards with respect to construction, rolling stock, track gauge, etc. and the stipulated date for completion was 25th September 1887. The practical problems arising from such an undertaking were quickly attended to. The "N.Z. Times" reported:

"... The brief time which has elapsed since the project was first set on foot, the untiring energy with which the difficulties inseparable from the launching of any great undertaking, were, either in Cabinet or in the field faced and removed..."

A valuation had to be placed on the land involved, this Mr Jas. Linton did on behalf of the Company free of charge (on 237,000 acres!). Mr H.P. Higginson M. Inst. C.E. was appointed Chief Engineer to the Company to design and superintend the construction of the line. He was a man of wide experience in railway construction in several countries around the world and was, at the time, in private practice in the South Island where he had completed the Waimea Plains Railway. He had also, for a time, served as one of the heads of the Public Works Department. He was offered a salary of £1250 per year with an additional £250 per year if the job was completed by 25th September 1887. Mr A.R.W. Fulton was employed as surveyor and engineer and later, with the operation of the line, became Traffic Manager and Locomotive Superintendent.

The line was resurveyed to allow easier gradients, shorter distance and lower construction costs, the major change being to meet the Government line at Longburn instead of Foxton. While this decision was a substantial blow to the growing centre of Foxton, the Directors could see that the new route would open up considerably greater areas of land that would otherwise be restricted in development by difficult access, and after all, it was the opening up of productive land that was one of the major reasons for the venture. One such area that was affected by this move was the area later to be known as Linton.

With agreement between the Government and the Company having been completed and other preliminary matters taken care of, construction commenced in September 1882. The major works that were necessary included 13 tunnels in the Wellington-Paekakariki area besides cuttings and fillings and four large bridges, viz., the Belmont Viaduct, the Paremata Bridge, the Otaki Bridge and the Manawatu Bridge at Longburn, as well as smaller ones. The construction of the Longburn Bridge presented special difficulties of its own because of the difficulty of transporting materials to the site. It was found that the materials could be brought by river transport to a point about half a mile south of Buckley's clearing near Shannon



The Old Longburn Railway Bridge.

— Photo, P.N. Public Library.

then from that point a light line was constructed along the approximately 12 miles to the site of the Longburn Bridge. The bridge was started from both ends, the contractor being Mr M. O'Connor who was also contractor for the Wirokino Road bridge and the Ashhurst Road bridge. On 14th July 1883 the "Feilding Star" was able to report:

"It is very satisfactory to know that the Directors of the Manawatu Railway Company are determined to lose no time in completing the line. The heavier works at the Wellington end are now so far advanced that those from the Palmerston terminus can be proceeded with, and completed in time to effect a junction at an arranged point at a comparatively early date. The Chief Engineer, Mr Higginson, has advertised No. 11 contract, Palmerston section, for the formation and permanent way, tenders to be sent in up to August 7th. As the work will be commenced immediately after the signing of the contract, the whole of the summer months will be available during which rapid progress will doubtless be made towards opening up communication between Wellington and the West Coast. The towns and villages along the line will benefit much, but Wellington will be elevated into the dignity of a seaport town. The 'fishing village' will be forgotten."

The composition of the directorate of the Company saw some changes even before the railway was opened. At the Annual Meeting in 1882 Mr G.V. Shannon replaced his business partner Mr J.S.N. Thompson who had returned to England. Mr Turnbull also returned to England so was ineligible but was not replaced. In 1885 Mr James Linton retired from the Board and was replaced by Mr J. Kirkcaldie.

In the meantime the land endowed to the Company was gradually being offered for sale. The Company Report of 1885 indicated that 20,000 acres plus the suburban Township of Linton was ready for sale.

An auction sale of Linton sections was advertised to be held in Wellington on Tuesday, 19 February 1885 but very few sections were sold at the auction although the opinion expressed at the time was that the auction would have been more successful if it had been held in Palmerston North. After the auction the sections were offered to the public at upset prices and some were slowly sold off over a period of years. The lack of sales resulted in a severe temporary shortage of funds but construction work continued with much loyalty and patience on the part of the employees. On 24th February 1885 the "Feilding Star" again reported:

" . . . As the Wellington-Manawatu line approaches connection with the Wanganui-Manawatu line, so will the number increase of persons seeking land with the view of commencing farming operations on either side to avail themselves of the ready means which will then be afforded of the Wellington market for the disposal of their produce."

The work of construction proceeded so rapidly that the ceremony of the driving of the last spike at Otaihanga near Waikanae (adjacent to the present Southward's Car Museum) took place on 3rd November 1886, some nine months before the contract date allowed.

The opening ceremony was quite a celebration with a total of about 1000 people attending, who were brought to the site on two trains, one from Wellington and one from Palmerston. Their Excellencies Lieut-Gen. Sir William and Lady Jervois attended as did also the Premier, Sir Robert Stout and several Ministers of the Crown. Mr J.E. Nathan, the Chairman of the Company delivered a lengthy address in which he reviewed the history of the Company. Some comments that he made are as follows:

" . . . We claim that not only have we built a railway that will benefit the whole colony, but that we have set such an example to our fellow colonists, of united action for the common good, that it will for ever afterwards serve as a monument of well-directed energy and perseverance . . . In September, 1882, the first contract was commenced, and to-day, 3rd November 1886, or in four years and two months, the last contract has been finished, and the works may be said to be completed . . . The total area of this country so served by this line as the main trunk leading to Wellington harbour is 5,000,000 acres, little more than one-fifth of which can be said to be occupied, the balance awaits development . . . The back country proper of Wellington has only been touched at its threshold. The Manawatu Railway is the royal road to its development. No part of New Zealand is equal to that portion which this railway will serve for cattle raising or as an agricultural country, because of its salubrity, shelter, and the quality of its soil . . . "

The occasion was celebrated by the "Evening Post" with a commemorative souvenir issue. On 29th November of that same year a lavish banquet was held in the Theatre Royal in Palmerston North where the Mayor, Mr A. Ferguson presided and dignitaries of the town and the Railway Company attended to mark the opening of the line.

It was assumed that the Government would take over the line at some future unspecified date. Some thought that this would be as soon as the construction work was completed, but the line was in fact, operated by the Company until 7th December 1908 when the Government assumed ownership, the date coinciding approximately with the completion of the North Island Main Trunk Railway.



Linton Railway Station.

— Photo, J. Hight.

A regular passenger service was commenced on 1st December 1886, the first train to Wellington carrying almost 600 passengers and taking 4 hours 35 minutes to make the journey, including stops.

The Company operated the 84 mile line very successfully during its 22 years of ownership, introducing to its operation many innovative ideas, providing excellent service, and at the same time showing a good financial return, all in spite of the fact that the Government of the day placed many restrictions on the Company regarding its mode of operation. Restrictions were at first placed on the number of engines permitted to be operated also on such matters as the prohibition of operating Company equipment over Government lines. Some of the restrictions were modified in later years.

Some of the innovations introduced during the operation of the line by the Company were:

- \* For communication purposes the Company operated a telephone rather than a telegraph system. Also a telephone was installed in each guards van so that in the event of delay or breakdown the guard could place a hook over a wire that ran the length of the track giving him instant communication.
- \* In 1888 the Company's line was the first in New Zealand to introduce dining cars as a service to passengers. The first was a rather primitive affair but much more elaborate diners were introduced in the 1890s, even providing silverware and flowers on the tables, and the later cars being equipped with stoves and refrigerators. The last diner to be introduced by the Company in 1902 was 52 feet long and was the longest mainline car in the country until 1925. The catering

service was leased out to Mr Walter Freeman who was widely held in high respect for the quality of the service he maintained.

- \* In 1894 the Company introduced the first compound engines to the colony. They were No's 13 and 14, both Baldwin engines. During the 1895-96 financial year No. 14 travelled over 33,000 miles, the greatest mileage ever covered by a Company engine in a single year.
- \* At the 1898 Annual Meeting, the Chairman, Mr T.G. McCarthy said "I think we may claim that our trains were the first in the Southern Hemisphere to which the principle of lighting with electricity has been successfully applied." (Apparently introduced in 1895). A report of 1901 stated that the electric lighting system had been cheaper to operate than expected — "while other advantages of electric lighting such as brilliance, steadiness, lack of fumes, safety in accidents, etc. that give it such superiority over gas and oil are too well known to be detailed here." It is interesting to note that when the Government took over the line in 1908 the electric light system was discarded and replaced with gas! Electric light was not used on Government railways for almost another 20 years.

A notable event took place on 20th July 1892 when the Company conducted a special speed trial between Wellington and Longburn with a light train. The slightly under 84 miles was covered in 2 hours 6 minutes with a net running time of 1 hour 58 minutes, claimed at the time to be a world record for a 3 ft. 6 inch guage track. Speeds of over 60 miles per hour were reached on the straights in the Shannon area. But for normal services speeds were very much less, the fastest Company trains, the "New Plymouth Mails" having a Wellington to Longburn timetable of 3 hours 30 minutes.

Of the twenty locomotives put into service by the Company the first eight were English and the remainder were American, supplied by the Baldwin Locomotive Works, Philadelphia. The total mileage covered by the locomotives during the 22 years that the Company operated was in excess of five million miles. The rolling stock was of American design and initially of American manufacture but later the Company built its own cars although some of its passenger cars were built by the New Zealand Railways workshops. By 1908 the Company operated 346 goods waggons and 65 passenger cars.

First class fares from Wellington to Longburn in 1886 were 17/6 but by 1906 had reduced to 9/11. One truck of sheep in 1886 from Longburn to Wellington cost 52/9 and by 1906 had reduced to 44/8. For those interested in statistics it may be added that the amount carried by the railway up to 1908 was:

Passengers .....	5,838,082
Sheep .....	6,288,581
Cattle .....	249,311
Timber .....	117,055,413 super feet

An extract from the Company report of 1889 was descriptive of the effect of the railway on the area that was opened up as a result of its operation:

"We have opened up a vast area of country for settlement, and have already located on the lands a large number of farmers, who, with their families, are converting the forest to grasslands, carrying large quantities of valuable stock. Through the facilities we have been able to offer, numbers of sawmills and flaxmills have been completed adjacent to our line, employing many hundreds of people and putting an end to any cry of unemployment within a hundred miles of this city."

At least four settlements were named in recognition of men who, at some time,



Railway Engine at Linton crossing. Note dress style on children, also remnants of bush in background. Date of photograph unknown but Engine is believed to be No. 9 or No. 10 of the Wellington-Manawatu Railway Company. — Photo, Linton School.

served as Directors of the Company, namely Plimmerton, Levin, Shannon and Linton.

An interesting personal account relating to the establishment of the railway that first appeared in "Linton School and District Jubilee Souvenir" published in 1939 is reproduced below. It was written by Mr Dugald Matheson, the first Headmaster of Linton School although the incident obviously took place several years before his association with Linton. His parents lived at Karere which, at the time was quite an important centre. It was not until the railway link-up with Longburn that Karere gave place to Longburn as the centre of activity. No doubt, as a young man of only about 18 years of age at the time of this incident, he would have taken a very great interest in the setting up of the new railway. He wrote as follows:

"It was some time before the official opening of the line in November 1886 that I was invited to join a crew of three who were conducting the first freight train down the line, consisting of a mob of fat bullocks consigned to the freezing works at Wellington by the late Hugh Gillies. The train left Longburn in the evening of a moonlight night, throughout which a person could obtain a fair view of his immediate environment. Once clear of the Manawatu Bridge all signs of pioneering ceased. Nothing but bush and swamp was visible until a few buildings and Maori whares indicated our arrival at Shannon. On our left the beautiful forest of Tokomaru was all in its virgin state, and Linton was scarcely touched by the axe.

Then came the dreary run from Shannon to Otaki with scarcely a trace of

human occupation between. Levin at that time did not exist, but 'Buckley's Clearing' nearby made a lasting impression. There, on our return journey from Paekakariki, we encountered a large mob of wild horses which used to roam over the unoccupied areas of Horowhenua. The driver slackened speed and it was a rare sight to see the terrified animals galloping in front of us for upwards of half a mile.

Then onward we proceeded monotonously through a land that appeared dead — no houses, no human beings, no roads, not a single animal. That is why I remember the one tiny incident after passing the wild horses. At dawn we pulled up below Linton and loaded up a large truck of firewood which we shunted right into the back yard of John Newton, the driver."

When the Railway Company built its line the station provided at Linton was quite a simple structure, a low earth platform with a timber face and the station itself was a simple vertically boarded shelter shed. A single loop line capable of accommodating 27-17 ft. waggons plus a locomotive was provided. In 1889-90 a goods shed was provided to serve the loop. The subdivision of the Township of Whitmore which took place just before the opening of the railway, provided in the plan a site for a railway station but it never eventuated. Two gangers' cottages were built at Linton Station and two or three others were built at Whitmore, near the Longburn Bridge. A house occupied until 1987 by Mr Herb Witherington was originally a railway house. During 1894-95 additions were made to the two houses at Linton and a third one was built during 1902-3. In 1907-8 a set of new cattle yards was erected.

As early as 1896 the Rangitikei County Council wrote to the Fitzherbert Roads Board regarding the question of the Government taking over the Wellington-Manawatu Railway Company, then in the minute book of the Roads Board in 1899 a resolution stated: "Resolved, that this Board will agree to co-operate with other public bodies in bringing pressure to bear upon the Government to purchase the (Railway) Company. Further, that the Chairman be appointed to represent the Board at the meeting of delegates to be held, to consider that the Government shall take over the Railway.

Then an entry in the Minute Book of the Kairanga County Council dated 11 September 1906 states: "It was the opinion of this Council that the time has arrived when the Wellington-Manawatu Railway Company should be taken over by the Government." These views coincided with those taken by a number of organisations about that time, including the Wellington Chamber of Commerce that had promoted the Railway Company in the first place. Although the Company could be said to have been an outstanding success, it was felt that in view of the fact that the construction of Government lines was now practically completed, that it would not be in the best interests of the public to have two rival railway administrations controlling what was essentially one service. So in December 1907, the Premier, Sir Joseph Ward gave the Company notice that the Government intended, in 12 months time, to exercise its right of purchase. In September 1908 the Wellington and Manawatu Railway Purchase Act became law and the Government purchased the whole of the undertaking for £933,000 which was considered by the Premier to be a bargain price. The book value of the Company's railway at the time was £828,376. And so the assets of the Company passed into the hands of the Government on Monday, 7th December 1908.

In April 1910 representations were made to increase siding and shed accommodation at Linton station which was carried out. The goods shed of 40 ft. x 20 ft. being provided, the crossing loop lengthened by five chains to enable mail trains to



Alterations being made to signalling equipment at Linton Railway Station. Date unknown.  
— Photo. C. Stevenson/NZR.

use Linton as a crossing place instead of Longburn, and the approach road increased to 18 ft. in width. A tablet porters office was added to the station in 1911 with interlocked signals and tablet instruments installed. This entailed the building of two more houses for tablet porters, the cost of the two being £1400.

In 1910 the then Minister of Railways, Hon. J.A. Millar visited the Longburn Bridge and agreed that the structure should be substantially strengthened. Also with the Minister was Mr W.H. Field, M.P. for Otaki electorate which, at the time extended to this area. After the visit Mr Field wrote to the Kairanga County Council pointing out the desirability of constructing a new road to Palmerston North following the route of the railway thus avoiding "the very uneven, circuitous and unsatisfactory road in that locality which at present constitutes our Main West Coast highway." He suggested the building of a road bridge either attached to the side of, or on top of the railway bridge and he strongly urged that all local bodies in the area combine their efforts to achieve this objective. His letter concluded:

"The present seems an opportune time since the Government is just about to strengthen the railway bridge and might be disposed to consider favourably such proposals as your council and other local bodies interested may have to submit. I need hardly say that my best efforts can be relied on in this matter."

The Council of the day did not appear to show any enthusiasm for the suggestion.

However, the strengthening of the railway bridge was obviously carried out. A newspaper report in mid 1912 indicated that a repair shop which had existed adjacent to the Longburn Bridge had been demolished and the repair gang that had been working on the bridge for so long had moved to another area.

In 1935 the Traffic Manager considered that the £40 suggested cost of a water

supply for the cattle yards was justified in view of the fact that the cattle railment revenue from Linton for the previous year had amounted to £351, so an artesian well was installed giving ample pressure without the need for pumping.

In about 1940 a large machine was being transported on a flat deck waggon of a goods train crossing the Longburn Bridge en route to Palmerston North. It had shifted slightly allowing it to project beyond the side of the train just sufficient to strike the trestle framework of the bridge. The result was that the railway line was buckled and a section of the side of the guards van was torn off and ended up on the river bed below.

Another accident occurred in 1945 south of Scotts Road crossing when 19 waggons were derailed and a considerable length of track was ripped up, then a further derailment 3 or 4 years ago nearer the Longburn Bridge.

1942 saw major developments at the Linton railway to accommodate the traffic generated by the establishment of the Linton Military Camp. The crossing loop was lengthened to accommodate 90 waggons and two sidings in the station yard were added as well as other work. Then it was necessary to build the 2½ mile line to Linton Camp. The Railways requested that experienced platelayers be released from the Army to carry out the task which, it was estimated, would take 30 men four to five months to complete. The cost of all this work was met by the Defence Department except for a small extension in the Linton yards which the Railway Department had intended to carry out anyway. The Army Department provided a shunting engine to handle goods waggons but troop trains using the siding were hauled by engines of the Railways Department.

Although the quantity of goods transported through the siding to the Army Camp diminished after the war, the facility proved to be of use for other purposes. In 1950 the Tiritea sawmill made arrangements for a supply of logs from the King Country. These were delivered by rail to the Army Camp siding then collected by truck and taken to the mill. This arrangement continued for about three years.

About 1952 the State Hydro-Electricity Department established a storage depot on Camp property for steel and other goods that were required for the construction of the high voltage transmission lines that were being built across the Manawatu at that time. This material was also supplied to the depot via the Linton Camp siding during a period of several years.

Having outlived its economic life, the Longburn Bridge needed to be replaced so in the late 1950s work began on a new bridge about ½ mile downstream from the old one. The siting of the new bridge allowed easier curves enabling greater speeds and also shortened the track by about half a mile thus reducing average travelling time from Linton to Longburn by about three minutes.

The pile driving for the new bridge was carried out by Rope Construction Company of Auckland, the piles all being driven on dry ground. When those on the dry riverbed were completed the river was diverted to allow the others to be driven.

The new bridge was opened by the then Minister of Railways, Mr M. Moohan on 18th October 1960.

The 1960s saw the gradual demise of railway services through the Linton Station, the first casualty being the stock yards which were closed in January 1966. Later the same year the yards were put up for sale and duly sold. The next service to consider closing was the passenger service. In 1968 a survey was taken to ascertain the amount of use that was made of the service. It was found that on one particular weekday train only one passenger alighted on two occasions during an eleven week period. And for two trains on Sundays over four weeks, only one passenger alighted

over the whole period. As can be imagined the result of the survey was the cessation of passenger services. The station buildings were then sold and removed. Bulk goods facilities remained available until 1972 but in November of that year the station was closed to all traffic and the goods shed was sold in March the following year to Mr R. Allomes who rebuilt it as a workshop on his farm. The Railways retained the private siding as well as the crossing loop. At about that time the question of maintaining the siding was considered but in view of the high cost of the work needed to be done and the small amount of traffic using the siding, it was decided that the siding should be "wasted out" or operated without maintenance for the remainder of its useful life. The siding was finally closed on 22nd November 1983.

## Longburn Freezing Works

An interesting appendage to the development of the Wellington-Manawatu Railway Company's line is the story of the establishment of the Longburn Freezing Works. Although not based within the Linton area the Works has provided meat processing facilities to the Manawatu for almost a century and also provided employment for a number of Linton residents.

In 1882 the first shipment of frozen meat left New Zealand for England in the good ship "Dunedin," an experiment that proved so successful that within eight years one million carcasses per year were being shipped to Britain. This then was the export climate under which the Longburn Works was established in 1890.

Many farmers in the Manawatu had been dissatisfied with prices being paid for stock by existing Works owing to the fact that prices paid were based on quantity rather than quality so a group of local interested people with the support of a firm of butchers in London decided to establish a new Works in the Manawatu. A Board of Directors was appointed consisting of Messrs. C. Bull (Chairman), J.O. Batchelar, J. Beale, R.S. Abraham, A. Macpherson (Secretary), G.G. Scott (Auditor), and J.H. Hankins (Solicitor). The first idea which was supported by all the Directors was to build a Works at Foxton, load the produce onto barges which would then be towed out to ships waiting off shore. It was hoped also that the additional loading facilities which would be necessary at Foxton could be utilised for flax and grain. However, when the Shipping Companies were asked for an opinion, they promptly turned down the idea and instead asked why shouldn't the Works be built adjacent to the already existing railway so that the meat could be railed and loaded at the well appointed Port of Wellington instead of suffering the whims of the weather and trying to load ships with both ships and barges bobbing around in the Tasman Sea.

Mr Joseph Beale had previously operated a boiling down establishment at Longburn so this site together with some 26 acres of land adjacent to the railways was selected and at a cost of £27,000 the Works was built by Messrs. Munro Bros. of Palmerston North, the first killing being carried out in October 1890. By 1894, because of adverse economic times, the new company found itself in severe financial difficulties with the result that the Supreme Court ordered that the Company be wound up and the Works was to be sold by public auction.

A South Island stock and station company, The National Mortgage and Agency Co. Ltd. held a first mortgage of £15,000 over the Works so, as their representative, a member of their Solicitor's staff attended the sale. The young man who was sent to the auction found that there was no local interest whatsoever in the sale of the Works so on placing a bid of £10, the bid was accepted and the concern was

knocked down to him. The young solicitor who attended the sale was Michael Myers who later became Chief Justice of New Zealand.

This gave National Mortgage and Agency complete control of the Works which the company reorganised and it later became a profitable business. N.M.A. continued to operate the Works until 1940 at which time it was sold to the Co-operative Wholesale Society of England. That company amalgamated with Thos. Borthwick and Sons Ltd. in 1976 and the business became known as Borthwicks/C.W.S. Early in 1986 Waitaki International Ltd. purchased the business but it was not long before industrial problems resulted in the closure of the Works, the last day of kill being 6th September 1986. Negotiations are taking place regarding the future of the premises.

# 8

## *The Dairy Industry*

From the 1880s when the earliest dairy farmers milked only a very few cows, skimmed the cream off the milk after allowing it to stand for some time, making butter from the cream at home, then either selling or bartering the butter at the nearest store which may have been many miles away, a highly integrated industry has developed that effectively, efficiently and hygienically handles the milk from the dairy farms of the district. The Manawatu has featured as a place of beginnings and developments of many aspects of the dairy industry of New Zealand.

Of course the industry required equipment, both on the farms and in the dairy factories that would eventually be set up as the industry expanded and developed. In 1883 Mr J.H. Monrad of Bunnythorpe, a son of Bishop Monrad, one of the very early settlers in the Manawatu, produced what was probably the first illustrated catalogue of dairy plant which included both butter and cheese making equipment. In order to ease the burden of hand milking some form of mechanical milker was of interest to the farmer and many were developed, some being more successful than others. On 5th August 1890 Mr Herbert Woodham, a school teacher of Foxton patented "a milking syphon for cows" which, although not a success, is regarded as being the first mechanical milker patented in New Zealand. It has been claimed that Messrs. J.B. MacEwen and Co. introduced the first milking machine to New Zealand. Many of the makes of machine that were developed fell out of favour but one of the earliest that stood the test of time for many years was the L.K.G. (Lawrence-Kennedy-Gillies). Within living memory, many were the milking machine shops that lined Rangitikei Street in Palmerston North. One of the earliest suppliers of equipment in Palmerston North was the firm of Messrs. Holben and Kirk, established in 1897. Their business rapidly expanded and was soon supplying equipment not only to farmers but particularly to the dairy factories that were being set up in the region.

The Babcock Test was developed in 1890 and this encouraged attention to be paid to the breeding of cows that would produce maximum butterfat returns to the farmer as well as developing other qualities that the particular breeds were noted for. To this end the New Zealand Jersey Cattle Breeders Association was formed in 1902, the first President being Mr J.O. Batchelar, followed in 1909 by the Ayrshire Cattle breeders Association, first presided over by Mr J. Kyle of Palmerston North.

Several commercial firms that have had a considerable effect on the industry were established just before the turn of the century. The firm of Messrs. Joseph Nathan and Company promoted and financed many of the dairy companies that were later set up in the Manawatu. The Directors of this company saw vast potential in the developing dairy industry and were well to the forefront with new developments and new products as well as paying attention to the securing of overseas markets. Then in 1893 Mr David Nathan provided considerable impetus to the setting up of the New

Zealand Farmers Dairy Union which commenced operations in November of that year. This company was, for a time, one of the largest concerns of its type in New Zealand, establishing butter factories in Palmerston North, Wellington and Eketahuna, and operating some 36 skimming stations. The third company of that era that should be mentioned was that of Messrs. Finn, Chisholm and Company of Wellington who were agents for the Sharples separator. In order to encourage the sale of home separators this company formed the Wellington Fresh Food and Ice Company operating a butter producing factory and it also opened skimming stations and was active in the lower North Island during the formative years of the industry. All three of these companies contributed greatly to the introduction of home separation to the industry although the practice was not readily accepted for several years.

Development within the industry continued at a rapid pace. In 1889 Mr John Sawers, the first dairy instructor was appointed and in 1896 two officers of the Department of Agriculture were appointed as inspectors of dairies. As early as 1895 iced trucks were introduced on the Taranaki to Wellington railway line so that butter consigned to Wellington for export to Britain would be kept in the best possible condition. In 1927 the New Zealand Dairy Research Institute was established adjacent to the then Massey College and this organisation in co-operation with the dairy companies has played its part in the progress of the industry. In more recent years the introduction of tanker transport and the universal use of stainless steel has brought vast changes on the farm as well as in the factory where many entirely new methods of processing have been developed.



In the earliest days of Linton dairying was not carried out to a very great extent, generally sheep farming holding principal place until more facilities became available to the dairy farmers. Mr J. Stanley Bruce who came to Linton in 1887 and occupied sections 123 and 124 (now part of the Irvine property) is credited as the first person to introduce Jersey cows to the district. In those days it was generally the lot of the womenfolk to set the milk and skim it before they made the butter by hand which was then sold at threepence per pound! Mr Bruce left the district in 1889 but it was not until another nine years had passed that the first skimming station was set up.

At least five different factories or skimming stations have existed at various times and places within the district but they have all long since gone.

The earliest was a skimming station located near the corner of Whitmore Road, almost exactly where the driveway to the home of Mr and Mrs A.J. Lynch leaves the Main Road. This depot was brought into operation in 1898 by the New Zealand Farmers Dairy Union whose principal factory was in Fitzherbert Avenue, Palmerston North on land that is now occupied by Pak 'n Save Supermarket. The skimming station manager was Mr A. Pritchard, Mr Geo. M. Sharpe becoming manager later.

The same company established a second skimming station in the Linton area at Scotts Road in 1910 with Mr H. Webb as manager. This was located on the western side of lower Scotts Road at the intersection with the Main Road. A windmill marked the spot for many years. Mr Hudson transported the cream by horse drawn vehicle from the two skimming stations to the Palmerston North factory, collecting, en route, the cream from the skimming station which existed at the corner of Kahuterawa Road and Old West Road. He was paid £50 per year for his effort. His contract was later taken over by Mr Arthur Collis. These two skimming stations



Levin Dairy Co. Cheese Factory and Skimming Station at Millricks Line, Linton. 1906-1910.  
— Photo, D. Rix.

continued only until about 1913. The N.Z. Farmers Dairy Union Co. produced butter under the brand name "Black Swan" but could not export it under that brand owing to the fact that it was already the brand name of an exporting company in Western Australia, so for export purposes the brand "Hinemoa" was used.

The Levin Co-operative Dairy Company Ltd. was established in Levin in 1899. At a meeting of Directors on 20th July 1900 the possibility of operating a skimming station at Linton was discussed but at a further meeting on 29th of that month it was agreed that no further action be taken in the matter in the meantime. In 1902 it was decided that the skimming station at Linton should be proceeded with but the project was held up for another year until the Dairy Company was able to persuade the Wellington-Manawatu Railway Company to allow its trains to stop at Linton to pick up the cream for cartage to Levin.

A two acre site (Part Sec. 100) on Millricks Line was purchased and the skimming station was built which was opened in 1903 under the managership of Mr Winge. The first supplier to have his milk separated on opening day was Mr T. Jeffs. Other first day suppliers were Messrs. G. Aldrich, G. Craw, G.H. Hankins, W. Rankin, J. Kennard, A. Martin, J.H. Roberts, W. Suckling, G.J. Ward, W. Yardley, G. Rix, G.E. Wright, J. Anderson, Hope Bros., J. Jackson, C.V. Hansen, S. Young, F. Young and R.H. Amyes. The skimming station operated for several years with the cream being transported to the Levin factory by train. In 1906 the Directors decided that a cheese factory should be built at Linton on the same property, this being under the management of Mr McDonald. The company also continued to operate the skimming station, its manager at that time being Mr H. McFetridge.

Fire destroyed the cheese factory in 1910 but during its operation it reached a peak production of 132 tons of cheese from 18 suppliers during the 1909-10 season. After the fire the company reverted to the operation of only a skimming station which was managed from 1911-16 by Mr T. Kilpatrick and from 1916-23 by Mr W.H. Leahey. Mr W. Gooch who had previously been a teamster on the Craw property, managed the skimming station from 1923 until its closure in 1925 when the suppliers decided to go in for home separation.

From that time onwards, the cream was collected from the farms and taken to Levin by truck. Mr Gooch continued with the company as truck driver for many years. The first truck to be used was a "Republic" then when the company purchased replacement trucks, the newest one was always used on the Linton run because of the distance involved.

The Levin Dairy Company could be described as a very progressive company producing a fine quality product, its butter being marketed under "Lake" brand. For a number of years the company operated its own well equipped pig farm at Levin making use of the surplus buttermilk, and in 1967 purchased a 22,500 litre Hino tanker which was, at the time, the largest in New Zealand, later replacing the tractor unit with a Mack. The tanker was used to carry skimmed milk from Levin to the Tokomaru factory for casein manufacture. The Tokomaru casein factory was, at the time being operated under the joint ownership of Levin Dairy Company, Manawatu Dairy Company and Wellington Dairy Farmer Producers Co-operative.

Linton suppliers have been represented on the directorate of the Levin Dairy Company by Mr Geo. Rix (1905-1916), Mr F.M. Young (1934-1943), Mr M.U.E. Rix (1943-1949), Mr W. Gilliland (1949-1969) and Mr A.J. Lynch from 1969 until amalgamation with the Manawatu Dairy Company in 1976. Former Linton resident, Mr J.D. Aitchison was also a director for some years but not during the time he resided in Linton. During Mr Gilliland's term as director he represented the Company for some time on the Boards of Tararua Farm Products and Manawatu Mills Ltd.

By 1916 much of the land owned by Mr G. Craw that had previously been in flax production was being brought into grass production, soon to be grazed by several large dairy herds.

Mr Craw proceeded to build 4 cowsheds, each designed to milk about 100 cows, which would be considered to be very large herds in those days. Later Mr L.H. Craw built another 2 cowsheds at Linton and also 2 at Tokomaru, the cream from those two being taken via the swing bridge and supplied to the Kairanga Dairy Company. The Tokomaru property was later sold.

A photograph and article appeared in the "New Zealand Farmer" in December 1938 that described a cowshed that was considered to be probably unique in New Zealand, and that had been built on the Craw property at Linton. The date of its construction was not mentioned but it was a pit cowshed which could be regarded as the forerunner of the present day herringbone sheds. The article stated:

"... It is a race shed, and the system adopted (it is claimed) enables two men to milk 100 cows in less time than three men milking the same number of cows in the usual run-through shed.

The idea is a sunken pit some three feet in depth, with bails to hold six cows on either side. The milkers work in the pit, standing while they strip. This, no doubt, is the reason for the shorter time in milking. The cups and pipes run



Levin Dairy Co. Skimming Station after Cheese Factory had been destroyed by fire.

— Photo, D. Rix.

down the centre of the pit and can be swung across to either side when required.”

Mr Craw saw in his dairying enterprise, an opportunity to open his own private cheese factory which would be supplied entirely by the milk from his own cows. It is believed that this was the only factory in New Zealand that could claim that distinction. The factory opened in 1917 under the name of the Loch Moigh Cheese Factory. From small beginnings the production tonnage rapidly increased to the extent that in the 1937 to 1945 era production exceeded 150 tons per year on several occasions.

While the Craw factory was operating, milk was sometimes supplied to Wellington City to augment their supply in the winter months. The milk was taken in cans by trains from the Linton Station and sent to the Wellington Milk Treatment Station. The cans were transported in the guard's van each day.

During the war in 1941 when the call was made for increased cheese production several local farmers were zoned to supply this factory but that situation only lasted for one season.

The first factory manager was Mr Conquest, followed successively by Mr Ernest Sharp, Mr Richard McBrearty and Mr Harry Torrey. Mr McBrearty was first assistant to Mr Sharp, and Mr Trevor Dunshea who worked at the factory for some twenty years was first assistant to both Mr McBrearty and Mr Torrey. Mr Denzil Craw was second assistant.

Others who worked in the factory at various times included H. Aldrich, J. & M. Trembath, A. Moyes, P. Campbell and A. Meads.

The factory produced cheese under the “Galaxy” brand. It may be noted that this

brand is now used by the N.Z. Co-op Rennet Co. Ltd. of Eltham.  
Loch Moigh Cheese Factory closed in about 1947.

The Wellington Fresh Food and Ice Company which had been formed by Messrs. Finn, Chisholm and Company of Wellington became, for a short time, an active force in the industry, particularly in the Horowhenua area. The parent company was active in the marketing of separators for home separation and endeavoured to promote the idea in the industry although it was not readily accepted by many of the dairy factories due, it was argued, to the fact that hygiene standards on the farms could not be controlled to the extent that this could be done in factories and skimming stations. So the result was that home separation did not come into favour for a number of years. In the meantime this company operated a buttermaking plant at Otaki which processed the cream from the various skimming stations that it operated.

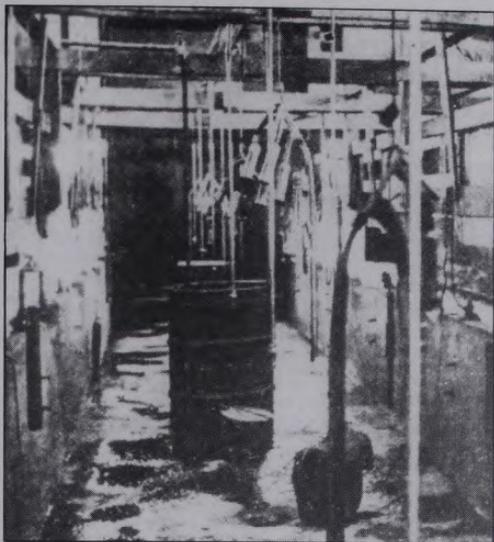
In 1908 the Wellington Fresh Food and Ice Co. established a skimming station on the Main Road near Whitmore Road, but this was on the south side of the creek where a large concrete block still stands. The concrete block was the milkstage of the Ravenswood factory which occupied the same site some years later. The cream was sent to Otaki by rail, this arrangement being operated by the Company for about four years, marketing its products under the "Gold Leaf" or "Mahoe" brands. The Otaki Proprietary Co. operated the same skimming station for a further four years, the cream still being railed to Otaki and the butter being marketed under the "Otaki" brand. Mr Robert Brown appears to have been manager of the Otaki Proprietary skimming station.

In 1916 a group of farmers in the Ravenswood-Whitmore area took a bold step in deciding that they would build and operate a new cheese factory on a co-operative basis, to be known as the Ravenswood Co-operative Cheese Co. Ltd. A preliminary meeting was held in the home of Messrs. Smith Bros. (Now the Greatorex family home) in May 1916. A further meeting was held at the end of June where Mr M.H. Oram presided. Mr Oram who was a well known Palmerston North lawyer and later a Member of Parliament, owned land on what is now Camp Road. Others on the provisional committee were Messrs. A. Smith, R.P. Hansen and F.C. Raikes. A report of a further meeting in August indicated that those present agreed to proceed with the formation of the Company, the first Chairman of Directors being Mr W.J. Smith and Mr A.H. Grant was appointed Secretary to the Company. The newspaper went on to say:

"The contract has been let to Mr R. Maunder to erect an up-to-date factory provided with every modern facility on a site to be purchased. It will be of two vat capacity and capable of expansion to three vats and the cheese room will be designed on convenient lines. The plant will be the best obtainable. The factory is to be built partly of concrete and partly of wood and will be ready to commence operation on November 1st.

The supply from 300 cows has been guaranteed the new company to start with."

Unfortunately very little information is now available regarding this venture. Its peak production year was 1924 when 112 tons of cheese was forwarded for export. There were 17 suppliers that year although the number of supplies had peaked at 20 the previous year. Milk was supplied to the factory from as far away as the property now owned by Massey University and in more recent years owned by E.A. Perry and



The Pit Cowshed on the Craw Property. Regarded as the forerunner of present day Herringbone Sheds.

— Photo, N.Z. Farmer.

Sons. To provide a supply of wood for the boiler, 300 cords was at one time obtained from the bush on the James farm on the opposite side of the road.

In 1924 Mr A.E. Mansford, accountant and later Mayor of Palmerston North, was appointed Secretary to the Company in place of Mr Grant. Mr W. J. Harris became Chairman of Directors and others believed to have served as directors included Mr H.J. Lauridsen and Mr T.H. Gretton.

Mr A. Patchett was Manager of the factory throughout its operation and it is known that Mr G. Withers, Mr J.R. Aldrich and Mr Bert Armstrong worked in the factory at some time.

The Company ceased operations in 1927.

Its product was marketed under the "Ravenswood" brand.

With the closure of the skimming stations and the Ravenswood cheese factory farmers in the Linton area supplied their home separated cream to factories around the district, the cream being collected by truck. Most of the Levin Dairy Company suppliers remained loyal to that company. The N.Z. Farmers Dairy Union, the Awahuri Dairy Company and the Kairanga Dairy Company all collected cream in Linton, in some cases trucks from several companies travelling over the same roads. Many were the discussions amongst farmers as to the merits of each company.

In 1941 due to the war situation, Britain called for increased cheese production instead of butter so farmers in Linton were zoned to supply factories for maximum cheese production. The N.Z. Farmers Dairy Union installed a cheese making plant

at its factory in Palmerston North and farmers from the Ravenswood-Whitmore end of the district supplied that factory with milk. A few farmers adjacent to Craw's factory were zoned to that factory and others were directed to Tokomaru. After a year of cheese production the emphasis returned again to butter and generally the situation returned that had previously existed although the Government made an attempt to see that cream collections were zoned to specific areas to reduce unnecessary running in order to conserve fuel and tyres.

The New Zealand Farmers Dairy Union ceased production and closed its operations in about 1946.

Craw's factory closed in about 1947 and following that the Craw farms supplied Glaxo at Bunnythorpe until 1950. At first a Brockway truck was used to transport milk, then a Studebaker. In the peak of the season five loads of milk per day were carted, three in the daytime and two at night, the company paying a premium for milk supplied at night. The Craw farms then supplied Tokomaru which later amalgamated with Shannon.

The Tokomaru factory which had commenced operation in 1915 amalgamated with Shannon in 1959, the company continuing to operate the plant at Tokomaru. This arrangement continued until 1968 when the amalgamation with the Manawatu Dairy Company took place. Mr G. Lance Craw served as a Director on the Board of the Shannon/Tokomaru Company during those nine years, holding in the year 1967-68 the position of deputy Chairman. Mr Denzil Craw was a director from 1959 to 1962 and Mr J. Whitelock became a Director in 1965, continued until the amalgamation, then became a member of the Manawatu Dairy Company Board.

In the late 1950s attention was being given to the solids-not-fats aspect of milk production which indicated advantages in the supplying of whole milk to factories instead of cream. Owing to the fact that individual companies were too small to finance or have insufficient throughput to erect and operate their own milk powder plants, discussions took place, first between the Rongotea Dairy Company and the Awahuri Dairy Company regarding the possibility of amalgamation and it was through those discussions that the Manawatu Co-op Dairy Company was formed in 1960. A succession of other companies merged with the Manawatu, those affecting the Linton area being Kairanga Dairy Company in 1960, Shannon/Tokomaru Dairy Company in 1968 and Levin Dairy Company in 1976. The initial moves toward amalgamation also coincided with the introduction of tankers for milk collection from the farms instead of the use of cans, bulk handling providing a more efficient method of transport.

It may be of interest to note that the amalgamations of the 1960s were not the first attempt to bring the dairy companies of the Manawatu together to form one company. On 10th July 1918 Mr J.A. Nash presided over a meeting where about 100 people were present representing twelve dairy companies in the Manawatu area from as far south as Shannon, where discussions took place as to the possibilities of amalgamation with a view to dried milk production. Two representative directors from each company were appointed to form a committee to investigate further but no record has been noted of any progress in the discussions.

The history of the present Manawatu Co-operative Dairy Co. Ltd. is described in a report from the Company as follows:

"The company initially used only the existing casein factory at Awahuri and the various small cheese factories of those companies that had merged. It became obvious that if the Company was to progress, and with a large number of suppliers requiring a wholemilk service, that the Company would need to erect



Craw's "Loch Moigh" Cheese Factory. The building on the left was used by TVNZ in a re-enactment of the Powelka story. — Photo Gavin Craw

modern units, not only to process the milk but to provide products required for the market place. Therefore, the Company took the bold step of deciding to centralise all its manufacturing activities at Longburn. The reason for selecting a site such as Longburn was that it was contiguous to rail, there was an adequate water supply and we were adjacent to the large city of Palmerston North which would provide the main labour force.

The company then erected a milk powder factory which came on stream in 1964/65 and a butter factory in 1968. The Manawatu Dairy Company was the first company in New Zealand to introduce continuous buttermaking and as a result of the pioneering work, a majority of companies today have installed continuous buttermaking equipment.

The Company's office moved to Longburn in 1970 so that the administration section was alongside the manufacturing facilities.

In the late 1970s it was obvious that our casein factories were not meeting the standards to produce an edible food product and with the difficulty of effluent disposal, it was decided that the Company should erect a casein factory at Longburn, together with whey manufacturing facilities.

The Directors therefore decided that a factory capable of taking at least 50% of the Company's peak milk intake (which is 1.6 million litres daily) should be erected. Work commenced in 1979 and in August 1981 the first milk was put through this unit."

Manufacturing sales in 1985/86 reached in excess of 80 million dollars, production in that year being over 17,000 tonnes of butter, 13,000 tonnes of milk powders, 5,500

tonnes of casein and 4,892 tonnes of lactose. In addition, over 800 tonnes of Alucen, a whey protein concentrate was produced which was achieved through present modern technology in the New Zealand dairy industry which now allows for the recovery of a range of sophisticated products from the components of milk which are in turn used for many purposes.

In the year 1987/88 something of a milestone in the progress of the dairy industry in the Manawatu was reached when the milk producers for local consumption merged with the Manawatu Dairy Company with the result that all the approximately 800 dairy farmers in the area extending from Taihape in the North, Wanganui in the West, to Wellington in the South and bounded by the Tararua/Ruahine Ranges are now, in fact, suppliers of the Company. A joint venture with the Wellington City Council Municipal Milk Depot has resulted in the formation of Capital Dairy Products Ltd which packs milk in bottles, cartons and plastic containers as well as producing yogurts and other cultured foods.

A further milestone may be reached in the not-too-distant future if preliminary negotiations now taking place between the Manawatu Dairy Company and the Tararua Dairy Company result in a merger between those companies. This would bring the entire industry in the lower North Island (excluding Taranaki) under one control, with approx. 1500 suppliers being involved.

Linton was represented on the directorate of the Awahuri Dairy Company by Mr V.D. Fraser who was elected to that Board in 1954, then serving at the initial amalgamation, became a Director of the Manawatu Dairy Company where he served continuously until his death in 1972. Mr John Whitelock of Linton became a Director of the Manawatu Dairy Company in 1968 as a result of the Shannon/Tokomaru — Manawatu merger. In 1979 he was appointed Chairman of Directors, which position he has held continuously until the present time.

# 9

## Other Industries

### SAWMILLS

When the first European settlers arrived on the scene, bush covered a large part of the area at present known as Linton. Consequently a number of mills have existed at various times and in various parts of the district.

The earliest record of any move to establish a sawmill was in 1863 when a Mr John Halsam of Lower Hutt leased 830 acres at Kahuterawa of £100 per annum "with right of sawing and using any timber . . . as long as he pleases" There is nothing to indicate that Mr Halsam settled in the district. It is believed that the area referred to could be that now occupied by Linton Military Camp. However, the mill was never established owing to the fact that the land had not at that time been purchased by the Government from the Maoris so the resident Magistrate, Mr Walter Buller (based in Foxton) declared the lease to be illegal.

Later a mill was set up on the same piece of land by Mr Fritz. Jensen, sawmiller of Palmerston North, who bought the land in November 1885 for £1320. Little is known about the mill but Mr Jensen evidently owned the land for only about 15 months.

The Wellington-Manawatu Railway Company's annual report of 1888 indicates that a steam sawmill had been opened at Linton by Thompson and Co. but there seems to be no further information regarding this mill from any other source.

In about 1889 a small mill was established at Whitmore by Messrs. Mosen and Steffenson. As far as can be ascertained this mill was located in Weld Street, probably on lots 31 and 32, part of the land now owned by Dr Wickham. It is known that several children of the Mosen family attended Linton School within the first two years of its existence. The names of Beck, De la Hunty and Munro are also known to have been associated with the Whitmore Mill.

Any history of milling in the Hilltop area prior to 1900 is rather hazy but about that year the three McGregor brothers established a large mill at Hilltop, the area being known as Moturimu. Mr Ian Argyle in "To Argyle's Last Acre" gives an excellent description of mill operations in the Hilltop area. It is evident that due to the geographical problems of the site a number of difficulties had to be overcome. Probably the most significant step taken in this direction being the establishment of a cable operated tram from the mill down to the bottom of the hill. The tramway was later extended down along Scotts Road through the Rix property to the Linton Railway Station. Mr M. Rix has recorded an account of this operation:

"On the top of the hill there was a huge drum on which a brake operated and the man would slowly brake the trucks of timber down to the bottom and the empties would be hauled back, passing the full ones at a siding half way, to be loaded to go down again. The trucks of timber, when they reached the bottom

of the hill were picked up by horses. These were rather remarkable animals to watch; there were no reins on them; they just walked down the line and as the driver told them to get on or get off as they came to the corners, they stepped first to one side of the line and then to the other, and so the timber was brought down to the Linton Railway Station . . .”

Mr Gilbert Pritchard was mill foreman, Messrs. John Crawford, Arthur Pritchard and Robert Symonds were engine drivers, Mr E. Bastin was blacksmith, Mr Robert Mather was ropemaker, Messrs. George Field and Robert Stent were drivers, Robert Grey was cook and George Wilson was clerk. In addition there were yardmen and bushmen, some of the names identified being E. Ellis, H. Heins, S. Metcalfe, J. and W. Haumann, P. Oldfield and R. Sproal.

McGregor Bros. also took an interest in the social amenities for their staff. John McGregor became the local postmaster, a school was established for the children of the area, church services were conducted as an extension of the Anglican Church and the two stores in Linton at the time each operated a delivery service to the area. Medical aid in times of emergency was recorded by Mr M. Rix as follows:

“There was a single line telephone from the Linton Railway Station to the settlement at Moturimu. Very often men were injured and Mr G. Rix (his father) was contacted, who would then harness his two horses, “Jean” and “Linda” and take his buggy up Scotts Road to the foot of the hill. The injured person would be carried down the hill on a stretcher by his mates and would be then taken in the buggy to the Rix home where medical attention would be brought to him, or if he could stand the trip, would be taken to Palmerston North hospital. It was very rugged treatment that these men had to take but it was the only way medical aid could be got to them.”

By about 1911 the operations of the mill were winding down, the school and Post Office closed and the names of those listed as living in the area by 1912 was confined to people associated with farming.

McGregors also operated a mill for a time on the flat in the Kahuterawa area quite near to the home of Mr and Mrs C. Shere. The tramway that brought the logs to that mill came down through what is now the Shere property.

A son of one of the McGregors entered the Air Force and later became well known in aviation. He may be remembered for his participation in flying displays at Milson airport and for such antics as flying under bridges, thus becoming affectionately nicknamed “Mad McGregor”.

In 1937 Mr R. Waugh of Feilding established a mill at Hilltop, Mr Dave Honore being associated with this venture in transporting the timber from the mill. Mr Honore had previously delivered logs from Hilltop to Odlin’s mill in Palmerston North. He had bought a new Ford V8 truck then fitted it with an additional gearbox and strengthened its chassis especially for the job but as soon as war was declared the Defence authorities commandeered his truck so he had to make do with an old Fargo instead. Mr Waugh continued to operate his mill at Hilltop until just after his son, Stan entered the Air Force in 1942. It was then sold to Mr Wilkinson.

Mr Honore had built a home for himself on his property on the Main Road adjacent to the Kahuterawa Stream in about 1939 and he set up a mill there in about 1941. His genius as an engineer was quite remarkable. He had purchased an old solid tyred Dennis fire engine of about 1912 vintage from Wellington, which he converted into a very efficient winch. Then in building the mill, he patterned the design of it on information obtained from a pamphlet in the German language which he couldn’t understand, but for him the illustration was sufficient. After operating the mill for a



Carting flax fibre to the bleaching fields at Mr Geo. Crow's Linton Mill. — Photo, Denzil Crow.

short time, Mr Honore was asked to go to Samoa to set up a mill and give instructions to Samoans on mill operation. During his absence Mr George Blenkiron and Mr Bruce Peters operated the mill in Linton. Mr Honore returned to New Zealand and in about 1945 he replaced the then existing twin circular saws in the mill with a horizontal reciprocating saw. Mr George Blenkiron leased the mill from him during 1948 then left there to set up the Tiritea mill. Mr Honore's mill was then purchased by Mr G. McDonell who operated it as the Linton Timber Co. Ltd. for about 4 years after which time the mill finally closed.

## FLAXMILLING

New Zealand flax or "Phormium Tenax" had been widely used by the Maoris in pre-European times for making such articles as baskets, mats, fishing nets, items of clothing, and for many other purposes. Captain Cook was very impressed with the versatility of the plant so he took samples of it back to England, and Sir Joseph Banks, the naturalist who travelled with Cook was able to introduce specimens to Kew Gardens.

In 1815 Samuel Marsden, after his first missionary visit to New Zealand, travelled back to Australia from the Bay of Islands in the ship "Active" which carried in its hold, amongst other goods, some New Zealand flax fibre. This was sold to a Sydney ropemaker who found that with it, he could produce rope that was far superior to the rope made from material from other sources. So the demand for flax fibre was immediately created but the problem was that the process of stripping the flax was

so very slow and tedious, a skill usually carried out by Maori women. It would take one person six months to produce one ton of fibre. The preparation involved scraping the flax with mussel shell then hanging it in the sun to dry, thus producing a bright silky fibre of fine quality. The answer to the question as to how the Maori could be compensated for six months work lay in the white man's fire stick — the musket, as it was historically just at the time that the Chiefs realised that only those tribes with "fire sticks" could survive in battle so their need to obtain muskets for their own protection as well as attack on other tribes became of paramount importance. The price was one musket for one ton of flax fibre, then more fibre had to be produced to pay for powder and ammunition and other goods, and so the feverish production of flax fibre began.

New Zealand flax fibre rapidly gained in reputation as it competed with other products from other parts of the world and by 1819 it was already being used to manufacture ropes and sail canvas at the Portsmouth Naval Dockyards, and evidence later being given in the House of Lords in 1838 described whale lines of New Zealand Phormium as being the best obtainable.

There had been many attempts to make mechanical stripping devices to eliminate the drudgery and labour involved in stripping by hand, but the machines developed in those early years were generally unsuccessful.

Then in 1870 C.J. Pownell of Foxton, who had opened the first mill in the Manawatu at Foxton in August of the previous year, produced a machine that although slow, was quite effective for stripping the flax. 1869-70 proved to be boom years for the industry, so much so that in 1870 exports of fibre to Britain peaked at 5470 tons with an export value of £132,578. A number of mills were started in the Manawatu during this boom period and all seemed well for a time but by 1873 prices obtainable for fibre had dropped to half of those ruling only three years previously and consequently most of the mills closed down. It is unfortunate that throughout its history the industry has suffered considerably from the wild fluctuations of the market value of the product.

Another short period of boom prices occurred around 1888-91 and again it was a story of mills opening in the Manawatu — Horowhenua, only to close again in the mid 1890s. 1898 saw the commencement of the third boom period owing to the shortage of manilla from the Philippines because of war situations in other parts of the world. Many improvements had been made, both in machinery design and mill construction, and it was this boom period which lasted for ten years that saw the commencement of a number of mills in the Manawatu, the largest to be built being the "Miranui" near Shannon by the A. & L. Seifert Flaxmilling Company. This mill was designed to produce up to 2500 tons of fibre per year and was reputed to be the largest mill ever constructed in New Zealand.

It was in 1897, almost at the commencement of this boom period that a young man decided to move from Akaroa and settle in the North Island. At this time the Wellington-Manawatu Railway Company was offering land for sale and although the possibilities of using some of the land that was offered for flax production was not mentioned in the land sale advertisements, the young man from Akaroa could see vast potential for the production of flax fibre from the swamp area that was being offered by the Railway Company adjoining its line at Linton.



View inside flaxmill.

— Photo, Denzil Crow.

## THE LINTON FLAXMILL

Contributed by Mrs Elva Crow

The name of the young man from Akaroa was George Crow who brought with him his wife and three young children to this new and undeveloped environment. George purchased his first block of land from the Wellington-Manawatu Railway company in 1897, a wilderness of bush on the high ground and swamp on the low land, populated only by wild pigeons, wekas, eels and mosquitos by the countless millions. He did see however, one redeeming feature — a few flax plants growing in the stagnant water. Perhaps these few plants appealed to the adventurous nature of the man and he decided to make this his home.

George saw some immediate future here by draining the land and growing vegetables for the Wellington market but as the land was drained the flax flourished and on the eastern side of the railway line he soon had a millable area of flax. It was here he was to build his first mill. With the help of a Mr Eglington of Bunnythorpe who had a traction engine he set about this arduous task. With "Mona" as the engine was affectionately named he transported all the material and machinery through the mud and slush to erect the mill on the only suitable high ground at the time. All this happened in 1902. It is of interest to say here that the land on which this first mill was built is still being farmed by George Crow's grandson and his wife, Don and Helen Rix.

All transport was difficult so a flat bottomed barge was built to cart the green flax to the mill, light sledges being used to shift the leaf to the barge. The flax was then manhandled up to the mill level which was built high to counter any heavy rainfall

flooding the mill. There was a height of 8 ft. to the yard and a further 8 ft. to the stripper feeding bench. Under the strippers was the catcher, the man who Loyal Crow, son of George, said in his writings had the worst possible job ever imagined. Of course, over the years many improvements were made in the working conditions of the mill workers.

Through the next stages the leaf was made ready to be dried and bleached outside and finally taken to the scutching shed some distance away, this final stage also being driven by "Mona" but the strain was to be too much for her and she was replaced by a 14 h.p. stationary motor.

In 1903 a spark from a railway engine set fire to the scutch shed and burnt it to the ground. From this first experience of a mill fire George was to learn that to build a mill so close to the railway line was a fire hazard.

Transport was improving and flax was growing fast on the western side of the line. The new mill was built here, erected in 1904. At the same time as this, on land leased from a Mr Guthrie Wilson of Tu Tira another mill was operating but transport here was very difficult and expensive and the struggle to get the coal in for firing was too great. A water turbine was then installed but as the flax was so scattered and transport by bullock waggon so slow the mill only operated for two years and was twice burnt out.

The rebuilt Linton mill had a good run until 1911 when disaster once more struck. Two small children were smoking in the tow shed and burnt Linton mill from end to end. In the words of George's eldest daughter "On the day of the fire Father was in town and had heard of a big fire in Linton and on getting off the train had seen the smoke. We met him with the news that the mill had gone and his words were 'Thank God it is only the mill.'" His only thought had been for his home and family.

Tokomaru had a mill operating at this time also, to treat flax on a property owned by George Crow. This however, fell foul of the fire hazard when the scutch shed was razed in 1911. It was at this stage that George with his usual tenacious spirit and background of experience decided to build a mill on a grand scale in Linton to treat all the flax from Tokomaru and Linton.

His first thought was power required to run such a mill. He cabled England and ordered a 212 h.p. twin cylinder suction gas engine. In those days delivery from England took many weeks. The foundation plans arrived however, and to save any delay the concrete block was laid to accommodate the engine. His two sons were at this time in Rangariri clearing up after a swamp fire on yet another scheme under way by George. However this venture failed after two more fires devastated the project. The boys were called home to mix concrete for eighteen hours a day on the new mill site.

The concrete foundation required to provide a base for this engine was an immense job. 1500 cubic feet of solid concrete with 6 ft. bolts set in to hold the cylinders, with channels allowing for the 2 ft. 6 inch drive and 6 ton flywheel. About a 100 ft. concrete trench was also laid to carry a 5 inch reduced to 4 inch shaft. Together with all foundations for bearing and steel driving shafts which were all coming from England. When a Mr Phillips arrived to install the National gas engine and saw the four bolts set in the solid concrete and the main shaft laid his remark was "I take my hat off to you, Crow". The engine was bolted down and started up and everything was in perfect line.

He had now to get the flax from the Tokomaru property to the mill in Linton. He purchased 4 miles of tram lines and then made 5000 concrete sleepers which were permanently laid beside the Main Drain to the Tokomaru block three miles away. At

busy times 12 trucks drawn by three horses would make two trips a day bringing the flax to the four stripper mill at Linton. Mills were operating in other parts of New Zealand at this time and George made a close study of them. He was especially interested in relation to the level of the strippers. This new mill was built with the flax storage above the strippers, and not below as in other mills. Any truck could be diverted to any stripper, unloaded and sorted straight on to the feeders bench thus avoiding hours of hard work with no double handling necessary. There was a weighbridge at the entrance and as each truck was of uniform weight the whole process of weighing the flax was made easy.

George Crow who was an inventive person was always interested in improving the mechanical equipment involved in flaxmilling so he set out to design a new flax stripper which he duly patented. It operated at approximately 2000 revolutions per minute and was fitted with 24 beater bars. It embodied features that reduced vibration and metal fatigue, two problems that had always been the bane of flax strippers. The machine which was claimed to be faster and more efficient than existing machines was exhibited and demonstrated at the Palmerston North Winter Show. Manufacturing rights were granted to Messrs. William Cable and Co. Ltd., Engineers in Wellington.

Water was of major importance in the industry so an artesian bore was required to service the engine and a gas producer and six further bores were needed to supply the water for washing the fibre. These seven bores, all within a seven yard radius of each other but all on different levels or depths were directed to a dam made across a natural gully which stored water to feed the pumps for the mill. This dam to this day is still being kept full by these bores.

## FROM FARM TO PHARMACEUTICAL

Contributed by Wayne King, Operations Manager

New Zealand Pharmaceuticals was established in 1971 by a consortium of the N.Z. meat export industry (60% shareholding) and Tasman Vaccine Laboratories (40% shareholding). In 1972 a decision was made to purchase land for a factory and a 12 acre block was purchased from Awa Land with an option taken on a further 20 acres. Meanwhile, research work to develop a process to recover bile acids from sheep and beef gall was carried out in the Biotechnology Department at Massey University.

Production commenced at the plant on November 14th 1974 with a staff of 11. The plant was officially opened on the 4th of March 1975 by the Minister of Agriculture and Science, the Rt. Hon. Mr Colin Moyle. Guests at the opening included representatives of Roussel UCLAFF, the French company who were to purchase the expected production of cholic acid and deoxycholic acid. This would be about 30 tonnes per year and would be produced from New Zealand's total gall supply which was previously wasted or exported unprocessed.

The two bile acids in sheep and beef gall are valuable pharmaceutical raw materials used in the manufacture of corticosteroids, products for the treatment of gall stones and products formulated to treat digestive disorders.

Footnote: In 1976 ICI New Zealand Limited acquired a 40% share in NZP when it purchased the TVL now known as Coopers Animal Health.

NZP has now expanded its share of the bile acid market (from 30 to 130 tonnes)



Administration Block, Laboratory and part of factory of N.Z. Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

and exports bile acids to Japan, China, Italy and Poland as well as to France. To meet this growth the plant and buildings have been considerably expanded and additional galls have had to be sourced in Australia and America. The range of bile products has also been expanded to include several bile salts which are exported to Japan, Korea, China, Great Britain, the U.S.A. and East and West Europe. These products are ingredients in bacteriological media and digestive aids as well as being pharmaceutical raw materials.

In 1983 a new product, natural taurine was introduced. This material is a by-product of the bile acid process. It is exported to Japan where it is added to infant feed formulations as a naturally sourced amino acid where it plays an important role in infant brain development.

Since the initial success of the bile acid plant, NZP has been actively engaged in research into the uses and further processing of other meat industry by-products besides bile. This effort has borne fruit. In 1981 sodium heparin derived from sheep mucosa was introduced. Heparin is an anticoagulant drug used to prevent blood clotting during surgical procedures. Using a process developed by the Company's scientists, initial extraction is carried out at several New Zealand freezing works. The crude extract is then transported to Linton for refining into the highly purified final product. Heparin is currently being exported to Australia, Europe and the Middle East.

In 1984 the option to purchase the second block of 20 acres from Awa Land was taken up. A major site development programme was initiated with the construction of a new warehouse, freezer, factory and access roading.

In 1985, the new factory began to produce ferritin. Ferritin is an iron rich protein



N.Z. Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Pure Natural Taurine Plant.

— Photo, N.Z. Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

present in the spleen and it is used by Italian doctors to treat anaemia. As with the bile acid business, the New Zealand raw material source has proved to be too small to supply the demand for this product so a substantial quantity of spleens are now being imported from Australia.

The Ferritin process uses a considerable tonnage of ammonium sulphate perhaps more commonly known as an agricultural fertilizer. The Company was keen to put the waste from the ferritin plant to good use and registered the solution of 20% ammonium sulphate and 5% soluble protein as a fertilizer. Over 5 million litres per year of this fertilizer are applied to neighbouring pasture by a local contractor.

NZP's export market development efforts have been well recognised. In 1979 the Company received the New Zealand Trade Promotion Council's Export Award. In 1981 High Priority Status was awarded by the Ministry of Trade and Industry and in 1984 the Governor-General's award for Exceptional Export Performance was presented.

NZP now employs a staff of 70 many of whom live in the Linton Area. The General Manager is Dr Richard Garland who worked on the initial development of the bile acid process. The country location has allowed the company to obtain a large site in close proximity to the science centres at Massey and the DSIR. The location has also created a long term employment opportunity in the district.

The Company looks forward to continued growth on its site in Linton and to still being an active member of the community after the next 100 years.

# 10

## *Services to the District*

**D**uring the 1880s the settlers in this area were mainly dependent on the small town of Palmerston North for their supplies, access to the town being gained either across the river or via a rather unsatisfactory bush road, then in 1886 the railway opened which gave an improved means of transport to the town. Although stores have existed in the area since 1892, the district has also been served for many years by a number of business people who have made deliveries to the homes. Probably the first would have been Mr J.A. Nash who delivered groceries from Nathan's Ready Money Store in Palmerston North. That store was later to become United Farmers Co-operative Association Ltd., then many years later was purchased by Watson Bros. Ltd.

Many older residents will still have memories of others who later made deliveries in the district: Mr J. Craven (Groceries), Mr Oliver (Butcher), Titcombe Butchery from Tokomaru and later from Foxton, J. Peck (Butchery) and Jenkinsons Bakery, both from Palmerston North. Mr Manning who delivered the evening paper delivered bread from Jenkinsons after they ceased their own delivery. Butter was delivered to factory suppliers for many years by the cream lorries in the course of their rounds. Eric Bailey of Palmerston North supplied fruit and vegetables to the area. The Rawleigh man or lady was quite an institution, and in fact, still operates. Many will remember that coal was supplied by A.W. Bearsley, a carrier from Palmerston North. He also conducted a general carrying business. His drivers, Mr M. Kingsbeer and Mr O. Vivian will be well remembered.

From 1926 to 1937 Mr Alex. Grady operated a bakery business at Tokomaru and supplied bread to Beckett's store during those years.

### STORES IN LINTON

The first store was opened in Linton on Lot 197, Township of Linton, on Akers Road (about 350m. past the school) by Mr H.W. Willans in 1892. He also took over the Post Office agency which was subsequently run in conjunction with the store. The business was sold to Mr George G. Jonathan in October 1895. Then the next owner was Mr R. Ross who took over the store in December 1904 and remained there until 1905 when it was then transferred to Mr W.C.R. Gardener who stayed until the end of March, 1906.

Mr Arthur H. Beckett then purchased the business and operated it from the beginning of April of that year. A delivery service had been set up and Mr Beckett continued to operate that along with the Post Office agency and an Insurance agency until he purchased Ward's store adjacent to the church. The agencies were then transferred to the other store and the old store was closed.



Early photograph of Linton Store (Adjacent to Church), operated by Mr G.J. Ward.

— Photo, Linton School.

It is believed that a butcher shop was operated for a time from a site between the church and the present home of Mrs Managh, but no details of this have been found.

A couple who emigrated to New Zealand in 1875 in the ship "Lady Jocelyn" had a son born to them during the journey, so the boy was named George Jocelyn Ward. George was educated at Akaroa and at 13 years of age, came to Palmerston North where he was employed by the United Farmers Co-op Association for about a year. He took an interest in farming and in about 1896 purchased his own farm at Linton. After farming for some time he leased out his property and in 1904 opened the store that existed just below the Anglican Church. The business was described in the Cyclopaedia of New Zealand in 1908 as carrying groceries, ironmongery, crockery, brushware, drapery, clothing, boots, patent medicines and grain and produce. Mr Ward operated delivery vans making regular deliveries around the district.

A feature of the store was the billiard room fitted with an Alcock table, that was included at the rear of the store shed. The billiard room where a number of the locals regularly gathered was run for many years by Mr A.E. Currin on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday nights. The storekeeper was required to pay a licence fee of £2 per year to the Kairanga County Council and the facility was finally closed in 1933. The room was also used by some of the younger people for skating but unfortunately the floor was rather unsuitable for that purpose.

In 1911 Mr A.H. Beckett purchased the business from Mr Ward. He transferred the postal services to this store and closed the other business, this store thus becoming the only retail store in the district for about the next 40 years. Mr Arthur Beckett passed away quite suddenly in 1917 so that necessitated his son, Mr Ron.



Mr W. Gooch delivering provisions to Hilltop from Beckett's Store. — Photo, Linton School.

Beckett leaving his employment in a Bank and returning to the district to take over the store. Deliveries were made to the lower Linton area twice each week and to the Hilltop area on Saturday mornings. During that period much of the stock for the store arrived by train. In the 1930s Miss A.B. Currin worked in the store, and van drivers during those years included P. Sheridan, G. Sheridan, A.R. Gooch and G. Thorne. The Beckett era came to an end in 1942 when Mr Beckett left the district and moved to Wellington, and at that time Mr T.W. Dear took over the business. About three years later Mr J.F. Donovan purchased the business and after operating it for some time formed "Linton Service Stores Ltd." under which name it was operated by successive owners, Mr B. Edwards and Mr A.T. Shakelford for short periods then Mr V.K. Curtis (1956-1961), Mr E.B. Jordan (1961-1970) and Mr D.R. Irwin (1970-1975). The business finally closed on 1st March 1975.

With the development of Linton Camp and also the opening up of house sections in the area, Mr and Mrs R.W. Allen decided that it was an opportune time to open a store so they established a Dairy on the corner of the Main Road and Hewitts Road, opening it at Labour week-end of 1950. Another Dairy was opened at about the same time on the opposite corner of Hewitts Road by Mr and Mrs N.P. Marsh but it only continued for a short time, Mr and Mrs Allen conducted their business for 23 years and then sold it to Mr and Mrs I.G. Ross who remained there until 1976 when it was bought by Mrs I. Suter.

Mr and Mrs N.C. James purchased the business in 1979 and during their period of ownership the shop was considerably enlarged to cope with the growing trade. Then in 1982 Mr and Mrs Rex Craw took over the business and have continued to operate it to the present day it being at the only public store in the Linton district at this stage.



Linton Store as it will be remembered in the 1960s.

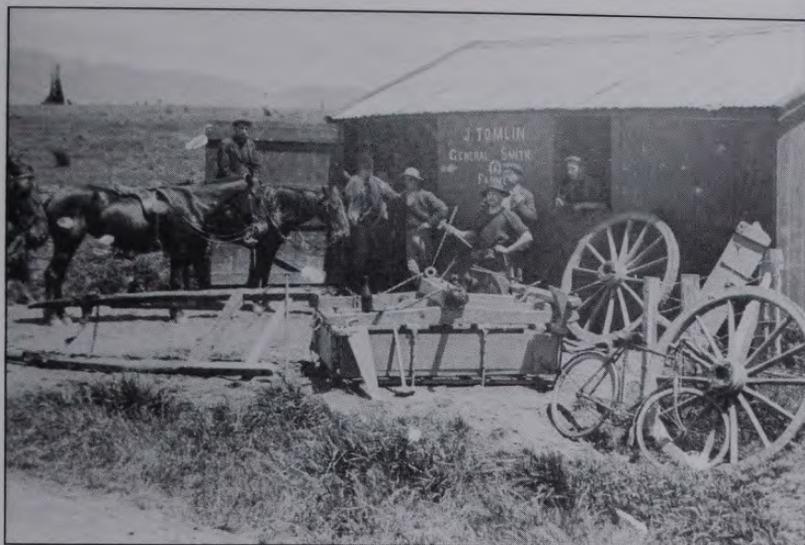
— Photo, Linton School.

## BLACKSMITHS

The Post Office Directory of 1906 indicates that a blacksmith named Mr A.E. Healey was in Linton at that time but nothing further is known about him. Mr J. Tomlin was the first blacksmith of whom there is any local knowledge. He lived on the corner of Currins Road and the Main Road and his first shop was a small shed behind his house.

In about 1908 he established a shop on what is now Mr Rix's property at the foot of the hill on Akers Road just where the transmission line now crosses the road. Mr Tomlin operated the business until about 1920 when it was taken over by Stevenson Bros. who travelled from Tokomaru on Harley-Davidson motor-bikes to operate the shop for only two or three days per week. They also travelled to Aokautere where they operated another shop part time.

Mr J.H. Collis took over the business in 1927 and continued to operate the Aokautere shop in conjunction with Linton. Joe Collis was a well known and popular figure in the Linton area and the blacksmith shop served as a meeting place for the locals where the news of the day was discussed. It was during the Joe Collis era that a radio station known as station 2ZO was set up in Palmerston North by Mr Vance Kyle. The blacksmith shop at Linton was nicknamed 2JO so it was claimed that the locals had a choice of "tuning" to either 2ZO or 2JO for the news of the day. Mr and Mrs Collis had two daughters, then a son was born into the family shortly before they left Linton. The morning after the son had been born Mr Collis found that the sign over his shop had been altered to "J. Collis and Son." The shop closed in 1937



J. Tomlin's Blacksmith shop.

— Photo, D. Rix.

when Mr and Mrs Collis and their family moved to Otaki where he operated a blacksmith shop and engineering business for some years.

There were several other blacksmith shops in Linton, mostly associated with the larger farms or businesses.

On leaving the business in Akers Road, Mr Tomlin was employed as blacksmith on the Craw farm where he operated the farm blacksmith shop which was located adjacent to the flaxmill. Mr E. Bastin operated a shop at Hilltop or Moturimu during the time that McGregor's mill was operating there. And a shop was also in operation at the settlement of Whitmore, little being known about it but it was probably associated with the railway operation and the maintenance of the Longburn Bridge. Also Mr H.J. Lauridsen who had previously been a blacksmith in George Street, Palmerston North, did occasional smithing at his home at Whitmore Road.

## TRANSPORT AND MOTORING

Ever since the construction of roads, the users of those roads have created two particular areas of demand, one being the imposition of restrictions on the users for their own safety as well as consideration for others, and the other being the need of service agencies to provide the facilities that the users required ranging from the early day blacksmith to shoe the horses and keep vehicles in repair to the present day service stations and repair shops.

Horse transport required few regulations to cover its operation but towards the



Craw's Blacksmith shop adjacent to Flaxmill.

— Photo P.N. Public Library.

end of last century a new beast began to make an appearance, namely the traction engine which although an excellent machine for its purpose, appeared to be regarded with a great deal of mistrust, not only by the horses that had occasion to meet one on the road but also by the local bodies of the day who were entrusted with the care of the roads and bridges. In March 1895 the Fitzherbert Roads Board wrote to a well known contractor in Palmerston North advising him that they would hold him responsible for all damage done by his machine to any bridge or culvert in the Fitzherbert Road District and that an account would be sent to him as soon as any damage is repaired. The next month the Board passed the following resolution:

"For the purpose of making By-law No. 27. Every person driving a traction engine on any public road in the District shall cause a man with a red flag to walk one hundred yards in front of the said traction engine, and whose further duty it shall be to warn travellers of the approach of the traction engine and to assist them in passing the same."

The Kairanga County Council, after it was formed, also issued dire warnings to traction engine operators, the stopping of a traction engine on a bridge being considered to be a very serious offence. But in the metalling of roads much good work was done by these machines which sometimes hauled several waggon loads of metal at a time. When a bridge was reached it would be necessary to disconnect the traction engine from the waggons and take it across the bridge first then haul each loaded waggon across with a wire rope so that only a minimum amount of weight was imposed on the bridge at a time.

Early in the century motor cars began to make their appearance and as early as 1905 a deputation from the Farmers Union in the Manawatu drew the Council's



Mr Will Crow and his car. Photograph taken sometime between 1912 and 1916.

— Photo, Mrs L. Whitlock.

attention to the advisability of licencing motor cars and bicycles. Occasional comments are to be found regarding reckless driving. Mr C.J. Munro who lived adjacent to the present site of Massey University wrote, drawing attention of the Council to the fact that motorists were in the habit of driving down the hills in his district, at speeds very dangerous to the public. "He himself had just seen cars go down the hill near his residence at about 20 miles an hour, and without giving any warning by horn or other means." And probably Mr Munro's concern was justified given the road conditions and the capabilities of the cars at the time.

As far as can be ascertained, the first car owner in Linton was Mr Whitmore, one of the Whitmore Brothers who farmed near the top of Millricks Line. In about 1912 he purchased a four-seater machine with solid tyres, driven by two chains from an engine under the drivers seat and believed to have been powered by kerosene the machine emitting clouds of smoke as it travelled along the road. The make of the vehicle is unknown. It was not particularly successful and the local residents suspected that at least two of the passengers would need to get out and push to assist getting the car home to the Whitmore property.

Not too long after that Mr William Crow purchased an "Overland," Mr George Crow purchased a "Ford T" and Mr Hugh Akers purchased a "Wolseley." From then on cars gradually became more popular and by 1920 were comparatively commonplace. Petrol was only available by the case (which held two four gallon tins) and it was usual for local car owners to buy half a ton of petrol at a time. It was not until about 1930 that petrol pumps supplied the fuel from bulk storage and were, of course for some years, hand operated devices. Mr R.A. Beckett had pumps installed at his store and up to the 1950s this was the only petrol supply point in the district.



Linton Garage as it was, prior to rebuilding in 1964.

— Photo N.C. James.

## LINTON GARAGE

In 1950 Mr N.P. Marsh purchased a section on the corner of Main Road and Hewitts Road with the intention of establishing a service station but because of difficulty in obtaining a Petrol Reseller Licence the project lapsed. The home that Mr Marsh had built was sold in 1952 to Mr C.W. Woods who continued to pursue the service station idea. He converted the store shed into a workshop and was finally granted a Resellers Licence. The business was then sold in 1953 to Mr A.V. Cocks and Mr F. Burrell who formed Linton Garage Ltd. and operated the business for about 18 months. The Company was then re-formed by Mr Cocks in conjunction with Mr D.J. Martin and Mr R.W. Aldrich. Mr B. Hight commenced as an apprentice in February 1961 and is still employed at Linton Garage.

1964 was a momentous year for the Garage. Complete new premises were opened at the week-end of 2nd to 4th of October. The Manawatu Standard reported: "The newly erected Garage has a modern lubrication bay, first class car washing facilities, a new tyres and recap service, a good range of accessories, a clean rest room and petrol at city prices."

During the opening week-end several promotional efforts were made which included free gifts for children. The Service Station was designed by Mr J. Cantlon, built by Messrs Lucinsky and McIntyre and opened under the Europa banner. Associated with the Garage, tea-rooms were operated successively by Mr Hibberd, Mr Hindrup, Mrs Bessie Crow and Mr L.J. Richardson. This facility ceased about 1971.



Herb Witherington driving his car in procession in Palmerston North, about 1953.

In 1972 Linton Garage Ltd was sold to Mr D.J. Boshier who operated the business until 1983 when it was sold to the present owner, Mr C.B. James. An LPG filling service was introduced in 1985. The business continues as the only Garage and Service Station in the district and is ideally situated to cope with the demands of not only the passing public but also the considerable population that has built up in that area.

## LINTON TAXIS

In 1951 Mr J.J. Bergman considered that a taxi service based near Linton Camp would be a worthwhile venture so a licence was applied for. To support the application a number of signatures was obtained from local people and presented as a petition to the Licensing Authority. The Chairman of the Authority in granting the licence made the observation that he considered the service to be a necessity and was surprised that it had not been instigated earlier.

Later Mrs Willcox, whose husband was an Officer at the Camp became involved in the taxi which was, for a short time, driven by Mr C. Woods. Then in April 1953 Mr A.V. Cocks took over the taxi service from Bergman and Willcox. Mr Bergman had been transferred to the Army Area Office in Palmerston North and he later had the opportunity to buy a Blue Band Taxi in Palmerston North.

The first car used was a 1951 Standard Vanguard, then a second car was added which was a 1948 Vauxhall which was owned by Mr Frank Burrell who was in partnership with the Garage. Taxis were used for the Millricks Line/Scotts Road

school run from July 1954. The taxi service was reduced to one car in 1970 then finally ceased in 1971.

## POST OFFICES

For the greater part of the last one hundred years Post Offices have been regarded as the most important point of official communication in any district. This has certainly been so in the Linton area where four different Post Offices have existed at various times to meet the needs of the community.

### LINTON POST OFFICE

The first to open was the Linton Post Office which, during its ninety years of existence was operated from five different sites. Mr James Jackson owned Section 85 (Now K.B. O'Connor Property) and it was in a small building on the corner of that property adjacent to the railway that the Post Office was first opened on 17th May 1888 when Mrs Jackson was the first Postmistress earning £3 per annum for her services as part time postal official. Her salary was raised to £5 per annum in mid 1891 which was also the amount paid to Mr H.W. Willans when he took over as Postmaster on 16th June 1892. Mr Willans who was a builder by trade had established a store on Lot 197, Township of Linton, and the postal services became part of that business. This then, was the first shift of premises. In December 1899 the office also became a telephone office with the Postmaster being paid £21 per annum. Postal services continued under the direction of successive owners of that business, Mr Geo. G. Jonathan taking it over in 1895, Mr R. Ross in Dec. 1904, Mr W.C.R. Gardiner in August 1905 and Mr Arthur H. Beckett in April 1906.

In 1911 Mr Arthur Beckett purchased the already established store adjacent to the church and postal services were transferred to these premises. At the sudden death of Mr Arthur Beckett in 1917 the business including postal services was taken over by his son, Mr Ron Beckett who had previously worked in a Bank. He continued as Postmaster until he sold the business and left the district in 1942.

It is evident that the office had been, in the earlier years, only a mail and telephone office. In April 1927 the following resolution was passed at the School's Householders meeting:

"This meeting of householders at Linton strongly urges the Chief Postmaster at Palmerston North to take steps to establish money order, postal notes, savings bank and other facilities of a country post office at Linton."

The Chief Postmaster finally agreed to the request of the resolution about 2 years later.

The Post Office continued to be operated in conjunction with the store successively by Messrs. R. Beckett, T.W. Dear, J.F. Donovan, B. Edwards, A.T. Shakelford, V.K. Curtis and E.B. Jordan. Mrs Irwin became Postmistress in November 1970 and continued until the store closed in 1975, then Mrs L. Svendsen conducted the postal services, first from an Akers Road property then finally in April 1977 to a fifth location in Currins Road until early 1978. Mrs J.L. Edwards and Mrs D.L. Yuile both operated the Post Office for a short time at that location but it was finally permanently closed on 8th November of that year.

### MOTURIMU POST OFFICE

The second Post Office to be established was at Moturimu (Hilltop) as a service to the considerable population in that part of the district at the time. McGregor Bros.

were operating a sawmill and employing a considerable staff, and it was Mr John McGregor who acted as part time postal official for a remuneration of £5 per annum. But this office was to be comparatively short-lived as milling operations wound down after about 5 years and much of the population moved away so the Post Office was closed in August 1911.

### LINTON CONSTRUCTION POST OFFICE

The construction of Linton Camp commenced in early 1942 and it was the then Public Works Department that was in control of the construction project. A Post Office was opened on 17th August 1942 next to the office of the Public Works Department on Camp Road to provide facilities for the large construction staff, many of whom lived on the site at the time. An amount of £20 per annum was paid to the Public Works Department as a reimbursement for the operation of the office by a staff member of that Department, the first being Mr J.J. Gonley who was then succeeded by Mr Wm. Morgan. That Office permanently closed on 1st January 1947.

### LINTON CAMP POST OFFICE

A Post Office was established at Linton Military Camp as from 15th December 1942, and as a result of the demands of World War II was converted to permanent status from 10th February 1943. It reverted to non-permanent status from August 1944 to September 1950, permanent from 1950 to 1963, then it continued again as a nonpermanent Office.

The first Postmaster was Mr L.W. Anderson, followed by Messrs. C. Issacs, J. Whitlack, A. Finnemore, E. Packer and E. Hughes, all during the period to 1947. As a patriotic gesture the Y.M.C.A. paid the postal officers salaries during the war. Since 1950 Officers in charge have included Mrs V. Henshaw, Mrs B. Bourke, Mrs V. Dunnachie and Miss G.H. Savage. Money order/Savings bank facilities were provided from 1st May 1967.

In 1987 the Government decided on the closure of Linton Camp Post Office along with several hundred others throughout the country, however the camp arranged to provide its own building and facilities so enabling the office to remain open, this being especially important in view of the increasing population of the area.

### TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

In the very early days of telephone services it appears that subscribers were responsible for the erection of their own lines. Several requests from private individuals were made to the County Council for permission to erect telephone lines along certain roads. The services were through the Palmerston North Exchange and were for many years on a party line system.

A United Automatic Exchange (U.A.X.) was opened in Linton on 8th July 1963. This had a capacity of about 180 subscribers and was located on the Main Road between Whitmore Road and Kendalls Line. As the population of the district, and particularly the Camp, increased it was decided to install a larger exchange and to build it near to the area with the greatest demand so a replacement exchange was built on Camp Road and brought into use in 1987.

## THE SALEYARDS

As farming developed in the various settlements of the Manawatu around the turn of the century the need became evident for the farmers to have the facilities available to them to buy and sell livestock. For local buying and selling the only practical method of transport was by droving so over a period of years, as each district developed, a network of saleyards each within easy droving distance of the farmers in the area, was established by the stock and station agencies. As time went on every little district had its own saleyard and Linton was one of those places where a set of yards was built.

In 1912, 42 settlers in Linton signed a petition that was presented to Messrs. Abraham and Williams Ltd., stock auctioneers of Palmerston North, requesting that a saleyard be erected in the district, so it was agreed that a small set of yards should be built. The site selected was on the corner of what is now Akers Road and School Road, being Lots 201 and 202, Township of Linton, part of the site being now occupied by the home of Mr and Mrs R. Mudgway. No record has been found that Abraham and Williams Ltd ever owned the land.

Mr John McCaw, a well known stock agent wrote in his "Sales and Saleyard Stories" in 1967:

"Two local farmers remember the yards and sales quite clearly. Mr Charles Keeble was one of the signatories of the petition and supported the sale for some years with entries. Mr Frank Batchelar who was a teenager at the time recalls driving stock to the sale and thinks it almost certain that his father signed the petition."

Mr McCaw's article seemed to suggest that the first sale was held in January 1913 but further information reveals that it was held earlier than that, for on 27th August 1912 a small item appeared in Linton News in the Manawatu Standard:

"The saleyards are now almost complete and everything is being put in order for the opening sale which takes place on Tuesday next."

An advertisement in the name of Messrs. Abraham and Williams Ltd. then appeared in the Manawatu Standard indicating that the first Linton Stock Sale would be held in the yards on Tuesday, 3rd September 1912 at 1 p.m., the stock advertised to be offered being:

- 100 Purebred Romney Ewe Hoggets
- 70 Hoggets
- 60 2, 4 & 6 Tooth Ewes
- 20 Good Yearling Steers
- 60 Choice Yearling Jersey and Holstein Cross Heifers
- 25 20 month Steers
- 8 Store Cows
- 4 Springing Cows
- 37 Mixed Yearlings
- 10 Springing Heifers
- 1 Reliable Harness Cob

From that date onwards sales were held intermittently but not frequently for several years. It appears that the availability of stock was the governing factor as to the frequency of the sales.

Mr W. Crow moved from Linton in 1916 and an advertisement appeared of a sale

to be held at the Linton yards on his behalf on Thursday 16th August where the following stock was to be offered:

- 20 fat and forward bullocks
- 700 2 th. to 6 th. wethers
- 200 2 th. to 4 th. ewes in lamb
- 100 mixed hoggets
- other entries solicited

Occasional further sales were held although only very infrequently and it is believed that the yards certainly did not operate beyond 1921.

One of those who regularly attended the sale was Mr A.E. Currin who carried out the important task of supplying to the auctioneers and buyers, refreshments in the form of sandwiches, scones, etc. that had been prepared by Mrs Currin.

Some years later, after the closure of the Linton yards, Mr Kebble kindly loaned his yards for an annual sheep sale which was usually held in February of each year and this event continued for a number of years. As road transport came into vogue the smaller saleyards in the Manawatu closed and today the nearest to Linton are Levin or Feilding and a smaller yard at Rongotea. It is claimed that the Feilding yards which were established in 1880 and which cover 5 hectares would be one of the largest saleyards in the Southern Hemisphere where 100,000 cattle and 600,000 sheep are auctioned annually.

## TO JOG YOUR MEMORY

Many will remember Mr Thomas Jeffs (and his pipe), one of the very well known personalities of the district who arrived in Linton in the late 1890s. His almost daily visits to the blacksmith shop and the local store kept him in touch with the people and happenings of the district. While trimming his macrocarpa hedge, when he was well into his nineties, he fell and broke his arm which necessitated going to hospital which he found to be a worse ordeal than the broken arm. He died in December 1956, about 4 months after his one hundredth birthday.



It would be impossible to trace the fame and fortunes of the ex-pupils of the school, and how can fame be measured anyway? But there may be those who would be interested to know that Les. Dunshea became Chairman of the Wheat Committee; Eric Missen joined the Public Service and later became Secretary for Justice; Maru Check entered the ministry of the church and then the field of education and in the New Year Honours of 1987, as Rev. Dr. Maru Check was awarded the M.B.E. for services to education and the community; Anna Kenna is enjoying a career in television and through that medium has become widely known in New Zealand; Bill Oppatt is reaching retirement after many years as a driver of ministerial cars; Kevin Beckett is a doctor at a children's hospital in Massachusetts.

# 11

## *A faith to live by*

**W**hen the early settlers came to this area they brought with them a very real sense of purpose and determination to carve out of the bush and the swamp and the hills a way of life that would be to their betterment as well as to the benefit of future generations.

Many of them also brought with them their Christian faith which they were anxious to have the opportunity of expressing in forms of worship to which they had been accustomed, therefore it is not surprising that quite early in the history of the district there should be found some reference to the setting up of places of Christian worship.

### ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH

Anglican worship in Linton dates back a number of years before the turn of the century. All Saints' Parish of Palmerston North dates back to 1875, the seeds of Anglican worship having been sown at a service held in Palmerston North at Peter Manson's sawmill in October 1872. Linton lies within the parish of All Saints' and it is the members of the clergy from that church that have faithfully served the people of this district for more than a century.

The exact date of the first service in Linton is not known but it is believed that Rev. Canon H.B. Harvey, Vicar of All Saints' from 1887 to 1895 took regular services at Linton during the early years of his ministry. It is not clear where the services were held at that time, probably in a private home, as neither the church, the public hall nor the school had been built at that date.

These services were discontinued for a time in the early 1890s because of poor attendance. There is some reference in the school minute book to the fact that religious services were being held in the school in 1896 although no denomination is named but it is known that by 1897 Captain and Mrs Hewitt, encouraged by the support given by Mr J.C. Shere, were responsible for Anglican worship in Linton and about this time Captain Hewitt was also conducting a Sunday School for the children of the district. Mr Shere had, for several years owned land at Kahuterawa then in 1897 purchased land at Whitmore Road corner where, for a time, services were held in his home, then later in 1900, were held in the Linton Hall as attendance increased. Rev. H. Fitz. Wilson was an assistant minister at All Saints' from 1898 to 1902 and his ministry to the country churches of the parish during those years contributed greatly to the building up of local congregations. The congregation at Linton had been increasing and there was a desire on the part of the people to establish their own church.

During the first few years of the new century a sawmilling settlement was developing at Hilltop or Moturimu, and services were started in that area. Rev. G.Y.

Woodward, a young curate who came to Palmerston North in 1902 became responsible for this area. In order to reach the young settlement of Moturimu, Rev. Woodward cycled up Scotts Road to the foot of the hill then climbed across country to reach the settlement where he held a service, then returned by similar means. When we recall what the state of the roads would have been and the modes of transportation available we cannot help but admire the faithfulness and perseverance of those early day members of the clergy.

Archdeacon G.C. Harper arrived at All Saints' in 1901. He was a man of strong personality and fine physique and it was during his term of enthusiastic leadership that the church was built at Linton in 1902.

## THE BUILDING

A benefactor had given Captain Hewitt a sum of money to be used towards the cost of building a church in Linton. With the help of additional subscriptions from parishioners, St. Columba's Church was completed and opened on 8th October, 1902. It was a simple structure without a belfry or a vestry; no side aisle; just a plain rectangular building with a gabled roof, but it at last provided the Anglicans of the district with a place of worship that they could call their own.

During the last almost 90 years the little church on the hill has had its share of disasters, alterations and repairs. Only two years after being built, a severe gale shifted the building on its foundations so when repairs were carried out the opportunity was taken to also add the side aisle and vestry, completed by February 1905, which not only served to strengthen the building but also provided additional space for the growing congregation. In 1910 a belfry and bell became available from the Anglican Church in Levin. These items were obtained and installed on the existing church building thus completing the basic structure of the church. Another storm lashed the Linton district in February 1936 but little damage was done to the church on that occasion, probably because of the protection given by the large hedge that at that time grew on the eastern side of the church and gave some protection from the wind.

The hall at the rear of the church had been erected in 1935 and was opened on 7th May of that year. It had been built from materials salvaged from the second vicarage at All Saints'. This hall, while being used as a temporary classroom by the school, was destroyed by fire in June 1943. It was later replaced, the second hall being opened in 1953. The church was repiled in 1954 with major repairs to the west wall in 1955, minor repairs and painting being carried out from time to time as the need arose.

Then on Tuesday, 12th November 1968, probably the most grievous blow of all. There had been a spate of church arson cases in the Manawatu area, and St. Columba's was struck. The vestry was burnt out and all the furnishings, pews, prayer desk, lectern and altar rail were badly damaged, and both organs were damaged beyond repair. The Fire Brigade had been called at 1.35 p.m. and the fire was out by 2 p.m. The Palmerston North police investigated the occurrence. At a Vestry meeting held that same evening at All Saints', delegates were appointed to meet the Insurance Company and to arrange for repairs to the buildings and furnishings with the result that by 1970 the church had been repaired and refurbished. Services were held in the Linton Hall while this was being done. During the next few years the outside surroundings of the church received attention with



View of St. Columba's Church taken between 1905 and 1910. The small building on right is believed to have been a Butcher Shop at an earlier date. — Photo, J. Hight/Miss E. Young.

the making of new pebble gardens and the old hedge removed to make room for a tidy block wall and bigger parking area for parishioners.

In 1972 an approach had been made to the Vicar that the church be removed to Linton Camp but this idea was promptly rejected by All Saints' Vestry. But instead, an invitation was extended to Camp parishioners to attend services at St. Columba's, also the church was to be made available to the Camp Padre for services on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. The Camp opened its own permanent Chapel in 1974, but that is another story.

Further repairs, painting and drainage took place at St. Columba's around 1982-83. In 1985 the Sunday School hall was repainted and redecorated, then in the last few years Sunday School attendance increased to the extent that facilities became inadequate so the church committee agreed in 1987 that the question of additional accommodation for the Sunday School should be investigated. The result was that a decision was made to enlarge the hall, this being carried out in 1988.

Regular attention has been given to the many details that continually need to be cared for in order to keep the church and its surroundings in a desirable and worthy condition. St. Columba's remains as a piece of Linton history, a charming little church in its unique setting on Part Lot 229 in the Township of Fitzherbert.

## THE PEOPLE

Mindful of the fact that although a fine church building is of great value as a venue of worship and a token of thanks to God, it is still true that the measure of a church is

not in the church building, in bricks and mortar, or in this case, timber, but in the consecrated lives of those who gather in it to worship their God.

Many names were associated with St. Columba's Church in its formative years during the first ten years of this century. The Hewitts and the Sheres have already been mentioned, but then there is Rix, Powell, Surman, Hudson, Kennard, G. Jackson, Jeffs, Evans, Ward, Stallard, Aldrich, Kendall, Batchelar, Scholes, Terry, Wilton, Young, Currin, Beckett, Hansen, W. Craw, Holgerson and Amner. These families all contributed greatly to the establishment of the new church as a place of worship in those early years and in some cases their descendants continue to live in Linton, and people of those same names or relatives of them continue to take an active part in worship at St. Columba's.

Captain Hewitt had, with the typical efficiency of an ex naval man, served the church for many years in the early days conducting a Sunday School and also as a layreader. It was appropriate that the first couple to be married in St. Columba's and to receive a Bible should be Captain and Mrs Hewitt's daughter Hallette and Mr Dan. Willis in 1904. Captain Hewitt passed away on 10th July 1913 and in 1915 a brass tablet was unveiled in the church in memory of him. After leaving Linton Mrs Hewitt lived in Palmerston North for a number of years and attended All Saints' Church where new altar rails were installed in the late 1940s and were given to that Church in memory of her by her family.

At various times St. Columba's Church was the recipient of gifts that reflected years of service given by the donors, and in the case of memorial gifts, the service given by those in whose memory the gifts were made. In 1903 Mr and Mrs J.C. Shere presented the church with a large pulpit Bible. Mr Shere had been active in the formation of the church at Linton and served as layreader and church warden. Then in 1909 the font was given by the parishioners in memory of Mr Joseph Kennard and a brass cross was also presented in memory of him. In about 1914 candlesticks and vases were presented by the staff of the then three Sunday Schools in Linton that were being conducted under the auspices of the church. It was about this time that church attendances had increased to the extent that the accommodation was insufficient with people standing during services. At this time also, a 14 voice choir had been formed under the leadership of Mr J. Batchelar.

Mr Geo. Rix served the church for over a quarter of a century as Vicar's Warden and Mr Jos. Batchelar also served as People's Warden for a similar period. Others who were appointed to these positions at various times included Mr W. Craw and Mr S. Irvine, then in 1944 Mr J. Hight was appointed People's Warden and Mr M. Rix followed his father as Vicar's Warden a year later occupying that position until about 1965 apart from four years break from 1948 to 1952. Mr J. Hight followed Mr Rix for a further four years then Mr F. Gerritsen occupied the position from 1971 to 1981. Messrs. N.C. James, L. Rix and J. Irvine all served as People's Warden for considerable periods and for shorter periods Messrs. C. Proctor, D. Dale, J.R.B. Williams and M. Sheridan. In more recent years church secretaries have been appointed who have assisted Wardens then gradually replaced them as officers of the church. Mrs Bowler was elected as Secretary in 1950 followed by Mr J. Hight (at various times), Mrs L. Rix, Mrs C. Collis, Mrs M. Rix, Mrs K. Raleigh, and at the present time, Mrs D. Underwood.

Further gifts were presented to the church in later years. In 1953 a Lecturn was presented by the parishioners in memory of Mr and Mrs Geo. Rix. Mr and Mrs H. Kilsby presented a new Bible to the Church in 1963 and members of the Ladies Guild

presented Communion Vessels in 1970. Several pews have been presented in memory of local people:

Mr J.M. Irvine	Mr H.W. Kilsby	Mrs E.M. Currin
Mr and Mrs C. James	Mr C.C. Collis	Miss E.F. Young
Mr A.L. Aldrich	Mr L.F. Ballinger	

In 1986 an organ was presented to the church by the congregation.

Those who have served as organists at St. Columba's include Miss V. Rix (for many years), Mr S. Quartley, Mrs D. Dale, Miss J. Collis, Miss C. Hight, Mrs L. Rix, Mrs M. Greer and Mr R.S. Jebson. A roster system is now operated.

In November 1954 Assistant-Bishop Rich brought to a meeting of the Church Committee the suggestion that Linton become part of the Shannon Parish. In a secret vote, opinions for and against the proposal seemed almost equal but it was agreed that in view of the historical links with All Saints', the proposal should be turned down.

Mr J. Hight served on All Saints' Vestry for 21 years from 1957 to 1978. He was followed by Mr M. Sheridan who was a member until 1986 when Mrs Underwood was appointed to the position which she has held since that time.

Mr F. Gerritsen has been a layreader for many years, associated first with St. Columba's congregation then later with All Saints'.

Vicars at All Saints' Church since the opening of St. Columba's in 1902 have been:

Archdeacon C.C. Harper	1901-1910
Rev. H. Roshier	1911-1915
Rev. H.G. Blackburne	1915-1924
Rev. Canon W. Fancourt	1924-1929
Rev. Canon G.Y. Woodward	1929-1945
Archdeacon H.W. Monaghan	1945-1951
Archdeacon H.S.I. Kenney	1951-1964
Archdeacon L.M. King	1965-1979
Canon D.J. Penman	1979-1982
Rev. B.R. Carrell	1982-

Many assistant ministers have taken an active part in the work at Linton, one of special note being Rev. Keith Elliot V.C. who, on leaving All Saints' Church in December 1949 became a Padre at Linton Camp.

## THE GUILD

The Ladies Guild was formed in 1953 with Mrs M. Rix as first President and Mrs C. Collis as first Secretary. The aim of the Guild is to provide funds, generally raised through bazaars and jumble sales, for the upkeep of the furnishings of the church, its first major effort being to provide a piano for the Sunday School room in 1954. Contributions were also made to the cost of repiling the church, then in 1956 recarpeting was possible. The embroidering of church linen and the care of furnishings have been attended to although some of the good work done was damaged or destroyed in the 1968 fire. The Altar Cloth was very badly blackened in the fire but with repeated careful washings was restored to its "pristine whiteness". The Guild established the pebble garden and members still remember Mrs Rix wielding a sledge hammer and Mrs Gilliland arriving with a trailer load of pebbles. It

was through the work of the Guild that a banner was made for the centenary of All Saints' Parish and more recently a contribution was made to the cost of the new organ. In about 1980 two oil paintings were presented to the Hospice Unit at Brightwater Home, the Unit having links with Linton in being known as the Daisy Ballinger Ward. Contributions have also been made to the Ryder Cheshire Home.

Mrs A. Aldrich is President of the Guild at the present time and the Secretary is Mrs M. Sheridan who has occupied that position for the last 20 years.

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

As has been noted the Sunday School dates back a number of years prior to the erection of the church building. In the early days after the church was built the Sunday School was under the care of Miss Emma Hudson and Miss Grace Amner, and they were followed by Miss V. Rix, Miss I. Rix and Miss E. Young. 1913 saw considerable expansion of the Sunday School movement within the parish of All Saints'. In the Linton area, in addition to the Sunday School at the church, one was established at the home of Miss Hudson at Whitmore Road, also one at the home of Mrs Wilton at Scotts Road, all three combining for picnics and special occasions. Picnics were an annual event with interesting variations. One report reads "... Biblical lessons were not the only concern of the Sunday Schools, moral training and citizenship were also instilled into the young minds. Take, for example, the Linton Sunday School picnic of 1932, which finished with all the people present standing in the paddock and singing the National Anthem."

Miss Lorna Rix was later involved in teaching Sunday School. Mrs D. Dale conducted a postal Sunday School system for some time in the mid 1940s, this effort being probably prompted by the destruction by fire of the Sunday School hall in 1943. Mr B. Edwards was involved in about 1950 with up to 15 attending Bible Classes. Miss Heather Rix and Miss Shirley Rix were both teaching in the mid 1950s and by 1960 the roll had reached 53. The superintendent for some time had been Mr Boddy who left the district that year. It was not long before Mr E. Whitehead had assumed responsibility for the Bible Class with 20 attending, other Sunday School teachers during the 1960s being Messrs. J. Hight and P. Rix, Mrs M. Sheridan, Mrs D. Rix, and Misses V. Collis, B. Greer, M. Irvine and M. Nash. The early 1970s saw a lack of interest. In about 1978 an ecumenical Sunday School had commenced under the direction of Mrs McKinnon assisted by Mrs D. Underwood and Mrs McCrae then assisted later by Mrs Sewell. In the early 1980s Mrs Wattes accepted responsibility for the Sunday School for several years.

1986 saw a further flourish of interest under the leadership of Mrs L. Perry with Mrs S. Allomes, Miss Z. Managh and Mrs P. Greenbank assisting. Numbers have continued to grow to the extent that by 1987 further accommodation was needed with additions being made to the Sunday School hall in 1988.

Church socials in the Linton Hall have been well attended regular events, the opportunity being taken at such functions to welcome or farewell members of the clergy as well as parishioners. Bazaars, church fairs, working bees and picnics have all been part of the activity of St. Columba's. Harvest thanksgiving services have been special occasions in the life of the church, with the choirmaster and members of All Saints' Choir frequently attending and taking part, the opportunity being often taken to hold the Church Annual Meeting immediately after the service.

Family Services have been regularly held and in the 1950-60 era were frequently

conducted by Mr Tom Attwood of All Saints' Church who was a great help in assisting the country churches of the Parish at that time. Mr Attwood was a schoolteacher by profession, and was always a popular figure in the activities of the church, taking special interest in the children and young people. The office block at All Saints' Church is dedicated to his memory.

On 24th May 1953 parishioners of St. Columba's celebrated the 50th anniversary of the church. Special services were held to mark the occasion. Canon G.Y. Woodward, former Vicar of All Saints' was the celebrant and preacher at the Holy Communion Service and the preacher at Evensong was former Curate, Canon P. Willshire. The church was crowded for this memorable occasion with many former parishioners attending. At the conclusion of evensong a reunion supper was held in the Linton Hall. The principal speakers were the Vicar (the Ven. Archdeacon H.S.I. Kenny), Mr John Ax, Mr A.E. Mansford (both former lay readers) and Mr M. Rix who, in the course of his speech, outlined the history of the church. The Peoples Warden (Mr N.C. James) moved a vote of thanks to all who had helped make the occasion such a splendid success. This was seconded by Rev. P.J. Munton.

The jubilee cake was made and iced by Mrs H.W. Kilsby and cut by Mrs Jeffs, assisted by Mrs J. Batchelar, Mrs Currin, Miss Young, Mrs T.D. Lynch and Mrs Dryman, all of whom have at some time been connected with St. Columba's.

The following night a jubilee ball was held in the Linton Hall which proved to be very successful and one of the highlights of the anniversary celebrations. A special thanksgiving offering enabled the outstanding debt on the newly erected church hall to be cleared.

1982 marked the 80th anniversary of St. Columba's Church. To mark the occasion, on 24th July 1983 Rev. Mike Cowan, Vicar of Foxton and former Curate at All Saints' conducted a festival service of celebration in the afternoon which was followed by afternoon tea. An entry in the Church minute book reads:

"This special day is to celebrate over 80 years of life of our Church, 30th anniversary of the Guild, the Patronal Festival, and a thanksgiving for the repairs and repainting of St. Columba's now completed."

The 1980s has seen considerable growth in the life of the church. A number of people of other denominations are attending worship, evening house groups have been started as well as fortnightly Bible study groups for the ladies. Guild membership is good and the Sunday School is flourishing. The direction and goals of the Church in the 1980s have been summed up as Evangelism, Discipleship, Fellowship, Worship and Service.

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

The present St. Patrick's Parish in Palmerston North dates back to humble beginnings in 1875, the first Mass having been celebrated as early as 1872 in a surveyor's hut, a small wooden building with a thatched roof. The present St. Patrick's Church, now of Cathedral status, is the third church of the Parish to have been erected and it was opened on 22nd March 1925. It is the Parish of that Church that includes the district of Linton.

In the early days of the Linton district, Roman Catholic families attended church either in Palmerston North or at Tokomaru. It was not until the early 1940s that services were held at Linton. Mass was celebrated at first, monthly in the Linton Hall on Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. and after the service the ladies provided morning

tea. Then in 1954 the original chapel at Linton Camp became available as a place of worship for Catholics of the district as well as those from the Camp.

But let us go back to the commencement of Catholic worship within the Camp conducted for the troops of that time. The first Roman Catholic Padre at the Camp was Fr. Jesse Kingan who celebrated the first Mass there in early 1942. It was not celebrated at an altar of marble neither was it in the hushed atmosphere of a Cathedral of "unadorned Gothic design" that describes St. Patrick's Church, nor was it in the simplicity of a plain wooden chapel. The altar on that occasion was an old tree stump, certainly with activity going on all around, the sky above formed the Cathedral, and the furnishings were just a few old logs but there is no doubt that God was in that place just as surely as He would have been if the surroundings had been more ornate.

For those who may remember Fr. Kingan it should be recorded that he went overseas to the Middle East later in 1942 and was, on 1st January 1944 at Vulture Valley in Italy, awarded the Military Cross by General Freyberg for his devotion to the wounded throughout the long desert fighting, often visiting wounded men in forward positions under fire. He was described as a man with boundless zeal and energy, never allowing danger or fatigue to interfere with his work. According to the Senior Catholic Chaplain at that time, Fr. Kingan was the ideal Chaplain and his Military Cross was well merited. Fr. Kingan accompanied K Force to Korea in December 1950 but returned to New Zealand after only a few weeks. He was appointed Chaplain Commandant and held that office from April 1974 to January 1976 and it was in that capacity that he gave the address at the opening of the present St. Martin's Chapel at Linton Camp in July 1974.

Priests from St. Patrick's Parish who have faithfully served the Catholic congregation at Linton over the years include Frs. J. McManus, P.J. Herlihy, L.E. Jansen, R.J. Gethin-Hughes, P. McRae, J.E. Carde and J.E. McLaughlan. The construction of the new St. Martin's Chapel at the Camp in 1974 saw the continuation of the excellent arrangement where the people of the district joined with those from the Camp using the Chapel as a regular place of worship for the Catholic community, which continues to this day. Attendances at services are excellent and the Priest who is at the present time responsible for services is Fr. Peter McCormick who is also visiting Catholic Padre to Linton Camp.

## THE BRETHERN ASSEMBLIES

The first recorded effort to establish services under the auspices of the Brethren movement was that at a meeting of the Linton School Committee in August 1917 when Mr Murdoch, the Headmaster of the school was granted permission to use the school for gospel services.

Within the next couple of years evening services were commenced in the home of Mr Arthur Smith at Ravenswood (now the Greatorex family home) where up to fifty local people of various denominations attended. These services were conducted by Mr James Clapham (Brother of Mrs Smith) assisted by Mr Ernie Wray of Palmerston North and were continued for several years.

Sunday Services, both morning and evening, as well as a Sunday School were commenced in about 1921 in the Linton Hall by the Reading Brethren, conducted mainly by Mr William Missen. These continued for a number of years and after the Missen family left the district in 1926 were continued as evening services by the

Open Brethren until the Second World War years. Mr W. Knight of Palmerston North accepted considerable responsibility for the services during those years. This effort lapsed for a time in the mid 1940s, was later restarted, but then ceased after a short time.

In 1951 the subdivision of land took place at what is now Honore Place and Lot 8 was gifted by a benefactor to the Tiritea Open Brethren Assembly in 1955.

A Sunday School hall was built in 1959 in readiness for the opening of the school year of 1960. Class rooms and a kitchen were later added to the original building. The hall was originally administered by a trust, the Trustees being Messrs. E.H. Compton, A.R. Smith, H.W. Hunt and W.M. Hunt all of Tiritea. In later years the premises were handed over to the care of the Queen Street Open Brethren Assembly in Palmerston North.

The Sunday School in that hall opened early in 1960 with 25 children gradually increasing to some 60 children by 1966. Mr H.W. Hunt was Superintendent and was assisted by Mr Herbert Hunt of Palmerston North as well as by others locally and from Tokomaru and Palmerston North. Mr Francis Brown of Palmerston North conducted the Sunday School from 1974 until about 1980.

Every Boys and Every Girls Rallies were commenced in the hall in 1963.

Every Boys Rally was started by Mr Cedric Hart of Hewitts Road and was later taken over by Messrs. Brian Rickard, Mervyn Hunt and Stuart Lind. Every Girls Rally was commenced by Mrs B. Hunt and Mrs Joan Green both of Tiritea and Mrs Rhoda Stevenson of Tokomaru assisted by several ladies from Palmerston North and Linton Camp.

The Rallies were closed in 1980 and the hall was sold for residential purposes in 1981.

## UNDENOMINATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOLS

Several undenominational Sunday Schools were conducted for comparatively short periods at various times, one being conducted for a time in the early 1920s by Miss Annie Lauridsen in the old Lauridsen home at Whitmore Road, the same home that had been occupied by Mr and Mrs Shere and had been used for Anglican worship over twenty years earlier. From about 1937 Mr John Lauridsen conducted a Sunday School at his home at Whitmore Road. This continued for several years, to be followed then by one held for a few years in the Linton Hall, ceasing finally in the late 1940s.

## THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Two brief references to Presbyterian worship in Linton have been found. The first entry was in the School Committee Minute Book dated 28th October 1899. A request had been received for the use of the school building for Presbyterian services to be held every alternate Sunday commencing on the 19th November of that year. Permission was granted but there is no indication as to how long this arrangement continued.

Then in April 1968 Rev. D. McIvor of the Presbyterian-Methodist Parish in Shannon made an approach that combined services be held regularly in St. Columba's Church on the third Sunday in each month. This was agreed to, the first being held on 19th May 1968. However, the fire in the Church in November of that year brought this arrangement to an end.

## ST. MARTIN'S ROYAL NEW ZEALAND ENGINEERS MEMORIAL CHURCH — LINTON MILITARY CAMP

The present St. Martin's Memorial Church at Linton Military Camp replaced a Chapel that was erected when the Camp was first built and had been a part of the old Y.M.C.A. building. It was desirable that since the Camp had become a permanent institution, a more permanent and appropriate building should be provided as a Chapel within the Camp for all denominations.

The Royal New Zealand Engineers Corps Memorial Association became an incorporated society on 9th September 1966. Its purpose was to establish a Corps Memorial at the School of Military Engineering, Linton Camp that would provide for the Corps a centre wherein the spirit and unity of sappers of all ranks, both active and retired, could be fostered and maintained. Plans were made to establish a memorial centre which included the construction of a Chapel.

In April 1972 the RNZE Corps Committee was advised that the 74 year old St. Saviour's Anglican Church at Makotuku near Norsewood had been offered to Linton Camp as a Garrison Church. Headquarters Home Command suggested that the RNZE Corps Memorial Association might be interested in assisting with finance for the removal and erection of the Church in Linton Camp. The offer of the Church was accepted and the Engineers Corps dismantled it, moved it to Linton in pieces, and rebuilt it on its present site. The Church was to become the place of enshrinement of the Rolls of Honour of the Corps and also form part of the future Corps Memorial Complex. Several memorials within the Chapel maintain links with the district of Makotuku. The three stained glass windows behind the altar are memorials to those from Makotuku who fought in the first World War and the font is in memory of Rev. T.J. Wills, a former minister of the church.

When the church was opened in Linton on 20th July 1974 as St. Martin's Church, the Vicar of the Parish of Takapau addressed the President of the RNZE Memorial Association as follows:

"Sir, we give you this church, originally constructed by the pioneers of our community and a symbol of their faith in God and service to the people, praying that those who worship in it following the rebuilding will also find their worship: growth of their faith, increase of their love, and renewal of heart and mind in service to God and man; and that it will remind all who enter of the sacrifice of those who gave their life for our freedom, to the glory of God."

To which the President replied:

"I receive this church on behalf of the Corps of the Royal New Zealand Engineers, for the honour of God and the ministry of the Gospel to all who live in this place; and unveil the commemorative plaque that records this generous gift from the Parish of Takapau and the people of Makotuku."

Rev. Fr. J. Kingan M.C. as Chaplain Commandant who had been the first Roman Catholic Padre at the Camp in 1942 gave the address at the opening of the Chapel.

In 1985 a round stained glass window was installed in the Chapel over the altar. It had been designed by Shona McFarlane and the design was based on the RNZE badge. The window had been manufactured in Dunedin by Millar studios. It was dedicated on 15th October, Sappers Day, 1985.

The bell which hangs in the front of the church was manufactured by Ottolina Bros. at Seregno in Italy in 1920 and is regarded as a bishop's bell and a peace bell. It



St. Martin's Church, Linton Camp.

— Photo, P.N. Public Library.

is 20 inches in diameter and carries the inscription "Heart of Jesus be our peace." For a time the bell had been used by the SME based in Thailand from Dec. 1965 to Dec. 1971 and had been used for sounding reveille, retreat, etc. but was later replaced by a siren. Since its return to New Zealand it has been at the School of Military Engineering and was on loan to the Linton Camp School for a time.

A prayer desk in the church was made in Perth, Western Australia, and was presented to the Corps by the Royal Australian Engineers.

St. Martin's Church is the garrison church of the Camp. It is used regularly by the Roman Catholic community from both the Camp and the district as a regular venue of worship the present officiating Priest being Padre Fr. Peter McCormick. The present Padre Dean Fairhurst (Salvation Army) for other denominations also conducts services in the church. It is open daily as a place of retreat and prayer and spiritual meditation and the atmosphere within the church lends itself admirably to that purpose.



# 12

## *Linton Military Camp*

**A**n old Maori name for the land area that includes the Linton Military Camp was Te Kairanga, the meaning of the name being "the place where much food is gathered." It is understandable that this name should be applied to the area in view of the fact that eels were plentiful in the rivers and native pigeons and wild pigs were to be found in comparative abundance in the adjoining bush. The name Kairanga, meaning "a company of men making a charge in battle" was also used, both names being applied to this area in the records of the Native Land Court. The second meaning is also applicable as tribal battles were fought in the area long before the coming of the white man.

The history of Linton Camp could be said to date from 25th October 1941 on which date the Government of the day authorised the Public Works Department to purchase 700 acres at Kairanga. The second World War had commenced in 1939 and although New Zealand gave unquestioned support to Britain and her Allies the events of the war were regarded as taking place a long way from these shores.

Then on 7th December 1941 an event took place which resulted in a sudden change of direction so far as New Zealand's involvement was concerned. That event was the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour. No longer were we a little isolated country half a world away from the theatre of war, instead the reality of the conflict was suddenly thrust upon us as the Pacific region was caught up in the fray. On 2nd January 1942 it was decided that the land should be taken under Defence Emergency Regulations as normal purchasing provisions would be too slow. Then on 13th January 1942 the land in question was instead, taken under the Public Works Act, Section 252.

Much of the land needed to be cleared of old Totara timber some of which was sold to the local people at 10/- per dray load, and drains needed to be dug as some parts of the area proved to be wet and swampy.

Members of the 2 Field Regiment of the N.Z. Artillery had been mobilised immediately after the Pearl Harbour attack and had camped at various schools in Palmerston North over the holidays. School classes resumed and the Regiment moved into Linton Camp on 21st February 1942, tents of course, being the only form of accommodation at the time. The first entrance to the Camp was from the Main Road through a gate in the corner opposite what is now Honore Place and this Regiment was camped not far from the Main Road, adjacent to the Kahuterawa Stream so that they could get access to water.

The first Regimental Commander was Col. Lowe and his Adjutant was Major Flux. The first Roman Catholic Padre was Fr. J. Kingan and the first Padre for other denominations was Rev. James A. Linton.

A four page weekly newspaper, "The Observation Post" was published in

Palmerston North especially for the 2 Field Regiment, the first issue being on 22nd May 1942.

The summer of 1941/42 had been one of the wettest on record so the wet conditions, combined with a gale in March 1942 which completely demolished about 28 huts and blew down canvas cookhouses, made conditions in the Camp almost unbearable. This storm also caused considerable damage in Palmerston North.

During this time prefabricated huts were being delivered by train to Tokomaru then transported to the Camp and erected and generally conditions gradually improved. The building programme which had started in February 1942 reached its peak about May or June of that year. One member of the forces who had left the Camp in March later wrote:

"I did come back to Linton Camp on a visit in October 1942 and the surprise that greeted me when I saw the vast lines of hutments and cookhouses and all the amenities for a Military Camp during war."

In September 1942 the 1 Hawkes Bay Battalion moved into Block 4 in tents and in November the 1 Ruahine Regiment moved into Block 2, and the 1 Scottish Regiment into Block 3, then 1000 Air Force personnel moved into Block 6 in April 1943.

The Camp was originally designed to be built in nine blocks but the ninth was never built. Seven blocks were built within the Camp area each designed to hold 2000 men. The eighth block which is built on an area of 10a-Or-36p of land taken from Mr E. Greer on the opposite side of the Camp Road is now the Ministry of Works Depot. The blocks were spread over a wide area to avoid the possibility of total destruction by bombing.

During the initial construction of the Camp which extended from early 1942 to March 1944 a total of 182 permanent buildings were erected together with 521 two-men huts, 155 four-men huts and 480 eight-men huts. Block 5 which has since been dismantled and the cookhouse and mess buildings converted into flats, was the first area occupied in 1942 and the remaining six battalion areas were sufficiently completed by the end of November of that year to be used by the Territorials. With the rapid improvement in the war situation in the early months of 1944 the new camp was never fully occupied.

Those who are interested in statistics may find the following information to be of interest:

A 50 bed hospital was built.  
125,000 cu. yds. of metal were used to establish roads, parade grounds, etc.  
Main Roads: 11 miles 23 chain                      Fencing: 4 miles 53 chain  
Block Roads: 7 miles 12 chain                      Shelter belts planted: 5 miles  
Parade grounds: 21 acres                              Parking: 15 acres  
200,000 sq. yards (or over 40 acres) were sealed

At the peak, 647 people were employed to build the Camp. 168 being employed by the Public Works Department and 479 by private contractors. Departmental staff reached 22 at one time.

The initial building of the Camp cost £642,229 which included £400,000 spent on buildings.

The name of Linton Camp was adopted by general usage as from 1943. In 1942 the camp was known as Camp Manawatu or alternatively as Camp Kairanga. Attempts in the 1960s to have the name changed to Camp Ravenswood or Camp Whitmore were not successful.



A typical block of buildings at the Linton Military Camp in the 1940-1950 era.

— Photo, Linton Military Camp.

During the war years the various churches and social organizations provided welfare huts for the men of the forces, these huts or canteens provided the men in Camp with a place to spend the evenings in a friendly atmosphere, giving them the opportunity to chat with friends from both within the Camp and the civilian helpers who came to help with the work. The civilian helpers who came mainly from Palmerston North would meet at the Post Office in the city and be picked up by a military truck at 6.45 p.m. and taken to the Camp, then returned later in the evening. Cups of tea or coffee and sandwiches etc. were made available at absolutely cost price, letter writing facilities were provided as well as books, magazines and newspapers. A piano was usually available to any who cared to use it.

These canteens were very well run, the organizations concerned taking great care to select as managers those who possessed not only good managerial skills but who could be also a confidant and friend to the young men in Camp on an individual basis if need be as, for many of the trainees the situation was a very traumatic one, having been taken out of their home environment and at such short notice being thrust into a training programme for war.

The Y.M.C.A. or Red Triangle Hut was the first to be established, Mr Bryden Harvey being manager of it almost right throughout the war. The original Camp Chapel was also attached to the Y.M.C.A. building.

The Red Shield Canteen was established at an early date and was operated under the managership of Captain and Mrs A. Boon of the Salvation Army.

The Everyman's Hut was also established by the Brethren Assemblies with Mr David Hewlett as manager. After the war Mr Hewlett returned to commercial life as manager of Selwyn Motors Ltd. It appears that the hut buildings were the

responsibility of the organisations concerned as the Everymans Hut was in 1945 dismantled and shifted to Naena where it was used, first as a Sunday School hall by the Brethren Assemblies, then later as a regular place of worship.

A little later the Anglican Church established a similar canteen under the name of the Church Army. Late in 1944 the Vicar of All Saints' Church and Mr H.G. Bagnall inspected the building with a view to removing it to the church at Linton to replace a Sunday School hall that had previously been destroyed by fire but no further action was taken in this regard.

The Roman Catholic Church also operated a canteen in the Camp for some time.

A rifle range had been set up by the local Home Guard Unit on the property of Mr D. Honore adjacent to the Kahuterawa Stream upstream from the Main Road bridge. Military personnel used this range at a later date but not to any great extent as it was considered to be unsafe.

Since the Second World War, Linton Camp has seen many changes and many units have come and gone. The 1950s saw the commencement of compulsory military training, an arrangement whereby eighteen year-olds were given fourteen weeks basic training. The first of these intakes commenced on Tuesday 9th May 1950 when some 625 young men were admitted for training.

The Commanding Officer at that time was Col. L.W. Thornton later Lt.-General, Chief of Defence Staff and the Chaplains for the first intake were Padres H.W. West, Keith Elliott V.C. and J.L. Kingan M.C. Linton Camp continued to be used for this purpose until CMT ceased in 1958.

In about 1949 Block 5 provided a temporary home for a number of Polish immigrants. They were housed there until more permanent arrangements could be made for them.

The School of Military Engineering had been located at Trentham but in 1953 was moved to Linton Camp and has set up a permanent establishment in the old Block 2 area. In developing its own facilities at the Camp the SME has been involved in several notable projects, one being the building of the "SME Lagoon" the excavation of which was carried out in two phases, first in the mid 1950s and then completed at the end of that decade.

Royal New Zealand Engineers personnel tend to regard Linton Camp as the RNZE "home" as many units of the Corps were either formed or based at Linton Camp at various times, some of these being as follows:

The Central District Construction Squadron was formed there in 1946.

One troop of the 2 Field Squadron was based at Linton from 1951.

6 Independent Field Squadron Headquarters remained at Linton from the time of its formation in 1959 until it was shifted to Petone.

5 Specialist Team RNZE which constructed the Thailand Road was formed at Linton.

The RNZE Corps Memorial Association was formed in 1966 and to fulfill its function in establishing a memorial complex for the Corps, the present St. Martin's Chapel was built in 1974. The foundation stone of the SME Library and Museum was laid in 1977 and the building was opened in February, 1982.

Linton Camp is at present, home for the Engineers of the SME and 25 Construction Squadron.

Several other Corps have had long association with Linton Camp. The 10 Transport Company was formed from a platoon of the Royal New Zealand Army Service Corps that served in Korea as part of the Commonwealth Division in 1951. The Central District Ordinance Company had been located at the showgrounds in



Royal New Zealand Engineers Corps Memorial Museum and Library, open 1982.

— Photo, RNZE Library.

Palmerston North during the war and moved to Linton Camp in 1946 being renamed in 1948 as 2 COD.

4th New Zealand Division Headquarters was established at Linton Camp in 1951 and remained as such in the present Camp HQ building until at least 1962.

1964 saw a reorganisation of the Army and Linton Camp and the pattern of the present day occupancy of the Camp began to be developed. On 8th November 1967 the 1 General Troops Workshop now known as Linton Area Workshops was established, being a unit of the then Logistic Support Force.

Continual development has taken place at Linton Camp, as well as a certain amount of destruction, both intentional and otherwise. Two major fires of the 1950s resulted in the loss of the Ordnance Depot and the Cinema, also many of the earlier buildings have been demolished or removed to make way for new and more permanent construction.

The first housing block on the opposite side of the Camp Road adjacent to the Ministry of Works Depot was provided for Officers, then in 1955 a start was made on the main housing area within the Camp. The number of houses provided remained static for some time then an additional group were erected in the area behind the school. In 1976 the remaining 100 acres of the Keeble property was taken for housing purposes. This was in readiness for a plan to erect approximately 140 houses if the 1 RNZIR returned from Singapore to Linton Camp. The decision was finally taken in 1986 to return these troops from Singapore and the proposed building plan is now well under way. Included in this block of land is a unique stand of native lowland forest which is being preserved.

The construction of the main housing block in the late 1950s and the placing of

families in these houses resulted in the need for a school to be established in the area. A school, therefore, was built on Defence property in 1963 and was ready to be opened for the new school year in 1964.

The 1970s and 1980s have seen many changes in the Camp itself. Many of the old huts have gone and a number of new barrack buildings have been erected, the newer barrack blocks being named after New Zealand Victoria Cross winners. Attention has been paid to landscaping and tree planting, although some of the original trees planted in the early 1940s have matured and been cut down and milled.

Recreational and sporting facilities are not forgotten. Within the Camp are a number of clubs which are controlled by the Commanding Officer but operated by elected committees for the benefit of all members. The extent of interest in any particular activity depends on the interests of the Camp population at any given time so while some clubs are formed and flourished, others may lapse or go out of existence. Those operating at the present time include the Golf Club, Rugby Club, Netball Club, Soccer Club and Cricket Club. Facilities available to members of the armed forces and their families include a golf course, tennis courts, a cricket field, a squash court, soccer, rugby and hockey fields and a sauna.

Some years ago the Camp produced a weekly information paper "The Linton Camp News." In more recent years "The Lintonian" has been published each week by the Education and Welfare Centre.

# 13

## *Manawatu Prison*

**A**s early as 1963 the building of an institution in this area designed to allow a new approach to the correction and reformation of youthful male offenders was considered. With this idea being pursued, in May 1964 72 acres of Camp land, namely Kairanga A and Part 2 was transferred from the Defence Department to the Justice Department. The new style of detention was intended to allow young offenders who are sentenced to imprisonment to be given social training, trade training and education under comparatively low security conditions, and to generally equip them for their return to normal life in the community. As the first Superintendent is reported to have said:

“By its structure, it is a place where the concept is based on the dignity of man and, in acknowledging the frailty of man, projects hope in his ability to establish himself beyond his failings.”

He went on to say that the institution was intended for the treatment of people rather than the housing of prisoners.

The three million dollar contract for the construction of the institution was awarded to the Palmerston North building firm of L. A. H. Mason Ltd. in March 1976 and construction commenced soon after. The plans included what could be considered to be luxuries in so far as traditional prison design is concerned. It included under floor heating, a gymnasium marked out for both basketball and badminton as well as a theatre stage, beamed in timber panelled ceilings in leisure rooms and chapel, also a modern kitchen and dining facilities. A trade block was also included to provide both practical and theoretical training in eight or nine trades. This section of the institution was designed to house 96 inmates.

In addition the Justice Department included a remand block in the plans with accommodation for up to 24 inmates who would be there awaiting trial or sentence from Courts in the local region. In this section a greater degree of security was provided for.

The institution was officially opened in 1979 with Mr Ray Bell as its first superintendent. Mr Bell remained in that position until April 1984 when he became Executive Officer, Penal Institutions Head Office. Mr Lyn Rastrick then took over as Superintendent which position he has held until this day.

In 1985 there was some change of emphasis in the prison programme in that from then on it also catered for adult prisoners for minimum security prison setting, yet still allowing the basic programme to be maintained.

Over the years the community has been involved in the institution's programme, both in the prison and outside. Cultural groups, Arts and crafts tutors, Public debating, Lions Clubs, Church groups, Sporting groups, Alcoholics Anonymous and Alcohol and Drug Dependency Association have all contributed. Also, there

have been times when inmates have been in work paroles locally and with other industries. Inmates have also been given gardens to attend to, community based projects such as Marae parole at St. Michael's Marae at Highbury, landscape work at Ryder Cheshire homes, Crippled Children's home and the new 22A building, then locally over the years they have done work cleaning up around the Army Camp, maintaining the Scout Camp and keeping drains and surroundings tidy in the local area. In recent months prisoners have been involved in the Coppermine Creek area where tracks etc. have been maintained. They have been involved in outside club sporting activities within the community. The Prison has appreciated the co-operation of the local community and looks forward to ongoing contact as this is an important part of the rehabilitation of offenders.

Mr G. Brogden was appointed Chaplain to the institution when it started in 1979 and he continued that position until the end of 1988. The recent addition to staff of a social worker has meant inmates have counselling available such as personal, marital problems, etc. and a programme of Anger Management for inmates has been put in place.

Additions are at present being made to the medium security block which will double the capacity and the recreational facilities of that block. This construction is being carried out by R. Okey Ltd. of Palmerston North.

# 14

## *District Organisations*

### FEDERATED FARMERS

**T**he Farmers' Union, which was the forerunner of the present day Federated Farmers, had links with this area at least as far back as 1902. In 1907 the Manawatu Standard reported that Capt. J.D.R. Hewitt who farmed in the Kahuterawa Valley had been President of the local branch of the Farmers' Union for 5 years, but that he did not seek re-election. At about that time also, Mr G.J. Ward of Linton was Secretary of the Farmers' Union. No indication was given as to what area the "local branch" covered but it was probably not confined to Linton.

It was not until almost another 30 years had elapsed that the Linton Branch of the Union was formed. This formation took place at a meeting held in the Linton Hall in May 1931, which was convened by Mr Nelson, Farmers' Union organiser. Mr George Greer was appointed first President and Mr J.L. Nash was the first Secretary. In 1933 Mr T. Walker was elected President of the local branch. During the early years discussions, addresses on farming topics and field days were well attended by members. Mr L.F. Ballinger was an early delegate to the Manawatu Provincial Executive.

Owing to the fact that records appear to have been lost and also that interest in the Branch activities waxed and waned considerably, the history of Linton Branch remains rather sketchy.

The Dairy Farmers' Union amalgamated with the New Zealand Farmers' Union in 1935, then in 1945 farming representative groups brought their interests together and re-formed the Farmers' Union into what is now known as New Zealand Federated Farmers.

Several Linton farmers have given notable service to the Federation, Mr E.S. Crawford being involved for about 27 years and was President for much of that time. Mr H. Argyle gave long service to the Branch as Secretary. Mr E.W. Harrison was a very active member and served as President as also did Mr M. Main. Mr Main served on the Provincial Council as Meat and Wool Section Chairman and was a delegate to the Dominion Council.

One important project that was carried out by the local branch was the establishment of a Farm Workers Scheme which was formed at a time when farmers experienced great difficulty in obtaining labour, particularly for casual work. The scheme guaranteed the participating farmers the services of a worker for a certain period each year. Mr Main managed the scheme for about 17 years. By then the scheme had served its purpose in the farming community and was terminated and the workers houses were finally sold.

The Linton Branch of Federated Farmers amalgamated with the Aokautere

Branch in 1977. Mr K.B. O'Connor became Secretary of the Branch and continued in that office for 7 years. He is now Chairman of the Manawatu-Rangitikei Dairy Section. At the present time Mr B. Waters of Tiritea is President of the local branch and Mr D. Penny of Linton is Secretary.

## LINTON COUNTRY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Contributed by Institute Members

The Linton Women's Institute was formed by Mrs Noel West on 29th April 1931 and an estimated 20 to 30 ladies were present. Unfortunately the first minute book has been lost but it has been established that Mrs J.L. Nash was first President, Mrs J.J. Lynch was Secretary and Mrs T.D. Lynch was Treasurer. The Linton Branch is within the Wellington Provincial Federation. It was not until 1952 that the decision was made to change the name of the movement to **Country Women's Institute**.

But to return to the early days of the Linton Branch — not being a very large district nearly every woman became a member and W.I. proved to be a blessing as members were able to meet their more distant neighbours, learn new crafts and skills, hear useful hints and be stimulated by new ideas. Cars were not too plentiful so bicycles, horses and walking were common modes of transport. One member had to ford a river, which meant a flood could keep her at home. One foundation member, at that time a newly-wed with a new house and electric range (no thermostat controls) recalls that in her excitement at preparing to attend the inaugural meeting, she placed the roast for dinner in the oven and turned it up to "High" intending to turn it down after dressing. Alas, she forgot. On her return she was met with blue smoke and a cinder for a joint, and her beautiful oven was never the same again. She wept. Who wouldn't?

Very early on, a Garden Circle was formed and flourished under the direction of Mrs A. Batchelar at whose home meetings were held, but the Circle went into recess after a few years. Drama was also very strong, and Linton's name figures many times in Federation Festival awards. Rehearsals were so much easier to arrange in those earlier days because there were fewer outside interests to contend with. Linton had the distinction of winning the first Drama Festival ever held by North Wellington with a play entitled "Acid Drops" and over the years has had some outstanding players, notably Mrs A. Currin, Mrs T.H. Gretton, Mrs G.H. Curry and Mrs M. Rix, to name a few.

An Annual Dance, jointly run by the Farmers' Union and Institute, was a social highlight, and no programme was complete without at least one set of Lancers.

Members assisted victims of the Napier earthquake at the Showgrounds where the homeless were housed, and made up much needed clothing for them. Valuable service was given to all Patriotic efforts during the war and the men from the district were well catered for. The funds for this work were raised by catering for the annual sales at Keeble's Yards and the less said about the cleaning up of the shearers' cookhouse and stove the day before the sale, the better. Concerts and dances drew packed halls. Although special recipes were available using substitutes for rationed butter, many an egg-beater was worn out beating up those scraps of cream into butter for soldiers' cakes. Linton, in Cambridgeshire was the link and food parcels were sent there.

Another venture that was undertaken by the Linton Women's Institute was the

catering for the Linton Rodeo. This was done for about 4 or 5 years in the early years of that organisation and the task was quite a massive one.

Many of the Institute activities were held in the Linton Hall. Catering facilities in the old hall were primitive in the extreme. Water had to be heated in a copper, which first had to be cleaned to remove the ring of verdigris from around it, and then there were sometimes birds nests that had to be removed from the chimney. Rodents were rife, and crockery had to be washed before and after use. The Hostess had to remember that sack of kindling wood. It was a great day when the Zip was installed. Afternoon tea of scones and pikelets was supplied by the Hostess, but cakes came from town on the 1.30 p.m. train. If the train was not met the Guard would forget to put them off and they would go on to Shannon to return again about 3.30 making a very late "cuppa".

Linton has had a very fair share of awards in Handicrafts and Floral Art in bays set up on Show Days. Market Day has proved very popular, an activity which was suggested by the late Mrs Clare Mackie who was Federation President at the time. She suggested that Institutes hold a "combined market day" in Palmerston North and that the proceeds from this be used towards delegates expenses for conference. This was a wonderful help for members' pockets and a good opportunity for the public to see and buy all the good things that Institutes make and bake. Unfortunately, after many successful years the suitability and rental of venues near the City centre, plus parking problems and Saturday shopping put the venture at risk, so "market day" was discontinued a few years ago.

Members still put on entertainment when possible at Annual Federation Socials, Group Rallies, etc. In 1976 Linton C.W.I. won the cake knife, donated by Federation for the largest increase in membership. It is a lovely knife and is used on special occasions.

Father Christmas was always welcomed at the "Family Christmas Parties" where he managed to find gifts in his sack for all the children present. Donations have also been made to needy children and other welfare organisations.

The passing years have seen the regrettable loss of some valued members, particularly some of the foundation members of the Branch, whose hard work through all the years gone by has resulted today, in an Institute to be proud of. Special mention must be made of the contribution to the movement by the late Mrs T.D. Lynch. She was a gifted floral arranger and was very involved in the Spring and Autumn shows that the Institute staged annually in earlier years. She was also very involved in the Garden Circle that flourished at that time, and as well, was always ready to assist anyone she could in any way. Mrs Lynch was a gifted cook and was in constant demand as a judge and demonstrator. She was heavily involved at Federation level as President, also as Dominion (now National Executive) Councillor for a number of years. She was a worthy recipient of the Gold Honours Badge that was awarded to her.

Mention must also be made of the contribution to the movement by the late Mrs Blanche Harrison. As well as being one of the mainstays of the Linton Institute she had worked untringly at Federation level, especially as the "Meals on Wheels" organiser for the Federation being the first organiser for the Federation when it became involved in this service to the community in 1967. She kept this position until she and Mr Harrison retired and went to live up north. Christmas Day, for many years, saw Mr and Mrs Harrison delivering meals to the elderly before coming back home to be with their own family.

In latter years the Institute has had its ups and downs regarding continued



Linton Country Women's Institute celebrates 21 years.

Back Row: Mrs B. Sheridan, Mrs Deighton, Mrs M. Hillas, Mrs N. Marshall, Mrs B. Harrison, Mrs K. Bowler, Mrs M. Gadsby, Mrs M. Bos, Mrs L. Batchelar.

2nd Row: Miss C. McGregor, Mrs M. James, Mrs R. Robert, Mrs E. Lynch, Mrs J. Hight, Mrs M. Mudgway, Mrs K. Fraser, Mrs W. Gretton, Mrs A. Edwards, Mrs Berquist, Mrs N. Rix, Mrs A. Algie, Mrs D. Croucher.

Front Row: Mrs M. Rix, Mrs Gretton Snr., Mrs D. Ballinger, Mrs M. Lynch, Mrs E. Gilliland, Mrs M. Nash, Mrs G. Batchelar, Mrs J. Batchelar, Mrs V. Stonehouse, Mrs Maude Nash.

This photo was taken in the old Linton Hall. Note the mural in the background that had been painted by Mr T.W. Dear.

involvement. Several different meeting arrangements have been tried, some successful, some not, but underneath the aims of the movement have always come through. As in past years the Institute is still having its fair share of success in competition work at local and Federation level and at the A. & P. Shows. Many a happy time has been had setting up the bays, local flower shows, etc. in years gone by — If only those walls could talk!

The best way the past members can be remembered is by present members continuing to work within, and support the Institute as those former members so ably did in their time, and in these days of changing values, acknowledging the motto of the Institute movement — “For Home and Country”.

## AWARDS AND OFFICERS OF LINTON COUNTRY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

**Gold Honours Badge:** Mrs T.D. Lynch

### Service Badges:

Mrs E. Lynch	1941	Mrs V.D. Fraser	1956	Mrs L. Reid	1977
Mrs A. Currin	1943	Mrs W. Gilliland	1962	Mrs J. Folley	1979
Miss E. Young	1945	Mrs I. Newport	1963	Mrs G. Martin	1982
Mrs E. Harrison	1952	Mrs J.W. Robert	1965	Mrs J. McGovern	1985
Mrs M. Rix	1955	Mrs C.C. Collis	1971	Mrs D. Rix	1986
Mrs L. Rix	1956				

**Service on Federation** (Manawatu Federation): Mesdames T.D. Lynch, L. Nash, W. Algie, V.D. Fraser, E.W. Harrison, J. Folley and L. Reid.

Mrs T.D. Lynch also served on Dominion Council, now known as National Executive. Mrs J. Folley also served as Federation President after she left Linton Institute.



Institute members and ex-members at 1964 district celebrations.

Back Row: Mrs T.R. Gretton, Mrs A.C. Wilson, Mrs M.H. Craw, Mrs J. Reichenbach, Mrs E. Whitehead, Mrs W. Lauridsen, Mrs D. Rix, Mrs I. Hillas, Mrs J. Robert.

3rd Row: Mrs H.W. Kilsby, Mrs B. Moody, Mrs J. Hight, Mrs E. Bowler, Mrs Osborne, Mrs A. Farrell, Mrs B. Crawford, Mrs M.R. Greer, Mrs W. Gilliland, Mrs A.J. Lynch.

2nd Row: Mrs M. Sheridan, Mrs L. Craw, Miss A.B. Currin, Mrs J. Craw, Mrs F. Batchelar, Mrs Conland, Mrs V.D. Fraser, Mrs D.J. O'Connor, Mrs V. Marshall, Mrs J. Tucker, Mrs J. Irvine, Mrs E. Heaphy.

Front Row: Mrs Gadsby, Mrs L. Rix, Mrs Gilliland, Mrs J. Lynch, Miss E. Young, Mrs Gretton Snr., Miss Ivy Rix, Mrs J.L. Nash, Mrs T.D. Lynch, Mrs E.W. Harrison, Mrs M. Rix.

— Photo Elmar

**Presidents:**

Mrs M. Nash	1931-33
Mrs M. Lynch	1933-37
Mrs B. Harrison	1937-38
Mrs U. Currin	1938-39
Mrs K. Algie	1939-44
Mrs V. Dale	1944-46
Mrs B. Harrison	1946-47
Mrs N. Collis	1947-48
Mrs N. Rix	1948-50
Mrs K. Bowler	1950-52
Mrs K. Fraser	1952-53
Mrs M. Gadsby	1953-54
Mrs B. Harrison	1954-56
Mrs H. Rix	1956-58
Mrs N. Rix	1958-59
Mrs E. Gilliland	1959-61
Mrs B. Crawford	1961-63
Mrs I. Newport	1963-64
Mrs K. Whitehead	1964-65
Mrs N. Collis	1965-67
Mrs K. Whitehead	1967-69
Mrs W. Gretton	1969-70
Mrs N. Collis	1970-72
Mrs L. Reid	1972-76
Mrs J. Folley	1976-80
Mrs J. McGovern	1980-82
Mrs H. Rix	1982-87
Mrs E. Harrington	1987-88
Mrs B. Marshall	1988-

**Secretaries:**

Mrs E. Lynch	1931-33
Mrs U. Currin	1933-34
Miss E. Young	1934-44
Mrs K. Bowler	1944-45
Mrs D. Ralph	1945-46
Mrs J. Marsh	1946-48
Mrs D. Ralph	1948-49
Mrs B. Harrison	1949-50
Mrs K. Fraser	1950-52
Mrs N. Collis	1952-53
Mrs N. Rix	1953-54
Mrs K. Fraser	1954-55
Mrs N. Rix	1955-57
Mrs B. Harrison	1957-58
Mrs M. Hislop	1958-59
Mrs K. Fraser	1959-60
Mrs J. Sweetman	
Mrs M. Hislop	1960-63
Mrs L. Reid	1963-67
Mrs B. Harrison	1967-68
Mrs J. O'Connor	1968-69
Mrs H. Hillas	1969-71
Mrs H. Rix	1971-72
Mrs E. Craw	1972-73
Mrs B. Harrison	1973-74
Mrs H. Rix	1974-75
Mrs P. Main	1975-76
Mrs F. Murphy	1976-79
Mrs E. Harrington	1979-82
Mrs B. Marshall	1982-87
Mrs S. Hodgetts	1987-

**FITZHERBERT YOUNG FARMERS CLUB**

Contributed by Mrs Tracy Irvine

The Linton Young Farmers club began in 1936. The residing Chairman was Mr Jack Hight with Mr Russell Gretton acting as both Secretary and Treasurer. The club started with approximately fifteen members who were listed in the first Minute Book as: O. Terry, R. Terry, J. Kilgarriff, T. Kilgarriff, J. Moyes, W. Sheridan, M. Sheridan, G. Sheridan, S. Freeman and O. Galpin. The advisory members were Messrs. Len Ballinger, E.W. Harrison and E.S. Crawford.

In 1938 the club was renamed 'Fitzherbert West' Young Farmers Club. The meetings were held monthly and were usually held in either the Linton Hall or the Aokautere Hall. Over the early years the club membership rose and fell to various levels, so much so that from November 1939 to February 1940 the club went into a short recess period. Frequently meetings were attended by 'lecturers' and many of the guests spoke on farm orientated subjects such as farming techniques, machinery, farm maintenance, etc.

The monthly meetings ceased in the Aokautere Hall in March 1940 and were then held solely in the Linton Hall. In October 1940 the club once again went into recess, which was the result of the second world war, the club remaining in recess until October 1946.

On 8th October 1946, at a meeting held in the Linton Hall the club once again underwent a name change. The 'West' was dropped and the club then became, as it is to-day, The Fitzherbert Young Farmers Club. A great emphasis was put on the club members fellowship toward one another, they continued to have many speakers attend the meetings and enjoyed many activities as a thriving club.

On 21st May 1957 the club celebrated its 21st birthday with a Dinner and Ball in the PDC Building, Church Street, Palmerston North.

On 5th August 1957 the first meeting of the Fitzherbert Country Girls Club was held at Linton Church Hall. The meeting was chaired by Miss Elaine Fraser, with Miss Shirley Brown as Secretary and Miss Carol Batchelar as Treasurer. Miss Valerie Fraser and Miss Betty Thomas were elected as committee members. The club's advisory members were Mrs M. Rix and Mrs I. Gilliland. The meetings were held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Linton Hall.

The Country Girls and Young Farmers would meet on several occasions. When a speaker of interest to both clubs attended one meeting, the other club would join them, and members from both clubs also attended dances, concerts, etc.

As the years went by both clubs continued to enjoy a healthy attendance, however in 1963 the Country Girls saw a rapid decline in their members and as a result, on the 5th March 1963 the club went into recess. The Opiki Country Girls Club offered any Fitzherbert members who were still interested in the movement, the opportunity of joining the Opiki Club which quite a few of them did.

On 5th March 1974 the Fitzherbert Young Farmers Club and the Fitzherbert Country Girls Club became a joint organisation. This saw a jump in the Young Farmers members from twelve to twenty-seven at the first meeting! This also saw an increase in the variety of activities and competitions held, e.g. sewing and cooking, stockjudging, quiz's, woolhandling and shearing, debating, etc.

The club has had a healthy career since the combination of both organisations, although as in any club the attendance has gone from one extreme to another.

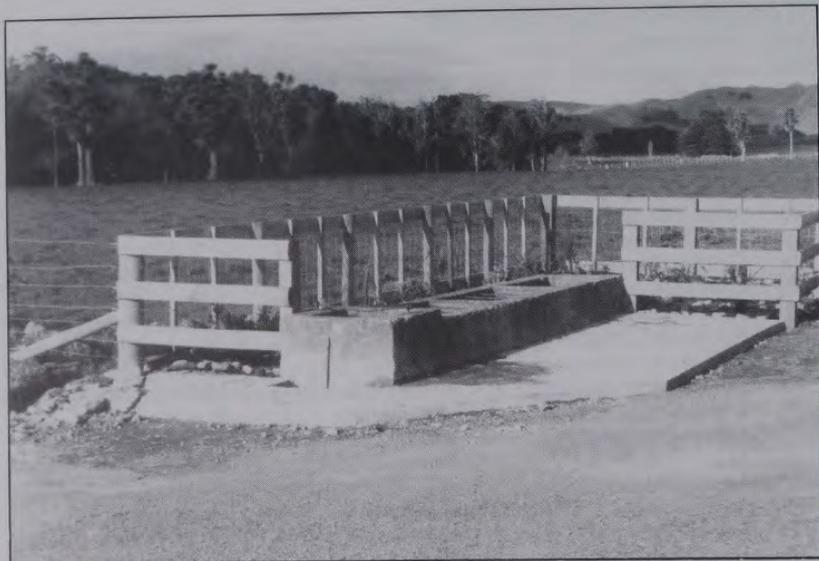
In 1983 the club was represented by Gerard Lynch at the eliminations for the Skellerup Young Farmer of the Year competition, in which he not only qualified for the final competition but in fact, went on to win.

On 4th October 1986 the club celebrated its 50th Jubilee. A Dinner-Dance was held at the Linton Hall. A committee of approximately ten members organised the event which proved to be very successful with an attendance of 160 guests.

Currently the club is enjoying a happy and successful existence, with members from Tokomaru, Linton, Aokautere, Rongotea, Rangiotu, Kairanga and Palmerston North. The club enjoys a very active life with several activities being held each month, ranging from our monthly meetings, pot luck dinners, golf, bowling, fundraising events (e.g. crutching or dagging sheep), annual Linton district games evenings, school safety days, through to our annual cabaret.

**FITZHERBERT Y.F.C. — 1936-1986**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
1936	Jack Hight	Russell Gretton	Russell Gretton
1937	Jack Hight	Russell Gretton	Russell Gretton
1938	Darcy Lynch	Noel James	Noel James
1939	Noel James	J. Woodley	
1940	J. Woodley	J. Coulter	
1940 to 1945 incl.	War years — Club in recess.		
1946	John Gilliland	Charlie Shere	Brian Crawford
1947	D.H. Dale	T.A. Nash	Jim Kilsby
1948	Gordon Perry	Alec Shere	Brian Crawford
1949	Bruce Peters	Milton Batchelar	Charlie Shere
1950	Bruce Peters	Donald Rix	Charlie Shere
1951	Milton Batchelar	J. Roil	Alan Lynch
1952	J. Roil	Ian Hillas	David Collis
1953	Terry J. Lynch	Harry A. Brown	Milton Batchelar
1954	David Collis	Donald Rix	Stanley Rich
1955	Milton Batchelar	Brian Crawford	Stanley Rich
1956	Harry Brown	Brian Crawford	Stanley Rich
1957	David Collis	A.C. Taylor	Stanley Rich
1958	A. Taylor	G. Smith	Donald Rix
1959	David Collis	Ross Smith	Bruce Rix
1960	Bob Williams	Graeme August	A. Hutchinson
1961	Ian August	A. Emery	A. Hutchinson
1962	P. Ryder	N. Andrews	L. Signal
1963	Arty Taylor	L. Signal	N. Andrews
1964	Keith Mepham	G. Vincent	Danny Lynch
1965	Bruce Rix	G. August	Danny Lynch
1966	Danny Lynch	R.G. Brown	D. McNeil
1967	Graeme August	G. Hume	D. Taylor
1968	Robin Hight	G. Hume	Anthony O'Connor
1969	Alan Kendrick	Graeme Liggins	Graham Irvine
1970	Jim McGovern	Graham Irvine	Mark Craw
1971	John Irvine	Graham Irvine	Jim McGovern
1972	Mark Craw	Graeme Allomes	Tony Tews
1973	Graham Irvine	Kevin White	Jim McGovern
1974	Geoff Kane	Sue Allomes	Jim McGovern
1975	Peter Claridge	Kristine Whitelock	Graeme Allomes
1976	Graeme Allomes	Kristine Whitelock	Peter Claridge
1977	Steven Crawford	Julie Crow	Graham Irvine
1978	John Irvine	Joanne Whitelock	Rosemary Brown
1979	Duncan Squire	Donald Irvine	Bernard Quin
1980	Donald Irvine	Cathy Batchelar	Bernard Quin
1981	Donald Irvine	Carol Irvine	Paul McGovern
1982	Mike Dransfield	Carol Irvine	Robyn Smith
1983	Gerard Lynch	Julie Candy	Robyn Smith
1984	Chris Levet	Donald Irvine	Robyn Smith
1985	Kevin Bills	Tracy Frith	Evan Jackson
1986	Richard Lynch/Kyle Crow	Sylvia Poll	Greg Stewart
1987	Gregg Stewart	Kim Hislop	Kevin Bills



Kendalls Line Water trough. Landscaped by Lions club in 1988.

### FITZHERBERT COUNTRY GIRLS CLUB — 1957-1963

Year	Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer
1957	Elaine Fraser	Shirley Brown	Carol Batchelar
1958	Peggy Free	Shirley Brown	Cathie Taylor
1959	Peggy Free	Lillian Richfield	Cathie Taylor
1960	Margaret Walker	Barbara Thompson	Marion Collis
1961	Jennifer Kelly	Elaine Richfield	Margaret Whyte
1962	Caroline Hight	Lois August	M. Williams
1963	Club went into recess before 1963 A.G.M. was held.		

### LINTON LIONS CLUB

Contributed by T.L.C. Johnstone

Early in 1974 five members of the Palmerston North Lions Club met with five men from the Linton area and as a result of that meeting a decision was made to form a Lions Club in the Linton area. On 30th November 1974 The Lions Club of Linton and Districts was chartered by the District Governor and it commenced with 30 foundation members. Membership has fluctuated over the years rising as high as 37. Present membership is 29.

The Club has been involved in a number of projects, the first being to provide resuscitators for each of the schools in the Club's area, namely Aokautere, Tiritea, Linton Camp, Opiki, Tokomaru and Linton. Another project was the purchase of a



Mr Don Rix, Charter President of the Lions Club of Linton and Districts receiving the Club Charter from Mr D. Gault, District Governor at the Charter Night Ceremony, Saturday 30th November 1974.

cultivator for the I.H.C. farm at Aokautere. Fundraising projects have included "The Gumboot Game" based on "It's In The Bag" which was held at the Camp Cinema, growing mangolds and clearing scrub and trees.

A number of youths have been sponsored on exchanges overseas and to Lions Camps in New Zealand. Club members assist with the annual collection for I.H.C. and for the Braille Appeal. Some members assist delivering "meals on wheels". In 1980 the Club held an "old identities" luncheon at the Linton Hall.

Children from the six schools in the Club areas are invited to participate annually in a project known as "The Alan Aldrich Memorial Essay Competition" which is held in two groups, one for Standards 3 and 4 and one for Forms 1 and 2.

The Charter President of the Club was Mr Don. Rix and he has been followed by:

M.H. Batchelar	1975-76
M.J. O'Donoghue	1976-77
I.G. Hillas	1977-78
A.J. Lynch	1978-79
A.L. Aldrich	1979-80
T.L.C. Johnstone	1980-81
N.J.C. Grimes	1981-82
J.R.B. Williams	1982-83
B.M. Waters	1983-84
D.J. Powley	1984-85
G.S. Irvine	1985-86
I. Paterson	1986-87
D.A.W. Bierman	1987-88
G. Firth	1988-89

## LINTON SCOUTS AND CUBS

It was about 1951-52 that a meeting was called by Mr W.S. Nash Linton and Mr Norman Liggins of Tokomaru to consider the formation of a Scout Troop. The



Original Linton Scout Troop and Club Pack, 1959.

Back Row: Bill Spooner, —, Alan Aldrich, Shaw Nash.

4th Row: Zelda Collis, Michael Keys, Bob Collis, Richmond McKenzie, Stuart Frith, Andrew Baker.

3rd Row: Glenda Aldrich, Roger Sheridan, David Arndt, Frank Boddy, Pat Duggan, Kevin O'Connor, Mike Marshall.

2nd Row: John Dixon, Anthony O'Connor, Brian Hight, Donald Mitchell, Alan Rowe, Andrew Swan.

Front Row: —, Neville Cocks, —, Robin Hight, Tony Nash, Vernon Curtis, Timothy Nash.

— Photo W.S. Nash.

meeting which was held in the Linton Hall was addressed by Mr Frank Hopwood who was District Commissioner at the time, and a decision was made that a troop should be formed at Tokomaru and another at Linton. Activities in the early days were held at the Linton Hall then transferred to a building on the Camp property in about 1958-59. Since the formation of the troop at Linton a considerable number of boys from the district have participated in the activities offered, some of the boys continuing as leaders in later years.

Among those who have accepted responsibility for leadership have been Mrs Ivy Jordan, Archie Cook, Shaw Nash, Bill Spooner, Alan Aldrich, Eddie Boddy, Clive Conland, Des. Robert, Glenda Alrich, Zelda Collis and Carol Hight. Jack High and Eric Ray also assisted in leadership in the earlier years of the existence of the troop.

Probably the most notable recognition of Scouting in the Linton area was the establishment of a recreational area in the Kahuterawa Valley known as Camp Kilsby. Before development the area had been used by Scouts for many years, then in 1970 Mr H.W. Kilsby, the owner of the property gifted the area to the Scout Association thus enabling the area to be developed and serviced for future use, not just for Scouts but for Church groups, school classes and other groups. Mr Malcolm Greer who was at the time the Area Commander for the Rangitane Area arranged for the transfer of the property in accordance with the wishes of Mr Kilsby and Mr



The Official Opening of Camp Kilsby.  
Photograph includes K. Malcolm, H.W. Kilsby, M.M. Greer and P. Snoxell.

B.R. Austin, a former District Commissioner guided the development work that was carried out. Mr Austin is, in fact, still in charge of the supervision of Camp Kilsby.

### THE DEVELOPMENT OF CAMP KILSBY

Camp Kilsby is an area of land of 4 hectares (10 acres) on the banks of the Kahuterawa Stream. The land had been bush covered but the intrusion of browsing stock over many years had caused the destruction of much of the bush except some of the larger mature trees. The first step in the restoration of the area was the fencing off of the remaining areas of trees together with a planting programme to provide shelter belts so that the natural bush could be re-established. Forty-four chains (880 m) of fencing was erected and in the first year 1600 pines and firs and 800 poplars were planted as well as willows and pampas. The remaining open area continued to be grazed and was used for recreational purposes.

The second stage has involved the planting of some 2000 native seedlings covering a range of about 400 species. This has been carried out progressively over a period of some years. To increase the availability of seedlings a small glasshouse was erected which allowed the propagation of a continuous supply of plants. It was noticeable that once fencing was completed the existing trees also began to sprout new growth and some natural regeneration has resulted in the bush area. There have been certain losses in drought periods but generally the regeneration programme has made steady progress. This programme of forest rejuvenation took priority over other amenities for several years but in due course a permanent toilet



The Ala-Ala Award.

block was built and a water supply installed as well as electrical reticulation. The project was so successful that it attracted the attention and favourable comments of the New Zealand Forest Service.

This project is saving, for a wide section of the community, particularly the youth, a rural sylvan haven of a type that is becoming increasingly rare within easy reach of a city. Every year many hundreds of youth, parents and leaders day visit or camp at the property and all express pleasure at the tranquillity, convenience and safety from molestation (the access is by locked gate) that the site provides. It is envisaged that the scheme of fenced bush and grazed open areas will provide these facilities in perpetuity. From the earliest work of fencing and planting, the parents, committee members and all sections of the Scout movement have participated in the re-forestation programme giving them an increased awareness of the value of such areas.

## THE ALA ALA AWARD

The 11th Asian Pacific Scout Conference was held in Hong Kong in August 1978. Mr Keith Malcolm, the Area Commissioner for Rangitane was one of the delegates at the conference. The New Zealand delegates learned with delight and pride that the Ala Ala Award for Scouting involvement in nation building through community development had been won by New Zealand. This award is presented biennially and consists of a bronze plaque and a cash prize.

The New Zealand entry for the award which competed against many from around the world, was in fact, the conservation, reforestation and development project at Camp Kilsby. The "New Zealand Scout News" of October 1978 reported:

"In making the Award, the Ala Ala Foundation emphasised the significance of the Scouting programme in nation-building activities. The Foundation recognises the strong aspirations of youth to be actively involved in community development and service to enable boys to become responsible citizens or even future leaders of their community and country."

## LINTON GUIDES AND BROWNIES

Contributed by Mrs Weggerly

The Linton Guide Company and Brownie Pack were formed in late 1964 at Linton Camp. For some years the units were run by Leaders from both the Camp area and Linton District, with the district adults supplying continuity.

Membership was usually around 20 for each group and many camps and activities were held on the Army grounds, and the girls enjoyed joining in Provincial Activities. Unfortunately at one stage a fire destroyed the hut being used and all records and equipment were lost.

In 1986 a 21st birthday was held with a Church Parade and luncheon and was well attended by past and present members. Alas — at odd times during the past 10 years, lack of leaders has forced both units in to recess with the Brownie unit at present in this position. Mrs Judy Clinch is running a small but enthusiastic Guide Company.

With the return of the Battalion from Singapore the organisation is hoping that more parents will see their way clear to helping their daughters enjoy the experiences, joys and advantages of "being a Guide".

## LINTON VILLAGE PLAYCENTRE

Contributed by Mrs Julie Brown

Prior to the establishment of the Linton Village Playcentre, families travelled past an ideal spot for pre-school activities to go to Linton Camp Playcentre. In October 1974 concerned parents of Linton and district approached the Education Board and requested the use of the spare classroom attached to the school. The usual problem was money for equipment, the school kindly donating tables, chairs and the wood work bench. Of course the assistance of willing fathers should not go without mention. Businesses were canvassed for both donations and equipment and a goal of \$400 was set. Linton Camp Playcentre helped immensely, also by training supervisors.

After a year of market days, fundraising and donations, in October 1975 it became an Official Playcentre.

Since then, the Playcentre has continued to function strongly. Many families have benefited from the well maintained, supervised and friendly centre.

At this present time it has three sessions per week, two supervised and one group supervision. The roll stands at 15 children over 2½ years of age and 12 under 2½ years, and the roll is increasing each year.

## **LINTON KINDERGARTEN**

**Contributed by Barbara Dawkins,  
Administration Officer,  
Ruahine Kindergarten Assn. Inc.**

The Linton Kindergarten Establishment Committee was formed at a Public Meeting in the Community Hall on 15th March 1978. The building of the Kindergarten commenced during the third term of 1982 and finished during the first term of 1983 and was officially opened by Mr Michael Cox M.P. on 2nd July 1983. The Kindergarten can accept up to thirty children at each session and will operate two groups spread over eight sessions in a week. Linton Kindergarten is part of an educational grouping which includes a Playcentre, a Kohanga Reo and a Primary School and serves the Defence Department Camp, the nearby Justice Department housing area and the surrounding rural area stretching from Tiritea to Tokomaru.

# 15

## *Linton Social and Sports Clubs*

**A** Linton Social Club has existed at various times over a period of many years, usually promoting several forms of social and sporting activity; card games, table tennis, badminton and indoor bowls being among those that have been included. It is known, for example, that a social club existed about 1946, holding its activities in the old Linton Hall for up to 3 nights each week. That club had 5 table tennis tables and started with one bowling mat, later increasing to 3 or 4 mats. Sometimes some club activities would fade from popularity while others would increase in favour to the extent that a special club would be formed to cater for that particular pastime. This applied not only to indoor activities. The beginnings of several of the clubs catering for outdoor activities can also be traced to the Linton Sports Club which was a popular club in the early years of the century and catered for many forms of outdoor sport.

It would be almost impossible to trace the history of every social and sporting organisation that has existed within the district but those included in the following pages represent some of the groups that have operated.

### LINTON SPORTS CLUB

It was on 5th February 1904 that a meeting was called to form an Athletic Club in Linton. The first officers to be elected were: Patron: Mr S. Greer, President: Mr M.A. Moody, Vice-Presidents: Messrs. F.A. Hosking, R. Aymes, and R. Ross, Secretary/Treasurer: C.H. Jonathan. The first general committee consisted of Messrs. A.E. Clarke, S. Young, A.E. Currin, G. Anderson, A. Rix, J. Tomlin, A. Scholes, J. Larsen, S. Jackson, C. Claridge, F. Greer, G. Greer, A. Greer, E. Greer, A. Grimstone, O. Larsen, W. Jackson and T. Hawkins. A total of 42 people joined the Club that year by paying a 5/- subscription fee. The decision was made to hold the first sports meeting on Wednesday, 23rd March 1904, which was duly held in Mr Greer's paddock (Now the Greatorex family property). Excellent support was given by the district to this first sporting fixture and the Club was able to continue these events for a period of almost 30 years with only very few breaks.

Many aspects of sport were involved in the programme at various times, ranging from a wide variety of horse events and athletic events to sheep weight guessing and chain stepping. Children's events were also included and as the sports were held on a weekday, a holiday from school on that day was regarded as absolutely essential.

Mr George Crow, who devoted much time and money to the training of his champion trotters, aroused much interest in this sport, and there were many interesting races between local horses. For some years the Club became affiliated with the New Zealand Trotting Association. The hunter's events were also keenly



Linton Sports Day at Craw's Race Track. Note Mr Craw's house in the background.

— Photo, Denzil Craw.

contested and for many years Mr Alf. Currin was a very successful competitor, his horse "Hokowhitu" achieving almost legendary fame in the district.

The Club affiliated with the Amateur Athletic and Cycling Association and cycling became another activity for which the Club provided, and competitors attended the meetings from long distances. Perhaps there are some who would have cause to remember a glorious tangle in which over twenty cyclists hit the turf. A group of visiting Australian athletes and cyclists took part at a Linton Sports Meeting. Other activities introduced later included Highland Dancing and Sheep Dog Trials with the Club affiliating with both the N.Z. Piping and Dancing Association and the N.Z. Sheep Dog Trial Association. On several occasions funds raised by the sports meetings were donated to other causes, e.g. the Belgian Relief Fund and the Hall Society.

Mr R.E. Bannister purchased Mr S. Greer's property then later it was owned by Mr A. Smith. Sports meetings were held on this property for a number of years, then were transferred to Mr Craw's property where he had established a suitable race track. Later still the meetings were held on the property of Mr A. Akers.

Many district residents supported the Club as well as some from outside the district. Those who followed Mr Moody in the position of Chairman were Messrs. J. Jackson, R.E. Bannister, G. Craw, J. Batchelar, T.D. Lynch, S.H. Brown, G. Allwright, G.H. Hampson and J.L. Nash. Secretaries included Messrs. S. Young, J. Tomlin, G.J. Ward, A.E. Currin (for 15 years), C. Kennard, G. Allwright, W. Mills, E.W. Croucher and G.L. Craw. Following Mr S. Greer, Patrons of the Club were Mr H.W. Field M.P., Mr J.A. Nash, Mr D. Buick M.P., Mr H. Akers and Mr G. Craw.



"Nelson Derby", a trotter owned by Mr G. Crow. This horse which had been purchased in Christchurch for £500 won the Great Northern Derby. Mr Crow also purchased its full brother "Nelson Frame".  
— Photo, Denzil Crow.

Dances or smoke concerts were also regularly run by the Club and were well attended functions.

Probably owing to economic circumstances there was a rapid decline of interest from 1930, that being the last year that any written record appears to exist of a major sports function.

The annual ball was held the following year but from then on moves were made to terminate the activities of the Club. A meeting was held in 1937 where considerable discussion took place regarding the future of the Club and there the matter rested until meetings were called in 1954 when on 27th July of that year a resolution was passed that Linton Sports Club's affairs be wound up and the balance of the funds, after paying outstanding accounts, be donated to the Linton Public Hall Committee. The convener of the meetings to wind up the Club in 1954 was the Treasurer, Mr W. Gooch, Mr G.L. Crow was Acting-Secretary and Mr M. Rix occupied the Chair.

Although the records of the club indicate a lack of interest in club activities from the 1930s onwards, the "Linton School and District Jubilee Souvenir" of 1939 seems to suggest that lively interest was being taken in the Sports Club in about 1938 or 1939. It is certainly known that sporting fixtures were run about 1948 to 1950, supported at the time by the Young Farmers Club which ran stock judging competitions in addition to the athletic, cycling and horse events. These fixtures were conducted on the Akers property for about two years, then later the Young Farmers Club moved into the Rodeo activities. The Rodeo was later operated by a committee from outside the Linton district and very successful programmes continue to be held in this sport.



These are believed to be some officials of the old Linton Sports Club. Probably taken about 1909.  
 Back Row: C. Priest, W. Jackson, A. Currin, H. Rix, R. Amner, —  
 2nd Row: J. Owens, G. Ward, Mr Bannister, J. Maloney, J. Tomlin, —  
 Front Row: A. Rix, J. Chamberlain, G. Connor.

Photo, — D. Rix.

### LINTON INDOOR BOWLS CLUB

On 10th July 1963 Mr M. Rix called a meeting in the Linton Hall, the purpose of it being to consider the formation of an Indoor Bowling Club. Indoor Bowls had been previously played in Linton, apparently under the auspices of the Linton Social Club but it was felt that the time had arrived that a club should be formed to cater for that particular sport. Seventeen people attended the meeting and a further 12 apologies were received. It was moved by Mr R. Allomes and seconded by Mr R. Beetham that a bowling club be formed, the foundation members being recorded as follows: Mr and Mrs M. Rix, Mr and Mrs L. Rix, Mr and Mrs J. Robert, Mr and Mrs J. Aldrich, Mr and Mrs E. Whitehead, Mr and Mrs W. Gilliland, Mrs N. Marshall, Messrs. P. Christensen, R. Allomes, M. Murcott, R. Smith, R. Beetham, C. Collis, H. Lepper, A. Cocks, I. Hillas, R. Aldrich, L. Newport, D. O'Connor, J. Lynch, M. Sheridan, W.S. Nash and Mr Short.

By the end of the first year the President was able to report a membership of 56 and that 4 visits had been made to neighbouring clubs and return visits had been made by those clubs. The Club continued with an average attendance of 30-40 players and in the 1967 year two teams entered the A grade league. In 1969 the Victory Cup was won in a challenge against the Ashhurst Club but the exhilaration of success was short lived when the Cup was lost again to the R.S.A. Club in its first defence, but the following year it was won again and this time it was retained for a longer period. Up to 14 players were attending championship and Tournament fixtures.

Throughout the history of the Club a "Bone of Contention" contest has been regularly played between Linton, Tokomaru and Opiki Clubs but when Opiki Club went into recess the Longburn Club in 1977 became the third team in that contest.

In 1978 Miss Currin donated a Cup to be known as the Currin Cup to the Club. This Cup had been previously won by her father, Mr A.E. Currin with his horse "Hokowhitu" in the activities of the Linton Sports Club many years ago. It is now competed for as the singles championship cup by first and second year players. Trophies have also been presented to the Club by Mr M. Murcott, Mr I. Hillas, Mr J. Robert and Mr B. Jordan.

As the Club activities entered the 1980s it continued to be very active in the community, membership reaching 66 in 1983 although this figure has fluctuated considerably. The number of players has averaged near 30.

In 1981 the Club received a Sports and Recreation Grant through the Kairanga County Council which enabled a contribution to be made towards the installation of fluorescent lights in the hall, replacing the earlier lights that were found to be inadequate.

The 21st birthday of the Club in 1984 was marked by a special function to which foundation members, former members, trophy donors and sponsors were especially invited.

The status of "Life Membership" has been conferred on a number of members in recognition of outstanding service given to the Club over a period of years. Mr and Mrs E.W. Harrison who were then about to leave the district, and Mr and Mrs M. Rix received this recognition in 1974; Mr M. Murcott in 1984; then in 1985 Mr and Mrs S. Oxenham and Mr M. Sheridan were similarly honoured.

The Club at present has about 35 financial members, about half of them being from outside the Linton district. Members continue to take a very active interest in the Club. Club officers have included:

**Patrons:**

Mr M. Rix	1967-75
Mr M. Heath	1975-83
Mr M. Sheridan	1983-

Those who have served as Club Captains have been (in total years):

E. Whitehead	1 year	M. Murcott	1 year
H. Lepper	4 years	J.C. Shere	6 years
I. Hillas	3 years	J. Bills	4 years
D. Rix	1 year	M. Sheridan	3 years

**President:**

M. Rix	1963-66
E.B. Jordan	1966-69
M. Murcott	1969-71
E.W. Harrison	1971-72
I. Hillas	1972-75
M. Sheridan	1975-81
J.C. Shere	1981-85
Mrs I. Cockburn	1985-86
G. Lockett	1986-

**Secretary:**

W.S. Nash	1963-65
M. Murcott	1965-68 also 1974-84
Mrs S. Newth	1968-70
Mrs Oxenham	1970-72
E. Williams	1972-74
M. Roberts	1984-85
P. McGovern	1985-88
Mrs L. Holdaway	1988-

**Treasurer:**

R. Beetham	1963-65	Mrs Cockburn	1970-71 also 1978-85
Mrs L. Rix	1965-66	I. Hillas	1971-72
Mrs E. Harrison	1966-68	Mrs Shere	1974-75
E. Rogers	1968-69	G. Lockett	1975-78
H. Lepper	1969-70	J.C. Shere	1985-

**TENNIS CLUBS**

The popularity of tennis has waxed and waned in the district since the earliest days with courts being established on several different sites at various times.

A Lawn Tennis Club existed at Whitmore, probably about 1900. A court was established in Weld Street (Lot 56), the land in more recent years being part of that occupied by Mr H. Witherington. The sheltering poplar trees are still there and the outline of the court is still clearly visible. Little is known of the club but some members of the Greer family were almost certainly members.

Also, prior to 1900 a club was formed and two grass courts were established, which were situated just near the railway line on the corner of Section 85 (Now Mr K. O'Connor's property).

The club boasted quite a large membership for a time and competition matches were held with other clubs as well as a series of Tennis Dances (in whites instead of formal suits). But after a time interest waned and the club went into recess.

The late 1920s saw a revival of interest in the Tennis Club so two sealed courts were established on what was then Council land, being Part Lot 202 (The rear portion of the section which Mr R. Mudgway's house now occupies) just opposite the Headmaster's house. In 1930 the Kairanga County Council granted the Linton Tennis Club a seven year lease on the property, which the club was already using, at a rental of £2 per annum. Mr A.J. McEvedy was President of the club for several years then later served as Patron. Very few records relative to the club are available but it is known that Mr R. Beckett was Chairman of the club committee for several years, and committee members in 1933 were Mrs Beckett, Mr and Mrs D.H. Currin, Messrs. R. Pringle, J. Lynch and R. Carr. Players in later years also made occasional use of a court that existed near the present home of Mr K.D. Craw.

**1946-1976**

A meeting was held in the Linton Hall on 7th December 1946 to determine whether sufficient support would be forthcoming for the re-formation of the Tennis Club. Mr D. Currin and Mr M. Rix who had both been trustees for the previous club attended the meeting. With about 20 people present at the meeting, the number was considered to indicate good support for the idea so after discussion it was agreed that a committee be elected and a club be formed. The first officers of the club were: Chairman: Mr W. Gilliland, Secretary and Treasurer: Mrs N. Marshall, Committee: Mrs L. Rix, Miss B. Ralf, Miss W. Allison, Messrs. D. Dale, S. Algie and L. Rix. The subscription rate per member was set at five shillings.

Support for the club rapidly increased and the first club dance was arranged for Tuesday, 29th July 1947. The Commandos Orchestra provided the music and the event showed a profit of £6 7. 5.



Linton Tennis Club, about 1900.

— Photo, C. Shere.

The club searched for a suitable site as a venue for play but in the meantime the Russell Court, Akers Road, and the court at the school provided the necessary facilities.

Mr and Mrs W. Algie offered to donate land for two courts in memory of their son, Frank who was killed overseas in the second world war. Also included in this memorial recognition was the name of Ray Peters who died while serving overseas in the Air Force. This most generous offer was gladly accepted so after necessary legal arrangements had been made the site which is on the Main Road, almost opposite the end of Eyre Road, passed into the hands of the club. In the meantime Mr S. Rich had fenced the section and club members were able to set about developing the grounds and preparing the sites for the courts which ultimately consisted of one sealed court and one grass court. From time to time the club continued to arrange dances which were very popular with both country and city people (Admission charges: men 4/-, ladies 3/6, double 7/-).

In order to facilitate the coaching of younger players a volley board was set up in 1960. It was necessary to keep the grounds tidy so a lawnmower was purchased for the then considered exorbitant price of £15. Michael Marshall and John Hight also built an umpire's stand and a small pavilion was provided.

During the early 1960s the club continued to flourish but toward the end of that decade membership began to drop to the extent that by 1970 the club had only 7 paid-up members. Over the next few seasons the club activities shifted to the school court, but that court was in poor condition. The club sought to gain new members and also enquired as to the possibility of resurfacing and redeveloping the school



Whitmore Lawn Tennis Club, about 1900.

— Photo, M. Greer.

court offering a sum towards that cost, but the repairs did not eventuate and finally in 1976 through lack of support the club ceased functioning.

The first trustees for this club were Messrs. M. Rix, W. Gilliland Snr. and H.W. Kilsby but in the meantime these gentlemen had all passed away so Mr J. Hight and Mr D.J. O'Connor were appointed. With the agreement of the Algie family the section on the Main Road was sold to Mr L. Costigan and is now the site of his family home. The assets of the club are held in trust and earnings of that trust are contributed to the Linton Hall Management Committee.

Two cups were donated to the club, one being the H.W. Kilsby Cup for men's singles donated in 1951 and the other is the O'Connor Cup for mixed doubles donated in 1973. In 1951 the club also purchased a cup to be known as the Most Improved Player Cup.

Tennis facilities still exist at Linton School and perhaps at some time in the future another enthusiastic generation will revive the Linton Tennis Club.

### LINTON BADMINTON CLUB

A Badminton Club was formed in Linton in the 1950s, the founding members being Mrs M. Cocks, Mr and Mrs B. Murphy, Messrs. K. Fabian, D. Martin and E. Reid. Club events were held in the old Linton Hall then when the old hall was closed and sold to Mr R.E. Boyd the Club continued to use the building during the winter months for about two seasons. Membership grew to about 40, with the result that larger premises were needed so activities shifted to the Camp. Some time later activities again moved to Awatapu in Palmerston North, the Club becoming known

as the Linton — Awatapu Badminton Club. The Club continues to operate to this day although there are at present practically no members from Linton involved. Club trophies of earlier days continue to be competed for in the present Club.

### LINTON TABLE TENNIS AND BADMINTON CLUB

A new Club was formed in Linton about three years ago and operates in the present Linton Hall with about 25 players involved. The present Secretary is Mrs S. Bury.

### LINTON FOOTBALL CLUB

A Football Club existed for twenty years or more before 1930 but was dissolved many years ago. The following account of the Club's activities is a reprint of the information that appeared in the Linton Jubilee Booklet of 1939.

"The Linton Football Club commenced its activities in 1905, the first match being played on Mr Greer's ground (now the Greatorex family farm). Expert coaching by provincial and international representatives soon made Linton Juniors into a good side. Although not always successful in the Manawatu Competitions, the local team won the Rogers Cup, and on several occasions upset all calculations by inflicting defeat upon the leading teams.

In the early days, Ward's two-horse express was the method of transport. (No players allowed to ride up the hills). It was often a difficult task to collect all the members of the team for the return journey to Linton, especially in the days of 'ten o'clock closing.'

One of the most eagerly anticipated matches of the year was that between the employees of Craw's flaxmill and Linton. After the match the 'cow-cookies and flaxies' would enjoy themselves at a smoke concert.

During the war period (1914-18), very little football was played, but in 1920 a team was formed again. After several successful seasons, interest in football began to flag so the Club was disbanded."

Further to this information it has been found that the Club was revived in 1933 for at least one season, possibly more. Honorary appointments were: Patron: Mr A.W. Akers, President: Mr Jos. Batchelar, Vice-Presidents: Messrs. L. Craw, A.J. McEvedy, M.A. Moody, A. Moyes, W.W. Smith and H. Rix. Committee Chairman: Mr R.A. Beckett, Secretary/Treasurer: Mr G.H. Hampson. It was agreed that a team would be entered as a junior in the competition this season. Practices were held on week-ends on a ground kindly loaned by Mr Rix. A dance was held that year in aid of the newly re-formed Football Club.

In 1947 a Football Club was again revived, which elected to play in junior grades. The team played for about 2 years but never won a game, so the story goes. Although, in 1948 the team was awarded the Efficiency Cup which was an award for turning out the best dressed players and for generally abiding by the rules. Players involved at the time included Archie Cook, Alex and Bruce Peters, Milton and Barry Batchelar, Lance, Denzil and Dale Craw, Clarence Collis, Gordon Gadsby, and Ron and Des Higgison. By the 1949 season the club was disbanded, some of the players going to Tokomaru Club and playing in the Horowhenua Union.



An Early Football Team.

— Photo, Linton School.

## LINTON RIFLE CLUB

An open range rifle club was formed in Linton in 1900, its promoter being Mr Hugh Akers and the first in command was Captain George Craw, both these men holding prominent positions in the club for many years. Mr S. Greer was also a member, serving at various times as Patron or President of the club. Mr J. Kennard was a prominent member until his death in 1909. There were 15 club members in 1908 and shooting practices were held on a range on the Rix property and also on a Government range at Hokowhitu. Club members were involved in competition shooting and championship matches in various parts of the country.

Most of the members, particularly in the later years were Palmerston North riflemen and club activities eventually shifted to town, the club opening new clubrooms and a social hall in King Street, Palmerston North in 1915 at a cost of £600. In 1927 the opening shoot at Labour week-end saw a turnout of 22 members and in that year Mr J. Carter, a member of the club was selected to be included in a New Zealand team which competed in New South Wales.

The club continued to operate for many years being known as the Linton Defence Rifle Club, a feature of its activity being addresses given to the club members by prominent members of the armed forces on matters of defence.

In later years the club's connection with the Linton district appears to have been in name only.



Linton Rifle Club Team Winners of the Colonial Ammunition Co's Cup for Field Firing and Attack. The C.A.C. Seventy Guinea Cup is one of the most important trophies of the meeting. The competition consists of field firing and judging distance, and requires thorough training on the part of competitors.

Back Row: Riflemen J.H. Perrin, J. Hyde, G. Craw, W. Randell.

Front Row: Riflemen R.J. Kennard, A. Turner (Team Commander), J.M. Barr.

Dated 17th March 1909.

— Photo, Denzil Craw.

### LINTON DISTRICT MINIATURE RIFLE CLUB

The Linton District Miniature Rifle Club was formed on 1st June 1932 and held its first shoot on 23rd of June of that year. The Club affiliated with the Manawatu Miniature Rifle Association and enjoyed considerable success in the Association's competitions. At one time or other the Club was able to win almost all the trophies competed for including the coveted McKelvie Cup which was a challenge trophy open to all teams affiliated with the Association. In 1938 Owen Terry won the Manawatu Championship, Murray Rix the A Grade Aggregate Cup, and Lance Craw the B Grade Aggregate Cup. The exacting nature of this branch of sport calls for a thoroughness and steadiness that makes one appreciate the efforts of his fellow-members and serves a useful purpose in his everyday life.

A number of trophies were presented to the local Club for competition amongst members including one by Goldfinch and Cousins Ltd. and one by Collinson and Son Ltd. Mr G. Craw presented a Cup to be won by the member with the best average score for the year. This Cup, after the death of Mr Craw in 1937 became known as the G. Craw Memorial Cup. A Cup and Medals were also presented to the Club by Mr F. Haley when he left the district in 1938, and trophies were also presented by Mr A.W. Akers and Wilson Brothers.

The Honorary Club Officials were: Patron: Mr G. Craw, President: Mr A.W. Akers, Vice-Presidents: Messrs. G. Rix, Jos. Batchelar and G.H. Currin. These continued in office until 1940 except that Mr L.H. Craw was appointed Patron after the death of Mr G. Craw, and Mr T.D. Lynch became a Vice-President after the death of Mr G.H. Currin in 1938. Officials of the Committee were:

<b>Chairman:</b>		<b>Secretary:</b>	
G.H. Hampson	1932-34	M. Craw and H. Grice	1932
M. Rix	1935-37	H. McBrearty	1933-36
H. McBrearty	1938-40	L. Wilson	1937-39
		J.B. Carmine	1940
<b>Treasurer:</b>			
F. Haley	1932-38	J.R. Gilliland	1940
R.A. Peters	1939		

Others taking an active part in the Club in the earlier years included Messrs G. Merriman, J. Christensen, O. Batchelar, J. Romley, M. Craw and H. Rix.

A ladies section was also included in the Club's activities, Mrs Haley presenting a trophy for competition in that section when she left the district in 1938.

Socials and dances were held and in 1935 it was agreed that the end-of-season dance should become an annual event.

War conditions resulted in the Club going into recess in 1941 and the Defence Department commandeered the Club's rifle scope.

In 1945 a meeting was called where it was agreed that the club should be revived. It continued operations until 1949 and then again went into recess and with the later closure of the old hall the range was no longer available. Club officers from 1945-1949 were:

<b>Chairman:</b>		<b>Secretary:</b>	
A. J. Peters	1945	K.D. Craw	1945
J.R. Gilliland	1946	H.R. Cooksley	1946
A.J. Peters	1947	G. Peterken	1947
D.B. Peters	1948	J. Trembath	1948
M. Batchelar	1949	G. Peterken	1948
		I. Hillas	1949

During that period those who acted as Honorary Officials were: Presidents: L.H. Craw (1945-46), W. Algie (1947), L. Ballinger (1948), M. Rix (1949). Vice-Presidents included Messrs. M. Rix, K. Russell, W. Algie, J. McMahon, L. Retter, O. Batchelar, S. Collis and L. Ballinger.

On 19th October 1971 a meeting was called where five were present and it was decided that the Linton District Miniature Rifle Club be wound up, the rifles sold and the assets of the Club be donated to the Linton Hall Management Committee, the funds to be used towards the cost of a sound system for the hall.

### LINTON CAMP GOLF CLUB

On 8th August 1960 a meeting was held in the Camp Library where the decision was made to form a Golf Club with an annual subscription of 10/- per member. A

further charge would be made for the hire of clubs to those who did not have their own. Club membership was to be open to serving personnel, their wives and families, also other interested people from the Linton area. A start had been made on the preparation of five greens, the work being carried out by working bees of interested people. The first President was WO1 Crawley, Vice President was Major Kennedy, Secretary was Sgt. Duncan and Treasurer was WO2 Fletcher and a committee was formed of representatives from each Camp Unit.

Just over ten years later on 15th November 1970 the official opening took place of a new 18 hole golf course in the Camp. An extract from the records is as follows:

"This coming Sunday (15th November 1970) at 1 p.m. play will tee off for the first time on the 18 hole golf course in this Camp. After many months of working bees and a great deal of individual slaving the course is almost ready for play. . . In a few words it is easy to tell of the many months of hard work that have gone into this longsighted venture."

At this time the Club membership was about 37, Camp personnel paying a subscription of \$7 per year and casual players were charged 50c per game. The Club Committee was confident that membership would quickly increase, membership in the Club covering Ordinary, Junior, Country, Summer and Honorary members. By this time the Club owned a considerable amount of equipment including a tractor, mowers, etc. and it was envisaged that a full time greenkeeper could soon be needed. A Clubhouse complete with toilets, bar and a fully carpeted lounge was sited in the centre of the course. The Club Committee gratefully acknowledged the help given by Unit Commanders and Camp personnel in achieving this result. The following description of the course was recorded by the Committee:

"The complete course covers practically the whole Camp area and has a number of natural hazards and doglegs to test the skill of good golfers while at the same time being a satisfying course to complete even for the beginners. Many trees and shrubs have been planted, most of the fairways being easily identified by single shrubs planted along the boundaries. Small triangles, fenced off and planted with shrubs and flowering trees have been planted adjacent to most tees, and in years to come these will provide great shelter and ideal picnic spots. The longest fairway is a par 5 of 548 yds — the shortest being a par 3 of 132 yards. Provision has been made for a practice fairway and this runs parallel to the number 16 fairway. Small concrete markers are ready for the tees and a number of rubbish bins have been strategically located to prevent the course being littered with ball wrappings, cigarette packets and unwanted score cards. There is still a great deal of finishing work ahead for the Club, but even at this stage the course is an attractive one and would be the envy of settlements a great deal larger than ours."

The opening day when more than 50 golfers took part, commenced in excellent weather with a 4 ball best ball competition. A "hole in one" was achieved by a visitor on that day. At 4 p.m. the Clubhouse was open for refreshments then at 5.30 the local scout troop served a barbeque.

A ladies section of the Club was formed in March 1976. Continuing progress has been made with all facets of the course proper, the major item being a fully automated high pressure watering system to all greens and tees, which came into operation in October 1987. The installation was a combined effort of "working bees", plant operators from 5 Support Squadron and a small portion under contract to a local plumber. Numerous alterations, additions and re-decorations have made the club-house a valuable asset — far removed from the two wings of the old Junior

Ranks Mess which were transported and re-sited by a civilian firm, and then many hours of work by club members before a habitable building was available.

The return of the Battalion from Singapore in 1989 necessitated space for H.Q. buildings, parade squares, etc. and unfortunately the golf course has lost four fairways and greens. These will hopefully be rebuilt within the confines of the remainder of the course in due time. A major project as a result of the loss will be the reclamation of roughly \$30,000 worth of water pipe and sprinkler fittings. The upheaval has unfortunately upset a number of members who have resigned membership and joined other clubs in the local area.

### LINTON PONY CLUB

Horse events were popular in the days of the old Linton Sports Club and since that time several pony clubs have existed in the district. The events of the first Pony Club were held in Mr Rix's paddock, some of the remembered participants being E. Bowler, M. Sheridan, and members of the Moody family.

Soon after, in the late 1940s a very strong club existed at Tokomaru which was supported by Linton members. Wild horses were obtained from the Taupo and Fordell areas by Denzil Craw and others, and these horses were supplied to Club members.

In more recent years a new Club was formed, a rally being held in August 1980 on M. Van Hove's property on Scotts Road then soon after, a meeting of interested people was held and the Linton Pony Club officially came into being and became affiliated with the Manawatu Pony Club Association. Local team members who participated in the Manawatu Pony Club Gymkana in 1981 were: C. Gerritsen (Champion), D.M. Gee (Cherie), M. Crowley (Peggy), N. Johnstone (Abba), J. Moynihan (Ted), P. Crowley (Trixie), W. Gerritsen, Pat Crowley (Jazz), K. Craw (Nicky), T. Crowley (Cochee), J. Gawith (Topsy) and B. Crowley (Birdie).

One Day Events were held on the Patterson property, Scotts Road in 1983 and on Akers property in 1985. In November of that year the Windermere Games (games and showjumping) were held on the Akers property where the Linton Senior and Junior teams won the Windermere Trophy for the first time. The Manawatu Gymkana was held at Akers on 8th March and in May the Linton One Day Event was held on the new cross country course, the previous course having been washed away in a flood.

Pony Club Rallies have been held for 5 years at Akers Te Puna Station but from December 1988 will be held at Akers Opiki property. The Club enjoys good support and regular events are held.

### LINTON SETTLERS CABARET

On 18th June 1968 a meeting was held to consider the possibility of running a Cabaret in the Linton Hall. The first committee Chairman to be elected was Mr J. Hight and Mr A. Burnett was appointed Secretary. Friday, 18th July 1968 was the date chosen for the first function, ticket prices being fixed at \$5 double and \$2.50 single. The Cabaret was described as a huge success and it was agreed that it should become an annual event. The Cabaret Committee made a special donation of \$50 to the Linton Hall Committee so that suitable tables could be purchased for future use. This still allowed a profit of \$52.88.

The following year Mr A. Lynch was elected Chairman and he continued in that

capacity until 1972. Mr A. Burnett continued as Secretary. Cabarets were held each year, usually about the middle of the year and by 1972 ticket prices were \$8 double and \$4 single. Mr J. Moynihan was elected Chairman in 1972 and in 1974 Mrs J. Moynihan was elected Secretary replacing Mr A. Burnett. Functions were held regularly until 1976, the tickets at that time being \$12. After the 1976 function the Committee went into recess but with the intention that it would be revived sometime in the future depending on local interest.

The Linton Cabaret was revived for Labour week-end of 1985 and again in 1988 and very successful functions were held on both occasions.

### LINTON DOG TRIALS ASSOCIATION

The date of the commencement of the Linton Dog Trials Association is rather obscure but it is known that trials were commenced on Mr F. Moody's property at the top end of Millricks Line. This association enjoyed local support for a time but at a meeting held at Aokautere on 25th June 1948 it was agreed that the Aokautere Club and the Linton Club should amalgamate and that the club should be known as the Aokautere-Linton Collie Club. Mr A.J. McEvedy became Patron of the Club, Mr W.R. Hopcroft was elected President and Mr E.W. Croucher was appointed as Secretary. Vice-Presidents elected from the Linton area were Messrs. H.W. Kilsby, M. Shere, L.H. Craw, H.D. Harris, and F.H. Moody. Messrs. C. Shere, A. Shere and B. Crawford were also active supporters from the Linton area.

Club activities appear to have centred on Aokautere for a few years but soon moved to Mr B.O. Barber's property on Kaihinau Road, Shannon with trials occasionally being held on other properties in that area, then in 1978 to Kingston Road, Shannon where trials are still held annually.

Recognition of the support given to the Club by Mr A.J. McEvedy and Mr W.R. Hopcroft was acknowledged by their election as Life Members in 1954.

The name of the club was changed in 1959 to the Aokautere-Linton Sheep Dog Trials Club and by that time most of the club's activities were centred at Shannon. A further name change was considered in 1975 but was rejected.

Mr K.E.S. Raleigh became a member of the committee in 1967 and actively supported that Club, becoming a Vice-President in 1969, then President in 1975, and remaining in that office until 1984 when he was elected a Life Member. Other Linton supporters of the Club in recent years have included Messrs. H. Raleigh, W.S. Nash, R. Williams, B. Whitelock, K. Shultz and Mr C. Stableford who is the present Club Secretary.

In 1984 the Club hosted the popular TVNZ "Dogs Show" which was held on Mr C. Stableford's property on Millricks Line, Linton.

## TO JOG YOUR MEMORY

In the early hours of the morning of 12th September 1927 a house owned by Mr A. Akers was destroyed by fire. It was occupied by a Mr Larsen who received painful burns while rescuing his child who was asleep in another room. The fire was one of a series that occurred in the Millricks Line/Akers Road area over a period of about 7 years. The newspaper report at the time concluded with the following paragraph:

"The glare of the fire in the southern sky was responsible for the brigade being called out. The fire fighters, on arrival at the Borough boundary, saw that the conflagration was a considerable distance away and accordingly they returned to their homes."



On 21st June 1927 the Manawatu Standard reported that Mr A. Sutherland, son of Mr and Mrs H. Sutherland of Linton, had recently made a very meritorious journey by pushbike from Auckland to Wellington.



The boys who took alarm clocks into school during Mr Murdoch's era. They claimed that they couldn't stop the alarms when they went off so were sent outside, which was all they wanted anyway.



Some old buildings at Crows were used by TVNZ to film a re-enactment of the Powelka story.



A "youngster" from Kendalls Line recalled: "The sheer gut wrenching fear of passing the Kingsbeer gateway on Kendalls Line, because of the well-known propensity of Phil Kingsbeer for swallowing small boys."

# 16

## Home Guard

The Second World War had commenced on 3rd September 1939. In addition to the training of men in the military forces, attention was given to the formation of defence units of civilian members within the community. The result was the establishment of Home Guard Units in various districts.

On 15th November 1940 a meeting was held in Palmerston North which was attended by the Councillors, Clerk and Engineer of the Kairanga County Council together with representatives of the Palmerston North City Council to consider establishing Home Guard Units within the county and city areas. A further meeting on 3rd December 1940 was held at the Opera House, Palmerston North. This meeting was addressed by Mr C.V. Ciochetto, General Young and the Hon. Minister of Manpower.

By February 1941 it was reported that a Home Guard Committee had been formed in Linton (and in several other districts as well). The Council agreed to pay hall rentals for Home Guard meetings and parades and to bear the initial cost of advertising incurred by local Home Guard committees. Arrangement was made with the Manawatu-Oroua Electric Power Board to have lights installed for Home Guard training and the lights were duly installed by Mr J. Hillas. The Chairman of the Linton Committee was Mr T.D. Lynch and the Unit Commander was Mr D.A. Honore. Mr Honore was a very enthusiastic commander and it was on his property at the Kahuterawa Stream that a rifle range was set up in 1941. This range was also later used by military personnel.

On Saturday, 7th June 1941 the rifle range was officially opened by Mr C.V. Ciochetto, Area Commander, and homeguardsmen from Palmerston North, Tokomaru, Opiki and Aokautere took part in range practice. The newspaper report of the event stated that their wives were entertained by the ladies of Linton. The newspaper went on to say:

"A demonstration of target shooting was given by the Linton Home Guard. This was followed by the firing party taking up position in open order and attacking the butts accompanied by rifle fire and Maori war cries."

The first aid section also gave a demonstration and a further demonstration was given on the use of "Molotov Cocktails" which was followed by the highlight of the day, being the demolition by explosives of a temporary bridge. This was carried out by the Linton Home Guard under the supervision of the Company Commander, Mr J.L. Chapman, area instructor in guerrilla warfare and demolition work.

Some of the appointments to the unit that can be recalled in addition to those already mentioned are:



Linton Roll of Honour — 1914-1918.

Mr L. Ballinger	— Sergeant-Major
Mr E. Crawford	— Senior Platoon Commander (No. 1 Platoon)
Mr J.L. Nash	— Senior Platoon Commander (No. 2 Platoon)
Mr J. Irons	— Sergeant (No. 1 Platoon)
Mr W. Gilliland	— Sergeant (No. 2 Platoon)

Messrs R. Beckett, G.H. Curry, J. Robert and M. Rix were appointed Corporals.

The Home Guard came under Army administration during the latter part of 1941 although local bodies were still asked to meet some of the costs. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour in December of that year brought a greater sense of urgency and importance to the Home Guard movement.

Few records are available as to the activities of the Home Guard but certainly some former members can recall some of the more amusing events that took place. On one occasion the Linton Unit was required to "attack" the Tiritea School which



Linton Roll of Honour — 1939-1945.

was being held by the “enemy”. One of the Linton members hid behind a nearby pigsty from which grunts were being emitted and he assumed that the grunts were coming from a pig. But it was found that the inhabitant of the pigsty was one of the “enemy”. Exercise attacks were made on a number of places, another being the Linton Railway Goods Shed where the men were able to advance under cover of a train that had stopped at the station.

Systems of road blocks were organised that could be quickly brought into use in the event of invasion. Fortunately none of the precautions were ever needed but on reflection, the Home Guard was a means of uniting the people of the district at a time when wartime conditions were a cause of concern to a number of families.

A function was held to mark the closure of the Home Guard Unit and some who were members will still recall singing “My Wild Irish Rose” on that occasion.

## E.P.S. (EMERGENCY PRECAUTIONS SCHEME)

In April 1941 a deputation to the Kairanga County Council stressed the urgency of action in forming E.P.S. Units within the County and on 13th May a meeting was held in the city regarding this matter. By March 1942 a Linton E.P.S. Committee had been set up with the following members:

Mr D. Dale (Chairman), Mr P. Lauridsen (Secretary), Messrs L.H. Craw, H. Kilsby, T.H. Gretton and T.D. Lynch.

Mr Dale was appointed Warden and the central headquarters was located at the Kairanga County Council office. Mr L.C. Pickering, the County Engineer was appointed E.P.S. Controller for the County area. This unit consisted generally of those who for various reasons were unable to serve in the Home Guard but who could be called upon to provide assistance in emergency with transport, medical help and similar forms of assistance. Exercises were carried out from time to time, sometimes in conjunction with the Home Guard unit.

### TO JOG YOUR MEMORY

During the second World War years the school children were asked to collect ergot, a fungal product of certain grasses used for pharmaceutical purposes and particularly needed because of war conditions.



The School Committee was unable to obtain a flag for the Coronation Day Celebrations in 1937. By the time of the 1939 school jubilee a flag had been obtained but a new rope was required for the flagpole. The question was how to get the rope through the pulley at the top. Mr Earle Crawford recalled that he climbed onto the roof then up the flagpole and put the rope through the pulley and, he added "no one even bothered to look up and admire my effort!" I am sure his effort was much appreciated anyway.



At the concert held on the occasion of the 50 year celebrations in 1939 one of the local lads came to light with the following limerick:

"Certain young fellow, Mick Moody  
Thought that he was a shrewdy.  
Bred hens with short legs,  
Thought he'd get more eggs  
But all they would do was go broody."

# 17

## *Previous Celebrations*

**L**inton School was opened on 18th March 1889 and three major celebrations have taken place in the district to mark that event, each function being regarded as a district celebration as well as marking the opening of the school.

The first of these events to take place was in 1939 which marked the 50 years existence of the school and district. Celebrations were held from Friday, 12th to Sunday 14th of May of that year. On the Friday evening a Jubilee Ball was held in the Linton Hall, with Roll Call scheduled for 11 a.m. and Dinner at noon on the Saturday, followed by a social in the evening. The concluding function was a Combined Church Service on the Sunday at 2 p.m. The Chairman of the celebrations was Mr T.D. Lynch who, at the time, was also Chairman of the School Committee, and Mr L.E. Schwabe, the Headmaster acted as Secretary. To mark the occasion Mr Schwabe compiled a 32 page booklet "Linton School and District Jubilee Souvenir" which gave an outline of the district during its first fifty years. The speaker at the Church Service was Canon G.Y. Woodward, Vicar of All Saints' Church. He had been closely associated with the district during the time he served at All Saints' as a curate. Also assisting at the service was Rev. D.V. de Candole, assistant minister at All Saints' and Mr W.A. Knight representing the Brethren Assemblies.

Official guests at the function included Mr J. Hodgens M.P. for Palmerston North, Mr J.G. Cobbe M.P. for Manawatu and Col. J.H. Whyte who represented the Education Board in place of Mr E. Hemmingway, Chairman of the Board who was unable to attend. Board members W.H. Brown, I.W. Mudford and J.W. Batchelar also attended. Approximately 500 people signed the Visitors Book.

At the Saturday function Mr W. Jackson, a first day pupil, rang the school bell summoning the attention of the 500-600 people present. Then followed an address of welcome by Mr T.D. Lynch who had also been an early pupil. Mr Lynch recalled that the schoolboys in those first years were so big that they tended to intimidate their teachers and he remembered that an early teacher had warned the boys that the next one coming to school without having a shave would be caned.

Mr J. Murdoch who was Headmaster from 1917 to 1932, called the roll, then after short addresses by Mr Cobbe and Col. Whyte, came the opportunity for Miss Caspira Larsen, the oldest "first day" female pupil present to cut the jubilee cake. The 3 tier cake had been made by Mrs A. Currin, Mrs D. Currin and Mrs T.D. Lynch and artistically decorated by Mrs Moyes. Then followed the dinner which was served in two sittings owing to the large number present. Mr Schwabe recorded:

"By 2.30 p.m. the second sitting was completed and for two hours or more the people remained in the school grounds taking photographs, chatting, remaking the past, renewing old friendships, and generally entering fully into the spirit of the jubilee."



Teachers and ex-teachers at 1939 Celebration.

Back Row: Miss G. O'Brien, Mr C. Nolan, Mr L.E. Schwabe, Mr J. Stewart, Mr J.M. Murdoch, Mrs G. Ashworth (nee Laing).

Front Row: Mrs R. Pratt (nee Bird), Miss M. Blake, Miss P. Green, Mrs R. Saxton (nee Murdoch), Miss N. Murdoch, Miss A.R. Tottman, Mrs D. Currin (nee U. Dement). — Photo, Linton School.

The old hall was filled to capacity for the various functions held in it and the whole celebration was very much an enjoyed event.

The Diamond celebrations of the school and district were held from Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd April 1949. The Chairman was Mr E.W. Croucher who was also the Chairman of the School Committee. Messrs. W.J. Lauridsen and D.H. Currin were appointed Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Sub-committees were appointed to arrange the various functions. Mr M. Rix with a group of helpers compiled names and addresses and 650 invitations were sent out, with only 47 families not being located. The arrangements for this celebration were completed in just ten weeks.

The programme followed that of the 1939 celebration with a Ball being held on the Friday evening in the P.D.C. Ballroom in Palmerston North where about 250 attended. On the Saturday the dinner was served in the old Linton Hall, to about 320 people, two sittings being required, then a free social which was acclaimed to be the highlight of the week-end, took place on the Saturday evening, this also being held in the Linton Hall which proved to be too small for the number that attended. A Thanksgiving Service was held on the Sunday afternoon where the speaker was Rev. J. Francis Jack, President of the Palmerston North Ministers Association, assisted by Mr N. Pallesen representing the Brethren Assemblies.

Official guests on this occasion were Mr M.H. Oram M.P., Mr J.A. Nash, Mr W.R.



Mr A.E. Currin and his sister Sarah (Mrs F. Young) at the 1939 celebrations.  
— Photo, Miss A.B. Currin.

Hopcroft (Chairman of Kairanga County Council), Mr W.B. Tennent (Chairman, Wanganui Education Board) and Messrs. L.J. Carmine and I.W. Mudford (Board members).

The two tiered jubilee cake was cut by Mrs A. Scholes of Tauranga who, as Isabella Ward, was one of the original pupils. Other first day pupils present were Mr Dan. Lynch and Mr Oscar Larsen, both of Tokomaru, and Messrs. W. Jackson and W. Ward, both of Palmerston North.

In speaking at the function Mr Tennent referred to the hardships suffered in earlier years and remarked that difficulties build endurance, and endurance builds character. He observed "Many of those who are here today used to walk many miles to school, but now it is a very different story. Nowadays we spend £20,000 a year on the running of school buses. Perhaps we may wonder whether we are breeding a race with broad seats and thin legs."

The children gave those present a demonstration of their high standard of physical ability by performing a series of gymnastic activities, and from their point of view, no doubt thought the highlight of the celebration came when Mr Tennent announced that on behalf of the Education Board he had decided to grant the children a day's holiday in honour of the great occasion.



Past and Present Teachers at 1964 Celebration.

Back Row: Mr E.G. Whitehead, Mrs N. Marshall, Mr K. McK. White, Mrs V. Daysh (nee Jakes), Mr C. Nolan.

Front Row: Miss O.C. Le Couteur, Miss E.H. Gills, Miss M. Rayward, Miss M. Thompson, Miss M. Blake, Mrs R. Saxton (nee Murdoch).

— Photo, Linton School.

Small metal badges showing a photograph of the school were distributed free to all who attended. It may be noted that the charge made to those who attended the banquet was 10/- (\$1) and the charge for the Ball was 12/6 double and 7/6 single. Total money received from all sources amounted to £335.2.5. After paying all accounts amounting to £299.5.3. a surplus of £35.17.2. was equally divided between the School Committee and the Hall Committee.

In 1964 the third celebration took place which marked the 75th anniversary of the opening of the school. Functions were held from Saturday 16th May to Monday 18th May, on this occasion preparations having been started for the event in July 1963. The Chairman of the celebrations was Mr J.R. Aldrich with Messrs. W.J. Lauridsen and C.C. Collis being appointed Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Very supportive sub-committees contributed greatly to the success of the function.

Approximately 400 people gathered at the school on Saturday 16th May, where lunch was provided. In welcoming the visitors Mr J.R. Aldrich commented:

"Many of you have travelled long distances to attend this celebration. This is surely manifest of a desire to return to old haunts and renew old friendships. I am sure you all must have pleasant memories of days past. If you recapture these memories, then I will feel the jubilee committee has done a good job and that the effort put into organising has not been wasted. It is up to you to draw back the veil of memories."



Mrs Roberts (Sena Larsen) seated, and Mrs Scholes (Isabella Ward) cutting the cake at the 1964 celebrations. Mr J. Aldrich, Chairman of the celebrations in the background.

— Photo, Manawatu Standard.

Mrs I. Scholes (Isabella Ward) and Mrs S. Roberts (Sena Larsen), both first day pupils of the school were invited to cut the cake which was a three tier cake and had been kindly donated complete and iced by Messrs. Boniface Bros. Ltd. of Palmerston North.

An address was given by Mr R.M. Collis, Chairman of the Kairanga County Council who paid fitting tribute to the pioneering efforts of the early settlers, commenting that many of the names are perpetuated in road names and in other ways. Mr Collis remarked:

“It is fitting to remember Mr James Linton, after whom the district is named; a former Mayor of Palmerston North, land agent, and a shareholder of the Manawatu Railway Company. He also served on the Provincial Council from 1879 to 1881.”

He further referred to the heavy totara bush that existed on what is now the land occupied by the Linton Military Camp, the bullock teams, the bush fires, and the thousands of native pigeons as well as wild pigs and cattle, “and to the everlasting satisfaction (or frustration) of all anglers, the first trout introduced to the Manawatu were liberated in the Kahuterawa Stream.”

Several former teachers took part in the Roll Call and group photographs were taken then afternoon tea concluded the afternoon event.

The evening function took the form of a Jubilee Banquet in the hall where about 300 people were present. Visiting speakers at that function included Mr W.B.



The above photo and those on pages 202 to 207 are the group photographs taken at the 1964 celebration.

Back Row: Oscar Larsen, Mrs Ancell (Hilda Kingsbeer), Cecil Aldrich, Mrs Hill (Elsie Kingsbeer), Bill Jackson.

Front Row: Mrs Scholes (Isabella Ward), Mrs Ward (Jenny Beck), Mrs Curry (Mabel Shere), Mrs Young (Nancy Jackson), Mrs Gooch (Dorothy Aldrich).  
— Photo, Elmar.

Tennent, M.P. for Manawatu and Mr A.M. Gordon, Chairman of the Wanganui Education Board. The Toast List was as follows:

The Queen:	The Chairman, Mr J.R. Aldrich
The School and District:	Prop. Mr W.B. Tennent M.P.
	Reply Mr T.R. Gretton
The Education Board:	Prop. Mr A.J. Lynch
	Reply Mr A.M. Gordon, Chairman of Board
Past and Present Teachers:	Prop. Mr B. Sutherland
	Reply Mr C. Nolan
Absent Friends:	Prop. Mr M. Rix

Mr Tennent claimed a special interest in the history of the school in that his wife's father was a member of the original school committee. He made the observation that of the original school committee members only four had children who attended the school on opening day. Mr A.M. Gordon, on behalf of the Wanganui Education Board expressed very best wishes to the school in its celebrations. Mr C. Nolan, an ex-teacher remarked "Pride in a product makes teaching worthwhile. I had only one year at Linton School, but it is packed with memories."

At 2 p.m. on the Sunday some 200 people gathered for a combined Thanksgiving

Service which was conducted by Rev. P.A. Stead, President of the Palmerston North Ministers Association and Archdeacon H.S.I. Kenney of All Saints' Parish gave the address. Wreaths in memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice in the two World Wars were placed at the Rolls of Honour by Mr W. Jackson, a first day pupil and veteran of the Great War and Mr T.R. Gretton, an ex-pupil representing those who were in the Second World War.

Monday was "Children's Day" when a very full and entertaining programme was provided for all ages by the School Committee. The activities included Scouts Display, Gymnastics Display, Mannequin Parade, Mothers and Daughters Basketball Game, etc.

On the Monday evening the Jubilee Ball was held, approximately 180 being present. This function concluded a very successful week-end that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

One of the highlights of the celebrations was the display of old photographs and items of bygone days that were on display throughout the week-end. The display was arranged by the Headmaster, Mr E. G. Whitehead who, with the help of his staff and the children attending school at the time, had gathered the material for display from various residents. Mr Whitehead copied many old photographs and these were preserved for future use.

The new hall attached to the school had been opened just the previous year and this provided an excellent venue for all functions.

A charge of 15/- per person was made for the Saturday daytime function where lunch was provided, then a charge of £1 per person for the Banquet and £1 per person for the Ball. The net financial result was a surplus of approximately £90 (\$180) which was finally distributed equally between the Hall Society and the School Committee.



Back Row: Arthur Terry, Fred Moody, David Currin, Bert Sutherland, Charles Kennard, Basil Moody, Joe Collis.  
 3rd Row: George Holgerson, Jack Lynch, Walter Andrew, Eric Franklin, Arthur Fitt, George Franklin, Ben Sutherland, Lester Wilson, Frank Batchelar.  
 2nd Row: Loyal Craw, Mrs Deighton (Inger Holgerson), Mrs L. Craw (Iris Priest), Mrs T. Lynch (Maggie Terry), Mrs Oliver (Clara Holgerson), Mrs McNabb (Rebecca Ayson), Mrs Edwards (Nancy Hudson), Miss Elsie Young, Murray Rix, Jack Aldrich.  
 Front Row: Mrs Morrow (Annie Peterana), Mrs Gibson (Beatric Holgerson), Mrs Harrison (Lily Peterana), Mrs Cantwell (Florence Andrews), Miss Ivy Rix, Mrs Clevely (Mary Andrews), Mrs Print (Alice Andrews), Mrs Monrad (Nita Craw), Mrs Hart Florence Kennard).

— Photo, Elmar.



Back Row: Cliff Wilson, Bernard Grace, Norman Hook, Charlie Missen, Arthur Brill, Jim Murdoch, Cyril Collis, Cecil Sutherland, Roy Batchelar, Bertram Boddy, Ian Tomlin, Carl Brill.

3rd Row: Mrs Brill (Jessie Pinfold), Mrs Ward (Vera Fitt), Mrs Gregory (Maggie Peterana), Mrs Merriman (Marie Wilson), Mrs Reeve (Violet Grace), Mrs Rix (Dorothy Craw), Mrs Torstonsen (Eva Mouldey), Mrs Tucker (Mavis Rix), Miss Bertha Currin, Mrs Craw (Nita Batchelar), Mrs Hercock (Barabara Proctor), Mrs Craw (Alma Sharp), Mrs Berkahn (Phyllis Hook), Mrs Arnold (Evelyn Smith), Miss E.H. Gills.

Front Row: —, Mrs Saxton (Rachel Murdoch), Mrs Grettton, Mrs Flett (Evelyn Missen), Mrs McGrath (Jean Peterana), Mrs Jarman (Olive McCree), Mrs McMurray (Ruby Proctor), Mrs Henricksen (Mary Proctor), Miss Violet Sutherland, Mrs Dalefield (Sidney Franklin), Mrs Mollett (Vera Franklin), Mrs Anderson (Olive Mouldey), Mrs Hook (Mavis Carr), Mrs Pitcher (Irene Carr), Mrs Morgan (Barbara Tomlin).

— Photo, Elmar.



Back Row: Malcolm Greer, Lance Crow, Cyril Paget, Melville Greer, Reg Carr, Tim Gooch, Goff Smith, George Hampson, Stewart Moyes, Harold McBrearty, Ken Moyes.  
 3rd Row: John Christensen, Laurie Hook, Viv Missen, Peter Sheridan, Eric Missen, Noel James, Bill Sheridan, Mrs Marshall (Norma Terry), Alan Lynch, Mrs Kendall (Zelma Terry), Ron Smith, Mrs Free (Sybil Young).  
 2nd Row: Harold Aldrich, Merlyn Crow, Vernon Port, Mrs Karlsson (Elsie Crowe), Mrs Hansen (May Crowe), Mrs Wakefield (Enid Greer), Mrs Irvine (Ngair Lynch), Mrs Webby (Myrtle Collis), Mrs Saxton (Rachel Murdoch), Mrs Puklowski (Bessie McBrearty), Gordon Sheridan, Leo Crowe, Martin Sheridan.  
 Front Row: Jens Enevoldsen, Mrs Lemmon (Isla Smith), Mrs Grayson (Gwen Leakey), Mrs Stevens (Nita Collis), Mrs Morrison (Eva Collis), Mrs McKenzie (Neta Ancell), Mrs Hanrahan (Glee Ancell), Mrs McKegg (Sylvia Davies), Mrs Butcher (Ngair Davies), Mrs Hight (Joy Hallman), Mrs Richardson (Mavis James), Mrs Hodgson (Ruth Young), Mrs Berkahn (Phyllis Hook).  
 — Photo, Elmar.



Back Row: Terence Lynch, Ian Hillas, Jim Grice, Roy Aldrich, Walter Lauridsen, Stewart McBrearty, Mrs McQueen (June Torrey).  
 3rd Row: Ray Collis, Clarence Collis, Gavin Craw, Edwin Croucher, Peter Moody, Don Rix, Mrs Whitelock (Lyndall Craw), Mrs Cooksley (Dawn Trembath), Mrs Dench (Andrea Honore).  
 2nd Row: Mrs Bird (Mary Gilliland), Mrs Lunt (Margaret Philps), Mrs Hey (Heather Rix), Mrs Palmer (Beth Croucher), Mrs McGarry (Melva Aldrich), Brian Philps, Brian Crawford, Bill Gilliland, Doug Gilliland, Dale Craw, Mrs Grey (Pamela Harrison).  
 Front Row: Mrs Hodgetts (Nola Collis), Mrs Stevenson (Betty Collis), Mrs Hodgetts (Freda Collis), Mrs Wilton (Barbara Rich), Mrs Branch (Fae North), Mrs Grayson (Robin Peters), Mrs Blenkiron (Betty Peters), Mrs Warburton (Gloria McBrearty), Mrs Stevenson (Ruby Jones), Mrs Harris (Edna Allison), Mrs Farrell (Wendy Harrison).  
 — Photo, Elmar.



Back Row: Desmond Robert, Murray Croucher, Alan Wilson, Colin Trembath, Alan Aldrich, Harry Croucher.  
 2nd Row: Ray Ancell, Roger Sheridan, Jim Bowe, Judy Bowler, Mrs Sullivan (Joan Collis), Mrs Pink (Marion Collis), Brian Ancell, Bruce Rix, Rex  
 Crow.  
 Front Row: Lois Moody, Mrs Kennard (Beverley Grayson), Mrs Hurdsfield (Verna Croucher), Mrs Lithgow (Glenda Aldrich), Rosemary Morris,  
 Mrs Rix (Tresta Merriman), Mrs Chamberlain (Diane Moody), Elaine Fraser.

— Photo, Elmar.



Back Row: —, Graham Allomes, Frank Boddy, Howard Lauridsen, Gordon Heaphy, Bill Curtis, Kevin O'Connor, —, Anthony O'Connor, Tim Nash.

3rd Row: Mary Irvine, Jeanette Hight, Sue Marshall, Barbara Allomes, Ngaire Price, Elizabeth Sheridan, Marilyn Heaphy, Janice Price, Lynne Gretton, Gabrielle O'Connor, Stuart Penny.

2nd Row: Mary Rix, Valerie Collis, Ina Hook, Graham Irvine, Robert Heaphy, Clinton Craw, Leigh Gretton, Tony Nash, Rosemary Sheridan, Lorraine O'Connor, Keitha James, Barbara Greer.

Front Row: Ken Crawford, David Penny, Ian Reichenbach, Charlie James, Rosemary Hight, Mark Craw, Sydney Hodgetts, Rex Gretton, Barry Gilliland, Phillip Heaphy, John Irvine.

— Photo, Elmar.

## YOU MAY REMEMBER

(Reprinted from the 1939 Jubilee Souvenir Booklet)

Who were Garibaldi, Old Fag, and Billbobjackgeorgecharlie.  
The beehives near the School section.  
Totty, Highstepper, Jib and Creamy.  
Sewing day at the curtain.  
The North Pole and the Wishbone.  
When Jackie K. ate peppermints in school.  
Putting bombs on the tennis court.  
What happened when the wrong girl sat by the curtain.  
When Billy used to hide in the flax every afternoon.  
What girl use to beat the boys at high jump.  
Blasting stumps in the playground.  
Chopping the roots off the trees the girls were going to plant.  
Putting carbide in the inkwells.  
Runaway paper chases at break-up.  
Throwing nibs and notes "over the top".  
Who pulled the plug out of the boat.  
When Linton possessed Chick, Ham and Bacon, as well as Chick, Check, Chalk, Chuck.  
Who started the mud fights.  
The Boy Scout Camp at Miramar.  
Carrying water out to the mud slides.  
"Did anybody see you kumm in? Vell, nobody vill see you go away!"  
Who threw mud over the curtain.  
Wagging it in the bush.  
When the girls played football with the boys.  
"That ball had a terrible break on it."  
The 3 lb. onions grown in the school garden.  
Who let the shot out of the curtain.  
Going to Hill-top for dances in Beckett's brake.  
When Linton Cricket Team was dismissed for 17 runs (top score 5), and then missed the train home.  
"Whitira" and "Lady Linton".  
"Black Tuesday".  
Who used to give the children Lane's Emulsion.  
The boy who wouldn't pick up the lunch paper.  
Trixie, Carbie, Nellie, Dick, Tiny and Molly.  
The "dead horse" lilies.

# Appendices

## LINTON SCHOOL TEACHERS

### NOTES:

1. Head teachers are marked in bold.
2. Messrs. Lee, Reed (or Reece) and W. Liggins should be included as relieving teachers sometime prior to 1917.
3. Mrs N. Marshall was relieving teacher intermittently over a period of a number of years, as were Mrs J. Stableford and Mrs D. Satherley in more recent years.

<b>D. MATHESON</b>	1889-1893	Miss M.M. Thompson	1940-1946
<b>A.H. EVANS</b>	1894-1908	Miss Spear (Rel.)	1941
Miss McEwen	1901	<b>D.S. DALE</b>	1942-1951
Miss Schlager	1901	Miss Black	1942
Miss H. Mead	1902-1905	Miss N. Louisson	1942-1944
Miss M. Ferguson	1905-1907	Miss R. Cunninghamame	1945
Miss E.C. Molloy	1907-1912	Miss J.M. Park	1946-1948
<b>A. GOLDSBURY</b>	1909-1910	Miss J.L. Litchwark	1947-1948
<b>T. STAGPOOLE</b>	1910-1912	Miss B.N. Simpson	1949
Miss Henderson	1912	Miss M. McChesney	1949-1950
<b>F.W. MARTIN</b>	1912-1917	<b>J. WATSON</b>	1951-1956
Miss H. Priestly	1913-1914	Miss M.D. Wix	1951
Miss G. Hemmingsen	1914	Miss T.J. Duthie	1951
Mrs Martin	1914	Miss C. McGregor	1952
Miss V. Gubbin	1915	Miss Tracy	1952
Miss C. Fergusson	1916	Miss V. Jakes	1953-1955
Miss E.H. Gills	1916-1918	Miss C.B. Crowley	1954
<b>J.M. MURDOCH</b>	1917-1932	Miss W. Petersen	1955
Miss McDonald (Rel.)	1917	B.C. Johnson	1956
Miss E. Shaw	1917	<b>J.D. CARION (Rel.)</b>	1956
Miss Ahern	1918-1919	Miss N.C. Smith	1956-1959
Miss Carruthers	1920	<b>G. CONLAND</b>	1956-1960
Miss N.G. Murdoch	1920-1921	Miss A. Fendell	1957-1958
Miss U. Dement	1920-1922	Mrs N. Marshall (Rel.)	1958
Miss G. O'Brien	1922-1925	Miss M.U. Pedley	1958
Miss M. Pellow	1923-1925	Mrs A. Sheehy	1958-1959
Miss G. Laing	1925	J.C. Sheehy	1958-1959
Miss M. Blake	1926-1933	R.J. Rankin	1959
Miss R. Murdoch	1928	Miss M.W. Rutherford (Rel.)	1959
<b>N.H. RANKIN (Rel.)</b>	1932	Mr Dolan (Rel.)	1959
<b>C. NOLAN (Rel.)</b>	1933	Miss B. Wishnowsky (Rel.)	1959
<b>J. STEWART</b>	1934-1935	Miss Whitta	1959
Miss P. Green	1934	Miss V.J. Smart	1959
Miss R. Bird	1935	Miss D. Marriot	1959-1961
<b>K. MCK. WHITE</b>	1935-1937	<b>C.A. SHORT (Rel.)</b>	1960
Miss C. Organ (Rel.)	1936	Mrs E.M. Drury (Rel.)	1960
Miss A. Barrett (Rel.)	1936	Miss M. Higgins	1960
Miss A.R. Tottman	1936-1940	Miss M.D. Jarvis	1960
<b>C.N. TURNBULL (Rel.)</b>	1938	Miss N. Mitchell (Rel.)	1960
<b>L.E. SCHWABE</b>	1938-1941	Mrs M. Dysart (Rel.)	1960
<b>D.H. HICKMAN (Rel.)</b>	1940	B.W. Anderson	1960-1961

<b>B.W. ANDERSON (Act.)</b>	1961	<b>D. PRICE (Rel.)</b>	1970
<b>E.G. WHITEHEAD</b>	1961-1969	<b>A.E. JARVIS (Rel.)</b>	1970
B.G. Humphrey	1961	E.B. Pringle	1970
Miss J.M. Dawbin	1961	Mrs D.E.M. Parkes	1970-1972
G.S. Smith	1961	<b>C.E. WILLIAMS</b>	1971-1974
Miss M. Rayward	1961-1964	Miss Bryant	1971
Miss E. MacMillan	1962	Mrs R.J. Barrell	1971-1972
Mrs J. Shaw	1962	Mrs B. Hutchings	1971-1972
Mrs Burton (Rel.)	1962	Mrs Hills	1972
Miss S.M. Bowen	1962	Miss V. Ashcroft	1973
D.H. Wilson	1962-1963	Mrs J.A. Couchman	1973-1974
Miss O.C. Le Couteur	1963	<b>C.J. ANDERSON (Rel.)</b>	1974
Miss N.C. Barnes (Rel.)	1963	<b>C.J. ROBERTSON</b>	1974-1977
Miss M.E. Winteringham	1963	Mrs R. Hepi	1975-
I.C.H. Knowles	1963	I.M. Peek	1978
Miss Geary	1963	<b>MRS Y. DUNCAN (Rel.)</b>	1978
Mrs J.M. Tasker	1963-1969	<b>B.P. SIMPSON</b>	1979-1982
Miss B. Hubbard (Rel.)	1964	<b>MRS B. IRONS (Rel.)</b>	1982
Miss P.M. Shaw	1964	<b>MRS R. LAWLER</b>	1983-1984
Miss N. Le Quesne	1965-1966	<b>MRS R. HEPI (Act.)</b>	1984
Miss N.T.J. Heatley	1967	Miss J. Collins (Rel.)	1984
Mrs J. Warn	1967-1968	<b>R. BRADLEY</b>	1984-1986
Miss J. Wark	1968-1969	<b>MRS C. McGLYNN (Rel.)</b>	1986
Miss H.M. Ludlow	1969	<b>D. DRYSDALE</b>	1986-

# SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

\* Denotes that member resigned before end of term of office.

† Denotes replacement member

## 1888

J. Stanley Bruce (Ch)  
Wm. Coombs  
John Bell  
John Munro  
Frank E. Clapperton  
George Ward  
James Jackson

## 1889

\* J. Stanley Bruce (Ch, to July)  
John Bell (Ch, after July)  
Geo. Ward  
Frank E. Clapperton  
John Munro  
Arthur Pritchard  
James Jackson  
† J. Lynch

## 1890

John Bell (Ch)  
Geo. Ward  
Frank E. Clapperton  
Arthur Pritchard  
James Jackson

John Lynch  
\* John Munro  
† J. Kennard

## 1891

\* John Bell (Ch, to Aug)  
Arthur Prichard  
(Ch, after Aug)

Geo. Ward  
James Jackson  
Charles Young

\* John Lynch  
John Kennard  
† Geo. Hepworth  
† J. Wright

## 1892 and 1893

Com: James Jackson  
Charles Young

## 1894

James Jackson (Ch)  
H.W. Willans  
G.H. Aldrich  
Charles Young  
\* Geo. Ward  
W. Parr  
F. Young  
† A. Gledhill

## 1895

\* H.W. Willans (Ch, to July)  
† G.G. Jonathan  
(Ch, after July)  
Charles Young  
James Jackson  
F.M. Young  
W. Dick  
A. Gledhill  
W. Parr

## 1896

Wm. Kendall (Ch)  
\* Charles Young  
F.M. Young  
\* W. Parr  
A. Gledhill  
G.G. Jonathan  
W. Dick  
† G.H. Aldrich  
† W. Davis

## 1897

Capt. J.D.R. Hewitt  
James Jackson  
Wm. Parr  
Charles J. Young  
\* Wm. P. Kendall  
G.G. Jonathan  
A. Gledhill  
† Geo. Ward

## 1898

Capt. J.D.R. Hewitt  
\* Wm. Parr  
James Jackson  
Wm. P. Kendall  
G.G. Jonathan  
Charles J. Young  
W. Dick  
† Arthur Bell

## 1899

Wm. P. Kendall (Ch)  
Arthur Bell  
G.G. Jonathan  
James Jackson  
John McBride  
W. Dick  
\* Capt. J.D.R. Hewitt  
† J.C. Shere

## 1900

Com: G.G. Jonathan

## 1901

Arthur Bell (Ch)  
\* G.G. Jonathan  
G.H. Aldrich  
James Jackson  
W. Davis  
J.C. Shere  
G.J. Ward

## 1902

G.H. Aldrich (Ch)  
W. Yardley (Sec)  
Geo. Rix  
J. Andrew  
J. Peterana  
A. Pritchard  
W. Davis

## 1903

W. Yardley (Ch)  
R. Ross (Sec)  
W. Hunwick  
J. Andrew  
J. Peterana  
A. Pritchard  
W. Davis

## 1904

J. Andrew (Ch)  
R. Ross (Sec)  
J. Peterana  
G.H. Aldrich  
M. Moody  
W. Davis  
M. Rankin

## 1905

J. Andrew (Ch)  
R. Ross (Sec)  
M. Moody  
C. Priest  
Wm. Suckling  
G. Ward jnr.  
J. Esperance

**1906**

M.A. Moody (Ch)  
 G. Rix (Sec)  
 H.A. Ward  
 Wm. Rankin jnr.  
 A.A. Davison  
 G.J. Ward  
 A.H. Beckett

**1907**

M.A. Moody (Ch)  
 G. Rix (Sec)  
 J. Batchelar  
 H. McFetridge  
 A.H. Beckett  
 A.A. Davison  
 J. Peterana

**1908**

M.A. Moody (Ch)  
 A.H. Beckett (Sec & Trea)  
 G. Rix  
 G. Shaw  
 J. Batchelar  
 G.H. Currin  
 H. Wright

**1909**

M.A. Moody (Ch)  
 A.H. Beckett (Sec & Trea)  
 S. Franklin  
 G. Rix  
 G.H. Currin  
 H. Wright  
 E. Thessman

**1910**

No election held.

**1911**

No record available.

**1912**

M.A. Moody (Ch)  
 G.H. Currin (Sec & Trea)  
 J. Tomlin  
 S. Wilson  
 G. Rix  
 F.M. Young  
 W. Pinfold

**1913**

Com: M.A. Moody  
 G.H. Currin

**1914**

M.A. Moody (Ch)  
 G.H. Currin (Sec. & Treas.)  
 S. Franklin  
 T. Kilpatrick  
 H. McCree  
 W. Pinfold  
 C.H. Brill

**1915**

M.A. Moody (Ch)  
 G.H. Currin (Sec)  
 C.H. Brill  
 W. Pinfold  
 T. Kilpatrick

**1916**

M.A. Moody (Ch)  
 G.H. Currin (Sec)  
 C.H. Brill  
 J. Tomlin  
 \* T. Kilpatrick  
 † S.R. Young

**1917**

J.W. Tomlin (Ch)  
 S.R. Young (Sec)  
 J. Perry  
 A. Heard  
 P. Kingsbeer

**1918**

S.R. Young (Ch)  
 T. Ryman (Sec)  
 J.W. Tomlin  
 J. Perry  
 A. Heard

**1919**

S.R. Young (Ch)  
 T. Ryman (Sec)  
 A. Heard  
 R. Moxon  
 G. Check

**1920**

A. Smith (Ch & Sec)  
 S. Irvine (Trea)  
 C. Parnell  
 J. Batchelar  
 A.E. Paget

**1921**

A. Smith (Ch)  
 A.E. Paget (Sec)  
 S. Irvine  
 J. Batchelar  
 H. Hallman

**1922**

A.E. Paget (Ch)  
 \* J.W. Tomlin (Sec)  
 S. Irvine  
 T. Lynch (Trea)  
 G. Greer  
 † C. Parnell

**1923**

J. Batchelar (Ch)  
 G.H. Hampson (Sec & Trea)  
 S. Irvine  
 E. Larsen  
 Mrs Hampson

**1924**

J. Batchelar (Ch)  
 G. Hampson (Sec)  
 S. Irvine  
 A. Paget  
 E. Larsen

**1925**

A.E. Paget (Ch)  
 G.H. Hampson (Sec & Trea)  
 C. James  
 F.G. Lash  
 S. Irvine

**1926**

G.E. Allwright (Ch)  
 G.H. Hampson (Sec & Trea)  
 C. James  
 F.G. Lash  
 A.E. Paget

**1927**

G.E. Allwright (Ch)  
 G.H. Hampson (Sec)  
 C. James  
 F.G. Lash  
 A.E. Paget

**1928**

\* C. Jeffs (Ch & Sec)  
 \* Mrs Jeffs (Trea)  
 F.G. Lash  
 E. Greer  
 \* C. Galpin  
 † T.D. Lynch (Ch)  
 † J. Aitchison  
 † E.W. Croucher

**1929**

T.D. Lynch (Ch)  
 E.W. Croucher (Sec & Trea)  
 J. Aitchison  
 E. Greer  
 F.G. Lash

**1930**

T.D. Lynch (Ch)  
 C.H. Aldrich (Sec)  
 C. Terry  
 J. Nash  
 J. Collis

**1931**

T.D. Lynch (Ch)  
 C.H. Aldrich (Sec)  
 J. Nash  
 J. Collis  
 C. Terry

**1932**

H. McBrearty (Ch)  
 C.H. Aldrich (Sec)  
 J. Nash  
 J. Collis  
 A. Merriman

**1933**

T.D. Lynch (Ch)  
 C.H. Aldrich (Sec & Trea)  
 J. Collis  
 H. McBrearty  
 R.A. Beckett

**1934-36**

T.D. Lynch (Ch)  
 E.S. Crawford (Sec & Trea)  
 R.A. Beckett  
 J. Lauridsen  
 \* C.H. Crawford  
 † C. Terry

**1936-38**

T.D. Lynch (Ch)  
 E.S. Crawford (Sec & Trea)  
 R.A. Beckett  
 \* J. Collis  
 W. Gilliland  
 † F. Batchelar

**1938-40**

T.D. Lynch (Ch)  
 E.S. Crawford (Sec & Trea)  
 W. Gilliland  
 R.A. Beckett  
 F. Batchelar

**1940-42**

T.D. Lynch (Ch)  
 E.S. Crawford (Sec)  
 W. Gilliland  
 R.A. Beckett  
 F. Batchelar

**1942-44**

T.D. Lynch (Ch)  
 E.S. Crawford (Sec)  
 W. Gilliland  
 \* R.A. Beckett  
 F. Batchelar  
 † J. Hillas

**1944-46**

T.D. Lynch (Ch)  
 E.S. Crawford (Sec)  
 W. Gilliland  
 F. Batchelar  
 J. Hillas

**1946-48**

E.W. Croucher (Ch)  
 V.D. Fraser (Sec)  
 E.W. Harrison  
 M. Rix  
 A.G. Berquist

**1948-50**

E.W. Croucher (Ch)  
 V.D. Fraser (Sec)  
 M.U. Rix  
 C.C. Collis  
 A.G. Berquist

**1950-53**

M.U. Rix (Ch)  
 C.C. Collis (Sec)  
 A.G. Berquist  
 J.E. Hight  
 V.D. Fraser

**1953-55**

J.E. Hight (Ch)  
 C.C. Collis (Sec)  
 A.G. Berquist  
 L. Rix  
 W.S. Nash

**1955-57**

M. Main (Ch)  
 C.C. Collis (Sec)  
 L. Rix  
 J.W. Robert  
 A.J. Peters  
 Mrs Mavis Cocks  
 L.G. Christensen

**1957-59**

M.U. Rix (Ch)  
 C.C. Collis (Sec)  
 L.G. Christensen  
 \* A.J. Peters  
 J.W. Robert  
 A. Collis  
 † Mrs Mavis Cocks

**1959-61**

M. Main (Ch)  
 C.C. Collis (Sec)  
 R.S. Allomes  
 N.C. James  
 D.J. O'Connor  
 M.L. Sheridan  
 Mrs Elva Crawford

**1961-63**

M. Main (Ch)  
 D.J. O'Connor (Sec)  
 C.C. Collis  
 R.S. Allomes  
 M.L. Sheridan  
 N.C. James  
 Mrs Mavis Cocks

**1963-65**

A.J. Lynch (Ch)  
 D.J. O'Connor (Sec)  
 M.H. Crawford  
 F. Gerritsen  
 J.M. Whitelock  
 M.L. Sheridan  
 N.C. James  
 R.M. Smith  
 R. Aldrich

**1965-67**

A.J. Lynch (Ch)  
 J.R.B. Williams (Sec)  
 M.H. Crawford  
 F. Gerritsen  
 J.M. Whitelock

**1967-69**

J.R.B. Williams (Ch)  
 D.A. Rix (Sec)  
 K.D. Crawford (Trea)  
 A.L. Aldrich  
 J.D. Hopkins

**1969-71**

D.A. Rix (Ch)  
 M.H. Batchelar (Sec)  
 K.D. Crawford (Trea)  
 A.L. Aldrich  
 J.D. Hopkins  
 I.G. Hillas  
 K.E.S. Raleigh

**1971-73**

- D.A. Rix (Ch)  
 M.H. Batchelar (Sec)  
 J.D. Hopkins (Trea)  
 \* J.P.D. Kennedy  
 W.J. Lauridsen  
 R.E. Crow  
 A.L. Aldrich  
 † B.M. Rix

**1973-75**

- J.D. Hopkins (Ch)  
 \* R.E. Crow (Sec)  
 P. Vandenberg (Trea)  
 B.J. Murphy (Sec)  
 \* K.B. O'Connor  
 † J.A. Kavanagh  
 † M.H. Batchelar

**1975-77**

- B.J. Murphy (Ch)  
 M.H. Devlin (Sec)  
 \* J.A. Kavanagh (Trea)  
 J.F. Moymihan (Trea)  
 J.R.B. Williams  
 † S. Boleyn

**1977-79**

- J.R.B. Williams (Ch)  
 M.J. O'Donoghue (Sec)  
 T.L.C. Johnstone (Trea)  
 B.M. Rix  
 R.E. Crow

**1979-81**

- T.L.C. Johnstone (Ch)  
 D. Underwood (Sec)  
 K.B. O'Connor (Trea)  
 B. Johns  
 R.E. Crow

**1981-83**

- T.L.C. Johnstone (Ch)  
 M. Van Hove (Sec)  
 \* R. Wattes (Trea)  
 D. Underwood  
 M. Marshall  
 † Mrs S. Allomes

**1983-85**

- D. Underwood (Ch)  
 \* D. Blanchard (Sec)  
 Mrs S. Allomes (Sec)  
 C. Stableford (Trea)  
 B.M. Drayton  
 † C. Cockrell

**1985-87**

- M. O'Donoghue (Ch)  
 Mrs S. Allomes (Sec)  
 C. Stableford (Trea)  
 Mrs D. Satherley  
 T.L.C. Johnstone

**1987-89**

- Mrs D. Satherley (Ch)  
 Mrs J. Stableford (Sec)  
 B. Kettle (Trea)  
 W. Brown  
 S. Hodgetts

## LINTON SCHOOL ROLL NUMBERS

These are the highest roll numbers for each year. As far as is known, about 20 pupils attended on opening day.

1889:	50	1926:	93	1963:	270
1890:	50	1927:	84	1964:	104
1891:	39	1928:	75	1965:	90
1892:	36	1929:	72	1966:	96
1893:	40	1930:	62	1967:	97
1894:	45	1931:	54	1968:	110
1895:	39	1932:	49	1969:	118
1896:	43	1933:	37	1970:	122
1897:	44	1934:	40	1971:	123
1898:	46	1935:	37	1972:	100*
1899:	48	1936:	41	1973:	70*
1900:	47	1937:	39	1974:	49
1901:	49	1938:	54	1975:	52
1902:	55	1939:	66	1976:	45
1903:	71	1940:	63	1977:	51
1904:	69	1941:	54	1978:	44
1905:	66	1942:	88	1979:	44
1906:	66	1943:	94	1980:	38
1907:	61	1944:	107	1981:	43
1908:	75	1945:	108	1982:	40
1909:	70	1946:	115	1983:	34
1910:	65	1947:	103	1984:	29
1911:	66	1948:	93	1985:	25
1912:	79	1949:	90*	1986:	38
1913:	94	1950:	88	1987:	40
1914:	94	1951:	86	1988:	33
1915:	95	1952:	90		
1916:	94	1953:	104		
1917:	96	1954:	113		
1918:	107	1955:	111		
1919:	109	1956:	131		
1920:	102	1957:	152		
1921:	83	1958:	164		
1922:	99	1959:	184		
1923:	92	1960:	181		
1924:	98	1961:	193		
1925:	101	1962:	233		

- Notes:** 1. Those marked \* are estimates.  
 2. Average Annual Roll: 80  
 3. Linton Camp School opened February 1964.  
 4. Forms I and II attended Intermediate as from February 1974.

## LINTON SCHOOL ROLL — 1889-1988

This roll has been compiled from the school records as from the time of the fire in 1934; then prior to that date, from Inspectors' Records at the Wanganui Education Board, plus the help of local information. The placing of some names could be in error by several years. In most cases these are marked with an asterisk\*. It has not been possible to trace the names of all pupils prior to the fire.

- 1889: Harold Bell, Leonard Bell, Archie Cameron, Jessie Cameron, Ada Currin, Kathleen Driscoll, Thomas Driscoll, Dora Fitzsimons, Meredith Fitzsimons, Nellie Fitzsimons, David Gibbs, Charles Hammond, James Hammond, Nellie Harding, Thomas Harding, William Jackson, Alfred Lacy, Caspira Larsen, Gustav Larsen, Harry Larsen, Oscar Larsen, Sena Larsen, Albert Liddle, Daniel Lynch, Bertie Moles, Florence Moles, John Moles, Charles Mosen, Maggie Mosen, Angelina Munro, Catherine Munro, James Munro, John Munro, Robert Munro, Simon Munro, Annie Pritchard, Arthur Pritchard, Edward Pritchard, William Pritchard, Albert Ward, Alex. Ward, Isobella Ward.
- 1890: Jane Beck, Gerald Bell, William Cameron, Joseph Kennard, Mary Kennard, Roger Kennard, Lily Mosen, William Ward.
- 1891: Albert Amner, Grace Amner, John Amner, Joshua Brownlie, Willie Harding, Nancy Jackson, James Larsen, Thomas Lynch, Elizabeth Munro (Whitmore), John Munro (Whitmore), Sydney Munro (Whitmore), John Wright, Jane Young, Martha Young, Samuel Young, William Young.
- 1892: Robert Amner, Martin Costello\*, Mary DelaHunty, Nellie DelaHunty, Willie DelaHunty, Edwin Hornblow, Ethel Hornblow, Mabel Hornblow, Thomas Lloyd, William Willans, Beatrice Young.
- 1893: Thomas Amner, Amy Gray, John Gray, Alex. Jackson, Fred Larsen, Cis Lynch, Lizzie Parr, Maggie Parr, Minnie Parr, Willie Parr\*, Lucy Willans.
- 1894: Cecil Aldrich, Maud Aldrich, William Aldrich, Beatrice Evans, Winnie Evans, William Farmer, Ingrid Hansen, Rudolph Hansen, Herbert Huwiler, Hilda Huwiler\*, Maude Huwiler\*, Rosie Smith, Ethel Surman, Olive Surman, James Ward.
- 1895: John Carr, Albert Evans, Fred Farmer, Ethel Gledhill, Grace Gledhill, Lewis Gledhill, Anne McBride, Elizabeth McBride, Ethel Paul, Norman Paul, Harry Ward, William Ward.
- 1896: Charlie Foster, May Foster, John McBride, Henry Munro, Thomas Parr, Harold Stallard, Dorothy Willans.
- 1897: Lily Aldrich, Edna Evans, Agnes Lynch, James Murcott, Ethel Parr, Guy Reed, Rachel Reed, Edward Ward, Frederick Young.
- 1898: Hayden Kendall, Leonard Kendall, Elsie Kingsbeer, Hilda Kingsbeer, Rupert Reed, Adeline Shere, Daisy Shere, Mabel Shere, Ivy Surman.
- 1899: Dorothy Aldrich, Corrie Ayson, Rubina Ayson, Juanita Crow, William Davis, Frederick Foster, Olga Hansen, Charles Jeffs, Thomas Jeffs, Jessie Murcott, Constance Thomas, Vivian Thomas, Walter Ward, Albert Young.
- 1900: Alice Andrew, Florence Andrew, Grace Andrew\*, John Andrew, Mary Andrew, Walter Andrew, Viggo Hansen, Arthur Jonathan, John Kennard, Kathleen Lynch, Nora Lynch, Mary McBride, Eva Surman, Bobby Ward\*, Rupert Ward\*, Elsie Young.
- 1901: Frank Evans, Alice Foster, Henry Hill, William Hill, Margaret Jeffs, Charlie Kennard, John Lynch, Emma Murcott, John Peterana, Ivy Rix, Stanley Ward.

- 1902: William Andrew, Rebecca Ayson, Hector Craw, Loyal Craw, Ellen Gatchell, Harry Gatchell, Mabel Gatchell, Herbert Hankins, George Hill, Victor Kingsbeer, Henrietta McBride, Ada Murcott, Annie Peterana, Jessie Yardley, Maggie Yardley.
- 1903: Anne Boag, Florence Boag, Mary Boag, Phyllis Boag, Elsie Evans, Percy Gatchell, Emma Hansen, Gertrude Hill, Richard Hill, Edward Hunwick, Lawrence Hunwick, Dolly Lynch, Agnes McBride\*, Cyril Moody, Alex. Ross, Jean Ross, John Ross, Roderick Ross, Inge Winge\*, Rata Winge\*.
- 1904: Nellie Haswell, Robert Haswell, Roy Haswell, Alice Hill, Lily Hill, Isabelle Hudson, Julie Hudson\*, Margaret Hudson, Nancy Hundson, Florence Kennard, Alan Kinnimont, Ivy Martin, Fred Moody, Lily Peterana, Iris Priest, Ernest Scholes, Violet Scholes, Florence Swan, Sarah Swan, Alice Ward.
- 1905: Arthur Courtney, John Courtney, Leslie Crozier, Lily Crozier, Florence Evans, Charles Gatchell, Emily Gooch, Reg. Gooch, Stanley Gooch, Archie Hill\*, Jim Hill\*, Enid Kennard, Murray Rix, Ken Ross, Arthur Terry, Cecil Terry, Maggie Terry, Mabel Ward.
- 1906: Herbert Aldrich, Frank Batchelar, Norman Batchelar, Doris Beckett, Harold Beckett, Ron Beckett, James Coombs, David Currin, May Currin, Edith Entwistle, Alice Faire, May Faire, Nellie Faire, Arthur Fitt, Eric Franklin, Beatrice Holgerson, Clara Holgerson, David Holgerson, George Holgerson, Ivy Jeffs, George McCarty, Harold Moody, Margaret Peterana, Archie Rankin, Eric Rankin, Mary Rankin, Allan Terry, Ethel Ward.
- 1907: Jack Aldrich, Esme Collis\*, Adele Craw, Grace Crozier\*, Marjorie Evans\*, Trixie Evans\*, Arthur Faire\*, Cis Faire\*, Allan Fitt\*, Pat Gatchell\*, Ivy Johnstone, Harold Moody, George Wilson.
- 1908: Oswald Batchelar, Muriel Beckett, Elsie Currin, Bella Dick, George Franklin, Inger Holgerson, Basil Moody, Arnold Oxley\*, Charlie Price\*, George Price\*, Jack Price\*, Robert Price\*, William Price\*, Arthur Priest, Earle Pritchard\*, Noel Pritchard\*, Lawrence Wilson, Lester Wilson.
- 1909: Elsie Bacon\*, George Bacon, Myrtle Bacon, William Bacon\*, Cassie Bruce, Elsie Bruce, Lily Bruce, Robert Bruce, Fred Collis, Charles Dick, William Dick, Adeline Ferguson, Maud Ferguson\*, Vera Fitt, Edith Franklin\*, Thomas Power, Ailsa Rankin\*, Molly Rankin, Bob Thomson.
- 1910: Ernest Bacon, Guy Campbell, Dorothy Craw, Gladys Dick, Marguerite Power, Ben Sutherland, Bert Sutherland, Marie Wilson.
- 1911: Mary Bacon, Roy Batchelar, Albert Collis, Arthur Collis, Joe Collis, Cecil Craw, Leslie Craw, Reg. Craw, Gerald Delahousie, Richard Delahousie, Gladys Fitt, Violet Grace, Ivy Gray, Leslie Gray, George Hansen, Edna Kilpatrick, Chris. Lauridsen, Nora Lauridsen, Peter Lauridsen, Alma Moody, Willie Pinfold, Clarence Pritchard, Hector Pritchard, Winnie Proctor, Alex. Speedy, Charles Speedy, Nancy Speedy, George Stagpoole, Cecil Sutherland.
- 1912: Roy Alexander, Violet Alexander, George Bacon, Victor Bacon, Gladys Bowater, Cyril Collis, Annie Edge\*, Herbert Edge\*, Percy Edge\*, Sidney Franklin, Bernard Grace, Millie Kennard, Cyril Kingsbeer, Olive McCree, Keith Moody, Earl Pritchard\*, Eliza Pritchard\*, George Pritchard\*, Muriel Pritchard\*, Ronald Pritchard\*, Sylvia Pritchard\*, Sybil Waghorn, Florence Wilton, Amy Woodley.
- 1913: Mary Bacon\*, George Bartlett, Harold Bartlett, Nita Batchelar, Douglas Bowater, Arthur Brill, Carl Brill, Oscar Brill, David Campbell, Lorimer Claridge, Wilfred Claridge, Winnie Claridge, Edith Collis, Marion Crow, Jean Dassler, Percy Dassler, James Dick, Maurice Grace, Basil Heard, Dulcie Heard, George Hinchley, Rosalie Hinchley, Laurie Knight, Lottie Knight, Edward McCree, Phyllis Newsam, Jean Peterana, Majorie Proctor, Mary Proctor, Mavis Rix, Cyril Sharpe, Violet Sutherland, Barbara Tomlin, Lesley Tomlin, Cliff Wilson.

- 1914: Daisy Bacon, Edward Bateman, Harvey Bateman, Herbert Bateman\*, Nellie Bowater, William Brown, Kenneth Dassler, James Durham, Lucy Durham, Vera Franklin, Winnie Kingsbeer, Emma Perry, Jessie Pinfold, Charles Proctor, Jack Ryman, Trevor Ryman, Dora Wilton, Charles Young.
- 1915: Albert A'Court, Bertie Boddy, Ronald Brill, Sydney Collis, Edna Cotterill, George Cotterill, Ina Dick, Wilhelmina Dick, Alice Heard, Melba Hunter, Edgar Kemp, Jack Kilpatrick, Murray McCree\*, Nelson Martin, Frank Missen, Marjorie Moxon, Richard Moxon, Ruby Proctor, Stanley Sutherland, Ian Tomlin, Des. Waghorn\*, Malcolm Waghorn\*, Quentin Waghorn, Tui Waghorn\*.
- 1916: Bertie Albert, Margaret Albert, Eric Ancell, Margaret Ancell, Colin Brill, Greta Blythe, Irene Carr, James Check, Eva Collis, Amelia Currin, Henrietta Currin, Marie Grace, Lacy Hunter, Jack Irvine, Linda Irvine, Alma Lauridsen, Ona Leakey, Linda Moody, Eva Mouldley, Rona Perry, Ray Priest, Frank Proctor, Henry Sharp, Gordon Stubbs, Sheila Tomlin, Harry Waldegrave, Melville Wilson, James Young.
- 1917: Edgar Beckett, Arnold Coker, Myrtle Collis, Emma Henry, Irene Kingsbeer, Olive Mouldley, Reg. Mouldley\*, William Mouldley, Noel Munro, Elenor Murdoch, James Murdoch, Rachel Murdoch, Ruth Murdoch, Daphne Ryman, Leslie Stubbings, Laurie Stubbs\*, Doreen Waghorn, John Young.
- 1918: George Allen, Winnie Allen, Mavis Carr, Vera Chatfield\*, Jack Check, Roy Check, Thomas Clapham, Winifred Clapham, Gordon Hunter, Amy Missen, Evelyn Missen, Harry Missen, John Preston, Barbara Proctor.
- 1919: Poppy Aldrich, Lois Allen, Maru Check, Nita Collis, Irma Enevoldsen, Johannes Enevoldsen, Lily Enevoldsen, Hilda Gould, Laurie Green, Myrtle Green, Raymond Green, Stanley Green, Agnes McBrearty, Ethel McBrearty, Josephine McBrearty, Charles Missen, Eric Missen, Sarah Murdoch, Ethel Proctor, Geoffrey Rix, Hazel Rix, Laurence Rix, Tom Ryman\*, Evelyn Smith, Lennard Winslow, Dulcie Young, Glenis Young, Thelma Young.
- 1920: Reg. Carr, John Christensen, Nola Craw, Tyssel Davies, Cecil Dunshea, Leslie Dunshea, Trevor Dunshea, Jens Enevoldsen, Doris Hill\*, Gladys Hill\*, Phyllis Hunter\*, Cath. Kelly\*, Jack Kelly\*, Ron. Kelly\*, Mabel McBrearty, Lloyd Patchett, Francis Perry\*, Millie Proctor, Gilbert Read, Ernest Southee.
- 1921: Glee Ancell, Neta Ancell, Dorothy Collis, Russell Gretton, Jean Hallman, Mary Jackson, Mavis James, Noel James, Norman James, Violet Kennedy, Bernard McBrearty, Vivian Missen, Cyril Paget, Nancy Patchett, Peter Sheridan, William Sheridan, Isla Smith, Orton Smith, Owen Terry\*, Ruth Terry.
- 1922: Gwen Bennett, Denzil Craw, Frank Dyer, Walter Dyer, Jean Ellery, Margaret Ellery, Molly Ellery, Ivy Gallichan, Norman Gallichan, Rex Gallichan, Colin Greer, Eulalie Greer, Gordon Greer, Elsa Gretton, Harold Gretton, Ken Moyes, Tilson Moyes, Samuel Moyes, Beryl Parnell\*, Brian Parnell\*, Fay Parnell\*, Nancy Parnell, Howard Patchett, Robert Port, Lorna Rix, Marjorie Rix, Hazel Tillet, Neville Tillet, Albert Tucker, George Tucker, Eric Wilde, William Wilde.
- 1923: Merlyn Craw, May Crowe, Walter Crowe, Robert Drinkwater, Darcy Farland, Victor Farland, Charlie Foster\*, Enid Greer, Melville Greer, Betty Hampson, Lawrence Hook, Norman Hook, Phyllis Hook, Beryl Hunter, Fred. Knipe, Gwen Knipe, Frank Leakey, Gwen Leakey, Ngaire Lynch, Gordon Sheridan, Ivy Withers.
- 1924: Joan Allwright, Lance Craw, Ngaire Davis, Rita Davis, Sylvia Davis, Thelma Davis, Lawrence Drinkwater, Ruth Galpin, Tom Galpin, Merle Hallman, Elna Hansen, Zita Hansen, Alfreda Heard, Marine Jensen, Harold Lash, Joseph Lash, Leslie Lash, Darcy Lynch, Cora Mills, Ian Paget, Muriel Paget, Alma Sharp, Ernest Sharp, Martin Sheridan, Vera Tucker\*.

- 1925: Harold Aldrich, Daphne Barr, Margaret Barr, Rita Barr, Alec Clarke, Leo Crowe, Betty Greer, Francis Gretton, Joy Hallman, George Hampson, Iris Jeffs, Marjorie Jeffs, Mary Knipe, Bessie McBrearty, Neta Rix, Bobbie Saunders\*, Doreen Saunders\*, Stan Street\*, Royce Tucker, Peter Wilde, Ruth Young, Sybil Young.
- 1926: Raymond (Tim) Gooch, Oswald Greer, Mary Gretton, Madge Lynch, Harold McBrearty, Amelia Parker, Charles Pinfold, Edna Pinfold, Wilfred Pinfold\*.
- 1927: Edna A'Court, Ken Cook, Elsie Crowe, Joan Johnson, Muriel Johnson, Doris Ladd, Ileen McBrearty, Stewart Moyes, Goff. Smith, Audrey Swennson, George Thorne.
- 1928: Ray Aitchison, Neil Beckett, Irvina Coulter, Hardie Croucher, Malcolm Greer, Constance Heap, George Heap, Muriel Heap, Douglas Ladd, Leonard Ladd, Marg. Manifold, Trevor Nash, Audrey Russell, Naomi Russell, Zelma Terry, Ronald Thornton.
- 1929: Patricia Delahousie, William Hampson, David Heap\*, Maurice Heap, Alan Lynch, James Nash, Cicely Pentecost, Garth Smith, Gwen Smith, Keith Smith, Ron. Smith, Amy Wilde.
- 1930: Anthony Beckett, Gloria McBrearty, Stewart McBrearty, Mary Mason, Hugh Rankin, Jessie Rankin, Joan Rankin, Norma Terry, Patricia Terry, Roland Terry, Winifred Terry.
- 1931: Edna Allison, Bernice Beale, Kevin Beckett, Marjorie May, Connie Perfect, Kathleen Terry.
- 1932: Gwenyth Crawford, Winton James.
- 1933: Betty Collis, June Copeland, Dale Craw, Brian Crawford, Wendy Harrison, Beulah Terry, Mary Walker.
- 1934: John Crawford, Pamela Harrison, Walter Lauridsen, Mary McBrearty, Valmai Merriman, Bruce Stewart, Joan Stewart, Rae Stewart, Joyce Street, Janet Walker, Gloria Wilson.
- 1935: Dawn Batchelar, Nola Collis, Earle Craw, Douglas Gilliland, John Gilliland, William Gilliland, Lillian Hammond, Keith Henman, Melva Hillas, William Howell, Eric Keats, June Prier, Dennis Rich, Stanley Rich.
- 1936: Milton Batchelar, Desmond Beckett, Clarence Collis, Freda Collis, Selwyn Ennis, Maurice Haley, Joan Hillas, Kevin Jennings, Ruby Jones, Terence Lynch, Flora McDonell, Nelson Monrad, Barbara Rich, Donald Rix, John Trembath, Norman Trembath, Nola Whitehead, Graeme Wilson.
- 1937: Mary Gilliland, Russell Haley, Alen Hansen, Dennis Hansen, Gwen Hansen, Ian Hillas, Larry Merriman, Peter Moody, Betty Peters, Bruce Peters, Margaret Peters, Robin Peters, Brian Philps, Joyce Philps, Margaret Philps, Keith Sutherland, Ruth Swensson, Philip Trembath, Dennis Venn, Graham Venn.
- 1938: Melva Aldrich, Roy Aldrich, Barry Batchelar, Gavin Craw, Elizabeth Croucher, Mervyn Curreen, Clarence Curreen, James Curreen, Marie Hague, Margaret Haley, Moonene Hansen, Neil Jensen, Gordon Lauridsen, June Lauridsen, Brian North, Fae North, John Philps, Judith Philps, Nesta Rich, Heather Rix, Josie Strange, Margaret Weetman.
- 1939: John Berquist, Alan Campbell, David Collis, Raymond Collis, Edwin Croucher, James Grice, Andrea Honore, Betty Irons, Douglas MacKay, James McMillan, Kevin McMillan, Rachel McMillan, Russell Mexted, Phyllis Miller, Shirley Rix, Laurence Trembath, Robert White, Ronald White, Thelma White, Dulcie Woods, Ernest Woods, Irene Woods.
- 1940: Alton Batchelar, Monica Beckett, Lyndall Craw, Harry Croucher, Neville Curry, Leo Evans, Elsie Flint, Leslie Hardway, David Lauridsen, Rua Mudgway, Dawn Trembath, Leone Webster, Trevor Webster.
- 1941: Ethel Baker, Joseph Baker, Annette Beckett, Bruce Berquist, Brian Bradbury, Ruth Bradbury, Joan Collis, Audrey Cribb, Douglas Cribb, Pamela Cribb, Rae Cribb, Marina Ellison, Rita Ellison, Peter Finlay, John Fraser, Douglas Harrison, Bertram Harrod.

- Clifford Harrod, Doreen Harrod, Gwen Harrod, Barry Jensen, Colin Jensen, Ivan Lauridsen, Alan MacKay, Chona Mayo, Merle Mayo, Ngaire Mayo, Rodney Mayo, Keri Merriman, Diane North, Edith Oppatt, Harold Oppatt, Shirley Oppatt, William Oppatt, Jill Priest, Lorraine Retter, Barry Robert, Mervyn Robert, Mary Skelmars, June Torrey, Elva Truman, Nelson Truman, Ian Wilson.
- 1942: Alan Aldrich, Jean Berquist, Elleen Burne, Thelma Burne, Elizabeth Burnett, Hazel Burnett, William Clifton, Dion Dale, Ngaire Dear, Patricia Ellison, Mavis Gilmour, Clive Keene, Graham Keene, Mervyn Keene, Myra Keene, Ray Keene, Stuart Keene, Miriam Marsh, Arthur Mills, Kenneth Mills, Robert Mills, William Mills, Graham Monk, Carol Moody, Gillian Priest, Lorna Quartley, Barbara Ralph, Peter Schlager, Peter Skinner, Dawn Summerfield, Phillip Summerfield, Jack Taylor, Jean Taylor, Maurice Taylor, Robert Taylor, Trevor Taylor, George Torrey, Alan Wilson.
- 1943: Wilma Adams, Lester Alley, Valentine Baker, Shirley Crawford, Logan Cockburn, Margaret Cockburn, Roy Cockburn, Yvonne Cockburn, Marion Collis, Colin Cooksley, Leota Cooksley, Avril Harrison, Albert Hook, Irene Hook, Vivien Jorgensen, Margaret Lauridsen, Raymond Lauridsen, Adrian Lower, Kevin Lower, Vivienne Lower, Barry McMillan, Mat. Moody, Jean Morrison, William Morrison, Neil Peterken, Doreen Ruback, Robert Southey, Colin Taylor, Raymond Taylor, Edward Walsh, Ivy Walsh, Nancy Walsh.
- 1944: David Bowler, James Burne, Sydney Burne, Bette Cave, Joy Cave, Pamela Cave, Sydney Collis, Robert Cooper, Sylvia Cooper, Rex Craw, Maurice Cudby, John Fitzsimons, Elaine Fraser, Valerie Fraser, Dorothy Hansen, Edina Johnson, Terence MacDonald, Bruce Mills, Dorothy Mudgway, Patricia Neilsen, Peter Neilsen, Roger Pringle, Josephine Quartley, Bruce Rix, Christopher Rix, Desmond Robert, Warren Satherley, Neville Studd, Brian Wilson, Lynton Wilson.
- 1945: Glenda Aldrich, Rodney Barnett, Carol Batchelar, Marlene Bennett, Yvonne Bennett, Margaret Berryman, Diane Boyd, Jocelyn Boyd, Verna Brown, William Brown, Joh Burnett, Hector Craw, Verna Croucher, Beverley Grayson, Janette Grayson, Marjorie Grayson, Pamela Grayson, Barry Hollows, Beryl Hollows, Ross Hollows, Nola Hooper, Donald Lamb, Desmond MacDonald, Pauline Marsh, Anne Mills, John Moody, Rosemarie Morris, James Northcott, Marjorie Northcott, Robert Northcott, Tony Pawson.
- 1946: Maureen Alley, Colin Berquist, James Rowe, Judith Bowler, Edith Collis, Norma Collis, Douglas Cribb, Pamela Cribb, Raymond Cribb, John Duffy, Keith Goss, Ngaire Goss, Maureen Grayson, Merle Grayson, William Jenner, Eileen Jones, Murray Little, Raymond McGinnis, Robert McGinnis, Clive Meads, Janet Moody, Dawn Pawson, Adrian Penn, Eunice Penn, Moran Penn, Selwyn Penn, Wilfred Penn, Kerry Peters, Bernard Petty, Catherine Trembath, Beverley Wilkin, Colleen Willoughby, Graham Willoughby.
- 1947: Desmond Carrol, Michael Coleman, Velda Coleman, Michael Duffy, Arthur Gadsby, Graeme Gadsby, John Gadsby, Rex Gadsby, Valerie Gadsby, Victor Gadsby, Colin George, Raymond Cooch, Mary Higgison, Carol Hight, John Hodson, Wendy Hodson, Yvonne Hyde, Cathleen Lynch, Isabel Lynch, Diane Moody, Bernard Mudgway, Colin Peterken, Peter Rix, Anne Robert, Patricia Walsh, Maureen Willoughby.
- 1948: Bryan Anderson, Catherine Anderson, Patricia Anderson, Pauline Anderson, Claire Burgess, Alison Grayson, Graeme Heard, Michael Heard, John Hight, Adrian Lyttle, Clive Lyttle, Elaine Lyttle, Valerie Manion, Ross Merriman, Aileen Morris, Jocelyn Morris, Alan Proctor, Valerie Simeon, Robin Trembath.
- 1949: Graeme Bowler, Beryl Cook, Colin Cook, Heather Cook, Janice Cook, Noeline Cook, Murray Croucher, Graeme Duffy, Anthony Foley, Brian Higgison, Lorraine Hyde, Janice MacDonald, Lois Moody, Ursula Mosen, Graham Pringle, Roger Sheridan, David Tucker.

- 1950: Brian Ancell, Kathleen Ancell, Raymond Ancell, Trevor Ancell, Margaret Baker, Neville Baker, Rhona Baker, Leo Bergman, Ronald Burgess, Melvis Carroll, Ian Cook, Trevor Cook, Florence Davison, Beth Fairbrother, Dianne Fairbrother, Warren Fairbrother, William Gooch, Sally Higgison, Howard Lauridsen, Glenda MacDonald, Michael Marshall, Kim Meade, Sydney Morrison, Frances Mosen, Isobel Mosen, Judith Mosen, Neil Mudgway, Janice Price, Leonie Robert.
- 1951: William Algie, Bruce Bowler, Marilyn Boyd, Larry Christensen, Beverley Collis, Robert Collis, Zelda Collis, Ashley Conland, Diane Davis, Peter Davis, Janet Deighton, Robert Deighton, Garry Goodyear, Noel Hutton, Edward Kleyn, Gerard Kleyn, Andre Kramer, Bouke Kramer, Fay McCormick, Richmond McKenzie, Jennifer Maxwell, David Moorcock, Ngairene Mudgway, Lynette Proctor, Elizabeth Sheridan, Leone Stermfels, Peter Watson, Roger Watson, Annette Willcocks, Elizabeth Willcocks, Malcolm Willcocks, Peter Willcocks, Rosalind Willcocks, Garry Williams, Maurice Williams, Patricia Williams, Michael Willing.
- 1952: Janet Ancell, Andrew Baker, Marilyn Batchelar, Arie Bos, Petronella Bos, Barbara Christensen, Gavin Christoffersen, Margaret Colwill, Patricia Colwill, Barry Cook, Suzanne Fletcher, Roger Frith, Stuart Frith, Brian Hight, Noel Hislop, Raymond Jackson, John Lee, James McGovern, Jean McGovern, Ann McKenzie, Tresta Merriman, Timothy Nash, Ngair Price, Sheridan Priest, Brian Pritchard, Eric Roil, Donald Simpson, Shona Simpson, Dennis Spooner, Joan Swan, Richard Swan, John Te Rangi, Barbara Thompson, Ronald Thompson, William Thompson, Anne Williams, Sally Woods.
- 1953: Judith Allen, Adrian Ash, Carol Baldrey, Marie Basley, Thomas Blundell, Linda Boese, Sandra Boese, Christopher Brunskill, Margaret Brunskill, Philip Brunskill, Kevin Campbell, Diane Colwill, Margaret Dick, Anna Dyer, Mary Dyer, Jillian Fletcher, David Goss, Elizabeth Greasey, Rosalind Greasey, Kathleen Greasey, Fae Hartley, Jennifer Hartley, Joyce Hartley, Kenneth Hartley, Peter Harvey, Robin Hight, Joy Hislop, Kevin Jackson, David Johnson, Hugh Johnson, Douglas Johnstone, Paul Johnstone, David Jones, Michael Jones, Gordon Kerr, Morton Kerr, Thomas Kerr, Suzanne Main, John McDonald, Anthony Nash, Neil Old, Margaret Pritchard, Anthony Riordan, Christopher Riordan, Deville Rossiter, Gillian Rossiter, Jeffrey Ryan, Alan Shakleford, Richard Shakleford, Andrew Staves, Jennifer Sturm, Lynette Sturm, Margaret Sturm, Ronald Sturm, Valerie Sturm, Maureen Tomkins, Graehme Willoughby, Alex Wills, Lynda Wills, Carol Woodward, Derek Woodward, Eugene Woodward, Selwyn Woolley.
- 1954: Hazel Batchelar, Sandra Christensen, Margaret Clift, Graham Cocks, Janice Cocks, Lynette Cocks, Neville Cocks, Raymond Curtis, Vernon Curtis, William Curtis, Alan Fletcher, Barbara Greer, Paul Gretton, Leigh Gretton, Leo Hartley, Thomas Hine, Miriam Hodgetts, Elizabeth Hook, Rae Lamason, Kerree Larkin, Michele Larkin, Tony Loorpara, Alfred Lytle, Stuart MacDonald, Carolyn McGill, Gary McGill, Rosemary Maxwell, Katrina Nash, Edward Reid, John Russell, Phillipa Sanders, Denise Shakleford, Andrew Swan, John Te Rangi, Barbara Wapp, Linda Wapp, Colin White, Geoffrey White, Mahewai Withers, Dennis Woods.
- 1955: Peter Allen, David Arndt, Jacqueline Arndt, Maurren Arndt, Mathew Baker, Beverley Batchelar, Mark Batchelar, Ross Batchelar, Jacqueline Best, Janet Collis, Valerie Collis, Hilton Currie, Hera Dixon, Glenys Douglas, Patrick Duggan, Ann Gavin, Ross Hills-Smith, John Irvine, Marie Jenner, Terry Kendall, John Lee, Grant MacDonald, Macushla McMinn, Roger Martin, Christina Mitchell, Donald Mitchell, Noel Morris, Raewyn Old, Susan Peters, Rosemary Price, Mary Rix, Lloyd Schulz, Dennis Smith, Robin Smith, Robert Stevenson, Maxine Sturm, Allan Swan, Jacqueline Wiffin.
- 1956: Grant Adams, Mary Aitken, Michael Aitken, Christine Allan, Peter Attwell, Terence Attwell, Valerie Baldry, David Batchelar, Francis Boddy, Ian Boddy, Joan Boddy, Eva Campbell, Lynette Carr, Trevor Carr, Devon Carter, Neville Christensen, Ashley

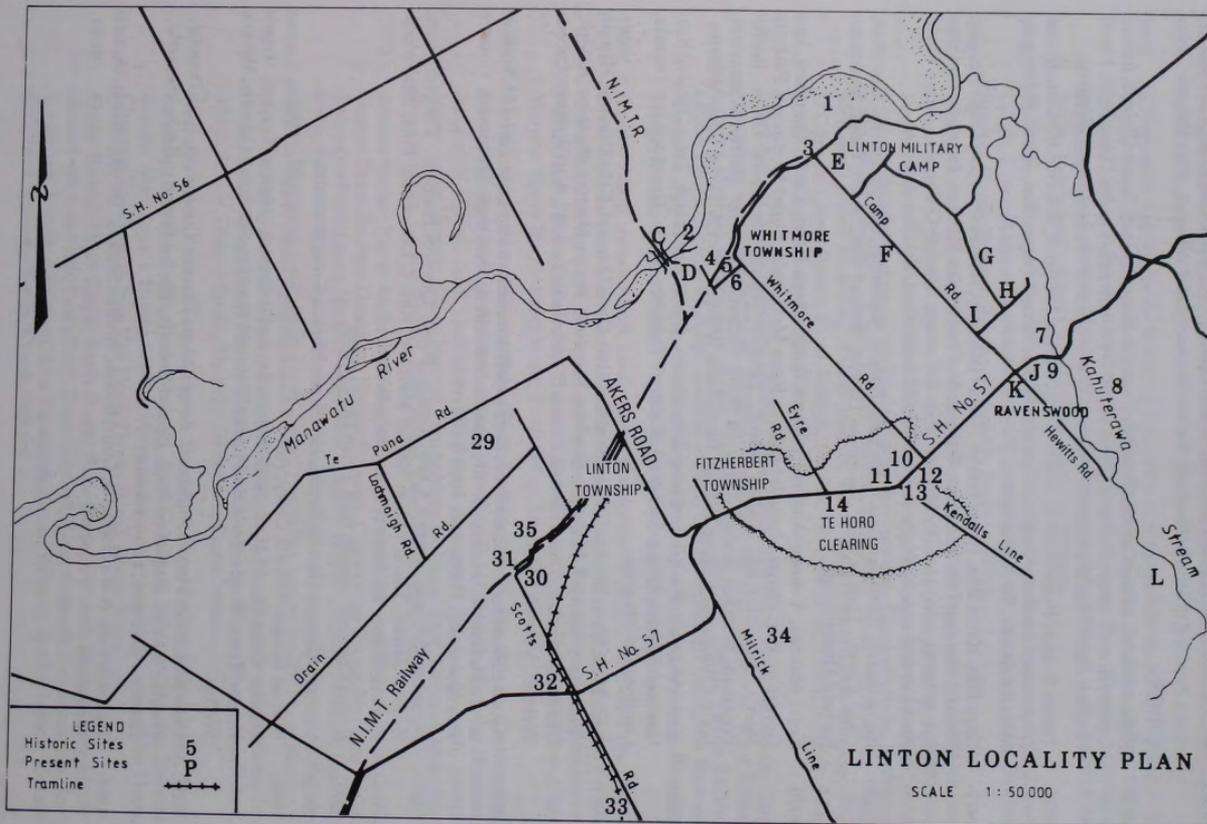
- Conland, Ann Dixon, John Dixon, Julia Dixon, Allan Donaghue, Maureen Donaghue, Patricia Donaghue, Marilyn Duggan, Carol Edwards, Faye Edwards, Carole Gillard, Clive Gillard, Dianne Gillard, Lois Gillard, Alan Greer, Lynne Gretton, Gordon Heaphy, Marilyn Heaphy, Janette Hight, Ina Hook, Graham Irvine, Mary Irvine, Keitha James, Graeme Lee, Christine Lyon, Paul Lyon, Lyndon McKenzie, Mary McMinn, John Molineaux, Phillip Molineaux, Norman Nash, Carol Nials, Anthony O'Connor, Gabrielle O'Connor, Kevin O'Connor, Caroline O'Leary, Jerry O'Leary, Kerry O'Leary, Mary O'Leary, Anne Painter, Christine Painter, John Penny, Linda Penny, Stuart Penny, Christine Powell, Janne Powell, Deidre Robinson, Desmond Robinson, Graham Rossiter, Rosemary Sheridan, Ann Smart, Gregory Staves, Brian Thomas, Lesley Thompson, Sandra Thompson, Henry Van Echten, Patrick Waaka, Colin Wilson.
- 1957: Stuart Algie, Barbara Allomes, Donald Allomes, Graeme Allomes, Kathleen Brunning, Janet Carroll, Marilyn Carroll, Clinton Craw, Roger Craw, Dorothy Cunninghame, Jennifer Cunninghame, Nancy Cunninghame, Stephen Cunninghame, Desmond Dalby, Janice Dalby, Raewyn Dalby, Sheryl Dalby, Alan Faulkner, Kevin Faulkner, Ross Fletcher, May Gavin, Robert Heaphy, Tohu Heketa, Philip Holloway, Susan Holloway, Jennifer Hook, Geraldine Kyte, Gail Lamb, Jeffery McGill, Lynnda McKenna, Paulette Main, Susan Mitchell, Christopher Nelson, Margaret Nelson, Linda Norman, Michael O'Brien, Fleur Peek, Michael Peek, Mark Perry, Kerry Powell, Ian Reichenbach, Robyn Reid, Alan Rowe, David Rowe, Diana Smith, Linda Spooner, William Stewart, Marlene Te Rangi, David Thomas, Frederick Van Echten, Gail Wallis, Garry Wallis, Stella White, Margaret Wiffen.
- 1958: Christopher Adams, Bruce Allen, Robin Banks, Shirley Batchelar, Faye Baxter, Kathleen Butler, Helen Canty, Allen Castleton, Mervyn Castleton, Graham Collis, Mark Craw, Kenneth Crawford, Peter Cruickshank, Bruce Davies, James Delves, Michael Ellis, Bruce Englebretsen, George Englebretsen, Marianne Fairbrother, Sonja Fairbrother, Robin Faulkner, Barry Gilliland, Mary Greer, Victoria Greer, Rex Gretton, Charles James, Allen Hardie, Mary Hardie, Lance Hare, Phillip Heaphy, Rosemary Hight, Sydney Hodgetts, Nuala Kenna, Christine Keong, Russell Lamb, George McConachy, Danny McKenna, Doric Manssen, Eric Manssen, Selwyn Manssen, Sheryl Manssen, Suzanne Marshall, Glenda Norman, Lorraine O'Connor, Bruce Osborne, David Penny, Verna Podjursky, Yvonne Scott, Nicholas Shorter, Susan Smith, Gloria Swan, Christopher Tate, Stephen Tate, Robert Taylor, Leonard Te Rangi, Marina Velvin, Roger Wilson.
- 1959: Irene Adams, Michael Adams, Terence Atwell, Lorraine Baxby, Patricia Burgess, Ian Chudleigh, Pauline Clark, Patricia Clark, Claire Coley, Marshall Coley, Mary Coley, Warren Coley, George Cooper, Georgina Cooper, Veronica Cooper, Glenn Craw, Jean Davies, John Davies, Colin Fenton, Deane Fenton, Noel Fenton, Dale Foster, Anthony Gerritsen, Christine Gibbard, Warwick James, Anna Kenna, Wilhelmina Kooyman, William Kyte, Andrew McKenzie, Sheryl Mansson, Richard Murcott, Raymond Offord, Barbara O'Brien, Elaine Penney, Carey Powell, Margaret Puklowski, Robert Puklowski, Dianne Reedy, David Render, Barry Richardson, Brian Richardson, Heather Smith, Malcolm Smith, Pamela Smith, Warren Smith, Robyn Stock, Mary Swainson, Barry Symes, Jill Symes, Ian Tavendale, John Tavendale, Patricia Thompson, Elaine Trim, Nigel Trotter, Neil Velvin, Darcy Whiteman, Paul Whiteman, Margaret Wright, Andrea Wyndham, Dianne Wyndham, Gail Wyndham.
- 1960: Jill Ayling, Lynne Beamish, Miriam Berryman, Janet Bromley, Maurice Bromley, Beverley Chapman, Jill Chudleigh, Noeline Collis, Robert Crawford, David Cunninghame, Norma Davies, Barrie Delves, Barry Divehall, John Dixon, Julie Gretton, Laurel Goss, Robert Hapeta, David James, Adrian Keown, Gerald Hammett, Kristine Harvey, Robert Hendry, Wendy Hercock, Heather Hodgetts, Margrieta Kooyman, Mark Lamb, Graham McCormack, Russell McCormack, Paul McGovern, Helen McKenzie, Shane McKerrow, Ruth Norman, Margaret Penney, Jocelyn Penny, Malcolm

Ray, Margurete Ray, Marion Ray, Maurice Ray, Mervyn Ray, Michael Ray, David Render, Graeme Roberts, Lynne Rollett, Glen Ross, Stewart Ross, Anne Sheridan, Barry Smith, Jane Standish, Leigh Stewart, Carol Te Kooro, Christopher Trotter, Wayne Vinten, Donna Webb, Marie Webb, Anne Weggery, Andrew White, Christine White, George White, Janette White, Josephine Wilson.

- 1961: Barrie Aldrich, Keith Ayling, Alan Baxby, Andre Berryman, Michael Bolton, Robert Bolton, Yvonne Bolton, Deborah Brighthouse, Bruce Chapman, Claude Cook, Craig Craw, Lynette David, Marion Fenton, Donna Ferrie, David Folley, James Garner, Carol Gilliland, Owen Grant, Faye Hamilton, Gerald Hamilton, Jacob Hapeta, Carolyn Hare, Linda Howlett, Pauline Howlett, Christine Hughes, John James, Maurice Jordan, Sylvia Jordan, Simon Keown, Karen Lanb, Karen Lawrence, Wendy McDonell, Stewart MacLean, Michael Miller, Peter Miller, Susanne Miller, David Morgan, William Morgan, Jennifer Mosen, Lawrence Mosen, Richard Mosen, Victor Mosen, Yvonne Mosen, Brian Murcott, Marguerite Nash, Alan Nicolle, Stephen Norman, Patrick O'Connor, Cathryn Parkes, John Pedersen, Peter Pedersen, Brian Quinn, Jacqueline Quinn, Jennifer Reichenbach, Anne Reid, Graeme Reid, Merle Reid, Murray Reid, Kevin Richardson, Kevin Ross, Stewart Scott, Brian Short, Catharine Short, Robert Short, Anthony Smith, Elaine Taylor, Shane Thomas, Mereana Whitecliffe, Sally Whitecliffe, Simon Williams, Ann Wolfsbauer.
- 1962: Jennifer Adams, John Adams, Margaret Adams, Patricia Adams, Paul Adams, Veronica Adams, Cynthia Anderson, Jeanne Anderson, Dennis Argyle, Katheryn Brighthouse, David Christian, Jane Christian, Lyall Christian, Stephen Christian, Nancy Codlin, Wayne Codlin, Donna Cook, Deane Craw, Julie Craw, Rita Derksen, Jennifer Divehall, Elizabeth Duggan, Kathleen Ellis, Helen Ferrie, Richard Folley, Mervyn Gardner, Judith Gason, Rodney Gason, Kevin George, Honor Gerrard, Adrienne Gerritsen, Glen Golding, David Heke, Richard Henshaw, Barry Hillas, Pamela Howlett, David Hughes, Catherine Judd, Gary Judd, Dalwyn Kasper, Michael Kenna, Donna Keong, Karen Lepper, Sheryl Lepper, Gerard Lynch, Edith Lynn, Elizabeth Lynn, Samuel Lynn, Thomas Lynn, William Lynn, Brian McKean, Kevin McKean, Norma McKean, David Martin, Gerard Martin, Sally Martin, Susan Martin, Leonie Mitchell, Anne Moore, Julie Moore, Helen Morgan, Annette Morris, Kevin Morris, Kevin O'Connor (Camp), Ian Pollard, Gregory Pond, Howard Pond, Anthony Quinn, Dawn Render, Karen Richardson, Graeme Roberts, Neil Roberts, Linda Ross, Adriel Shaw, Phillip Shaw, Hilsley Short, James Short, Suzanne Short, Mark Smith, Colin Stephenson, David Stephenson, Jeanette Stephenson, Melvyn Stephenson, Deborah Stott, Claire Taylor, Garth Taylor, Steven Taylor, Sheila Whakakrau, Warren Whitecliffe, Robin White, Kristine Whitelock, Phillipa Williams, John Wilson, Mark Wilson, Roger Wilson, Ross Woon.
- 1963: Brenda Ainscough, Julie Ainscough, Kevin Aldrich, Janie Anderson, Linda Anderson, Robin Anderson, Lynette Argyle, Clifford Bishop, Christopher Blair, David Blair, Phillipa Blair, Patricia Blyth, Georgina Boyd, Amie Butters, Andrew Butters, Graeme Butters, Denise Cameron, Grant Cameron, Lynley Cameron, Warren Cameron, David Carlin, Peter Collis, Wayne Cooper, Brett Craw, Melody Craw, Helen Currie, Bernard Dassler, Gaylene Dassler, Ronald Dassler, Warren Dassler, Allan Davis, Janet Davis, Tuki Dixon, Kim Emery, Thomas Fletcher, Christine George, Janet Gray, Norman Gray, Peter Gray, Michael Hansen, Bryan Hayhow, Jan Hayhow, Dennis Hibbert, Larry Hibbert, Kevin Hight, Deborah Howlett, Gary Huddleston, Lisa James, Michael Jensen, Thomas Jensen, Phyllis Kettle, Raewyn Laurence, Brian Lauridsen, Karen Linton, Paula Linton, Andrew Lynch, Jean Lynn, Craig MacDonell, Allan McKean, Fiona McNearie, Leslie Maddaford, Raymond Maddaford, Barrie Malloch, Janice Malloch, Judith Mitchell, Ernest Morel, Rosemary Murcott, Garry Orr, Adrienne Pond, Bernadine Quinn, Marie Ray, Brian Reiri, Graeme Richards, Gail Roberts, Susan Roberts, Mark Robinson, Grant Rollett, Janette Salmon, Wayne Salmon, Robert Sandbrook, Christopher Short, Earl Stewart, Ian Stewart, Leigh Stewart, Donald

- Tasker, Jeanette Tasker, Janette Taylor, Robin Taylor, Robert Vandenberg, Cowan Whitecliffe, Braeden Whitelock, Judith Wright, Kenneth Wright.
- 1964: Christopher Aldred, Alexis Ashton, Clyde Ashton, Virginia Ashton, Kevin Burnett, Kim Crow, Scott Crow, Louise Dean, Donald Hastings, Gavin Hastings, Adele Hillas, Jennifer Jones, Peter Larkin, Mary Lynch, David Poulsen, Eric Poulsen, Lorraine Poulsen, Merlene Poulsen, Shirley Reid, Gayil Sergent, Marie Short, Keith Smith, Lois Smith, Rolph Smith, Marita Vandenberg, Barbara Williams.
- 1965: Janet Argyle, Gregory Burnett, Donald Irvine, Murray Lauridsen, Jacinta Liddell, James Lynch, Lance Maynard, Linda Maynard, Raymond Maynard, Hamish Raleigh, Sinclair Raleigh, Neville Sergent, Joanne Whitelock, Brunton Williams.
- 1966: Stuart Aldrich, Susanne Aldrich, Brian Anderson, Patricia Anderson, Sally Batchelar, Lynne Burnett, Coralea Crow, Fiona Crow, Tracy Crow, Dean Dawson, Christopher Farrell, Richard Farrell, William Harrison, Robert Harrison, David Hindrup, John Hindrup, Judith Hindrup, Christine Hodgetts, Ian Hopkins, Elizabeth Kelly, Katherine Kelly, Matthew Kelly, Judith Larkin, Neville Lauridsen, Keith McGovern, Kevin McKelvey, Peter McKelvey, Diana Martyn, Penelope Martyn, Karen Murphy, Erin O'Connor, Glenis Peters, Fiona Raleigh, Ian Rix, Helen Roache, Phillip Sergent, Allan Schulz, Carolyn Schulz, Gregory Stevens, Trevor Stevens.
- 1967: Brent Aldrich, Stephen Bastow, Donald Foster, Robert Fletcher, Russell Fletcher, Gary Frampton, Lynette Frampton, Richard Frampton, Wayne Frampton, Kent Hillas, Lynette Hopkins, Derek Humphreys, Donna Kells, Stephen Laird, Valerie Larkin, Urban Lynch, Teresa Murphy, Josephine Paki, Christine Renner, Vaughan Renner, Anne Rix, Robin Rix, Warren Roche, Antonietta Russo, Anthony Stevens, Beverley Taylor, Donald Taylor, Noeline Taylor, Robert Taylor, Richard Vandenberg.
- 1968: Charles Alsop, James Alsop, Linda Alsop, Catherine Batchelar, Andrew Crow, Kevin Crow, Rachael Davidson, Tania Dawson, Brent Fabian, Jennifer Farrell, Susan Farrell, Helen Fell, Patricia Goss, Christopher Hawthorne, Glen Hawthorne, Scott Hawthorne, Michael Kelly, Frances Kennedy, Theresa Laird, Richard Lynch, Helen Moynihan, Clare Murphy, Garry Rix, Stewart Scott, Tony Selby, Trudie Selby.
- 1969: Paul Buchanan, Anne Burnett, Dawn Carroll, Harry Carroll, Erin Fabian, Cathryn Fell, Brent Frampton, Cheryl Frampton, Tony Gimblett, Peter Greene, Timothy Hopkins, Jacqueline Liddell, John Lissington, Wharehoe Lissington, Prenten Managh, Joseph Millan, Jason Morrow, Shane Morrow, Trudy Morrow, Darryl Muir, Deborah Muir, Alan Rix, Brent Rix, Leonie Roache, Ross Russo, Denise Thompson, Rory Wilson.
- 1970: Joanne Archer, Karen Archer, Neil Archer, Lilian Carroll, Terence Carroll, Brian Crow, Darryn Crow, Andrew Davidson, Natalie Dawson, Christopher Freke, Matthew Freke, Tracy Gimblett, Lance Hagley, Tina Hillas, Charles Howlett, Mandy Howlett, McKeven Irwin, Glen Irwin, Gregory Jarvis, Karen Jarvis, Maurice Laird, Corrin Laureley, Joanne Moynihan, Craig Muir, David Neale, Karyn Ria, Leone Smith, Mavis Smith.
- 1971: Deborah Allen, John Batchelar, Kelvin Holland, Vicki Holland, Anne Humphries, Ian Humphries, Michael Laird, Mandy Mouat, Keith Mudgway, Wendy Rix, Deane Russo, Alison Schulz, Darryn Smith, Michelle Thompson, Fiona Wilson.
- 1972: Eleanor Alsop, Karen Crow, Anthony Dower, Marcus Freke, Arika Hasler, Dean Kahukoti, Stephen Lucas, Zelda Managh, Andrew Millard, Bernard Murphy, Rosette Rennie, Allen Sayers, Donna Sayers, Vivienne Sayers, Fiona Smith, Anne Van Hove, Christine Van Hove, Claire Van Hove, Danny Ward, Reece Whitelock.
- 1973: Shane Bishop, Brian Bogle, Keith Bogle, Ross Bogle, Deborah Flutey, Gary Flutey, David Frith, Lisa Frith, Tracy Frith, Dean Gupwell, Kerry Gupwell, Lynette Johns, Axel Jorgensen, Lucille Jorgensen, Lisa Kavanagh, Bruce Kellock, Rachel Lynch, Coralie O'Connor, Vivienne Smith, Claude Wikaire.

- 1974: Andrew Hopkins, Daniel Kavanagh, Joanne McArthur, Graham Managh, Pania Mouat, Brent Ranford, Michelle Ranford, Karen Rewha, Susan Wheeler, Alan Wikaire, John Williams.
- 1975: Rupert Boleyn, Lillian Carroll, Deborah Chandler, Janet Cleland, Susan Cleland, Ashley Cotter, Brent Cotter, Lorraine Craw, Brigid Devlin, Fenella Devlin, Diane Frith, David Hughes, Dean Hughes, Lynette Hughes, Warren McArthur, Leighanne Weggery.
- 1976: Teresa Boleyn, Regan Cotter, Gillian Dacy, Joanne Hodsdon, Roberta Johnson, Nicola Johnstone, Pauline Murphy, Camille O'Donoghue, Aaron Rix, Brent Robertson, Michelle Sewell, Te Aroha Woon, Timothy Woon.
- 1977: Gary Bills, Kevin Bills, Kerry Hasler, Thea Hathaway, Andrew Horgan, David Horgan, Michael Horgan, Niki Kahukoti, Geoffrey McCrae, Kevin McCrae, Pearllette McCrae, Bruce McKinnon, Hamish Mouat, Glen O'Connor, Rachel O'Connor, Jacqui Peek, Brendon Stevenson, Tracy Turner, David Underwood, Duncan Weggery.
- 1978: Kerry Beech, Kimbalee Beech, Michelle Bishop, Alexander Boleyn, Joanne Campbell, Chay Cotter, Linda Craw, Josephine Gawith, Bennet McComish, Owen Mudgway, Richard Underwood.
- 1979: Kerri Allomes, Yvonne Anderson, Clark Bond, Jason Bond, Ceciel Gerritsen, Igor Gerritsen, Keri James, Judy Johnstone, Kane McDonald, Stuart McKinnon, Paulette Morris, Lisa Murcott, Kishen Norell, Terriann Norell, Jacqueline Olsen, Rachel Pedersen, Brendon Sewell, Tracy Te Anini, Graeme Thatcher, Darren Wainwright, Robert Wainwright, Josie Wattes, Bernadette Williams, Miri Williams, Rangi Williams.
- 1980: Joelle Andrews, Rachel Andrews, Jane Davies, Christopher Nash, Troy O'Donoghue, Gemma Sanson, Craig Satherley, Kathryn Thatcher, Kane Thomas, Lisa Thomas, Geoffrey Underwood.
- 1981: Jodie Blanchard, Donna Clough, Brad Cockrell, Carla Drayton, Kylie Drayton, Hamish Johnstone, Jennifer Marshall, Stephen Marshall, Bryan Martyn, Nicholas Raleigh, Cheerie Satherley, Clinton Sewell, Denise Stuart, Rangi Te Anini, Alan Webster, Lauren Webster, Virginia Yeoman.
- 1982: Nataska Blanchard, Gerald Ford, Derek Harrison, Shawn Hodgetts, Jason McRobbie, Sarah McRobbie, Hayley Smith, James Stableford, Benjamin Thompson, Collette Thompson, Jan Thompson, Nina Yeoman.
- 1983: Benjamin Allomes, Jessica Craw, Ursula Foley, Quentin Harrison, Corinne Hunt, Reuben James, David Kettle, Rachel Metcalfe, Kirk O'Donoghue, Emily Stableford, Patricia Wilton, Rochelle Wilton, Tracy Wilton.
- 1984: Emma Cockrell, Joseph Neill, Brian Underwood.
- 1985: Victoria Allomes, Darren Findlayson, Bryce Hazlitt, Craig Hodgetts.
- 1986: Nathan Brown, Patricia Coley, Abby Craw, Campbell Craw, Angelina Downs, Lavinia Downs, Craig Drysdale, Scott Drysdale, James Findlayson, Jessica Harrison, Angela Knight, Tracy Knight, Brendon Murray, Deborah Odering, Suezanne Odering, Melanie Wattes.
- 1987: Glen Anderson, Hagen Anderson, Anna Coley, Theresa Couchman, Blair Drysdale, Hayden Hazlitt, Stephanie King, Linden Roberts, Rachel Roberts, Rachel Satherley, Rebecca Valentine, Evan Yeoman.
- 1988: Kellye Brown, Anita Hodgetts, David Iwikau, Andrea Murray, David Odering, Victoria Stableford.



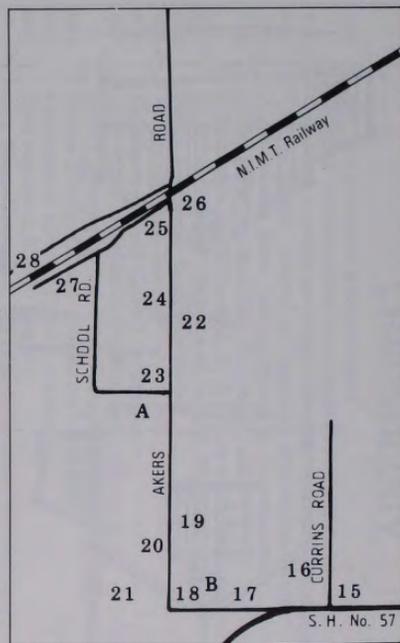
## HISTORIC SITES

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Kairanga Kainga                           | 29. Craw's "Loch Moigh" Cheese Factory        |
| 2. Old Longburn Railway Bridge               | 30. Site of First Flaxmill                    |
| 3. Linton Camp Railway Station               | 31. Later Flaxmill                            |
| 4. Proposed site of Whitmore Railway Station | 32. N.Z.F.D.U. Skimming Station (Scotts Road) |
| 5. Whitmore Lawn Tennis Club                 | 33. McGregor's Tramway                        |
| 6. Whitmore Sawmill                          | 34. Levin Dairy Factory and Skimming Station  |
| 7. Site of Home of First Settler             | 35. Craw's Racetrack and Sportsground         |
| 8. Home Guard Rifle Range                    |   |
| 9. Honore Sawmill                            |   |
| 10. N.Z.F.D.U. Skimming Station (Whitmore)   |   |
| 11. Ravenswood Cheese Factory                |   |
| 12. Site of Old Telephone Exchange           |   |
| 13. Water Trough                             |   |
| 14. Tennis Club Courts 1948-1970             |   |
| 15. Post Office 1977-1978                    |   |
| 16. First Blacksmith Shop                    |   |
| 17. Site of Butcher Shop                     |   |
| 18. Linton Store 1904-1975                   |   |
| 19. Post Office 1975-1977                    |   |
| 20. Blacksmith Shop                          |   |
| 21. Linton Rifle Club Range                  |   |
| 22. Cemetery Reserve                         |   |
| 23. (Saleyards                               |   |
| 24. (Tennis Courts. Early 1930s              |   |
| 25. First Linton Store                       |   |
| 26. First Linton Hall                        |   |
| 27. (Site of first Post Office               |   |
| 28. (First Tennis Courts                     |   |
| 29. Railway Stockyards                       |   |
| 30. Linton Railway Station                   |   |

Maps - Mrs Sylvia Crow

## PRESENT DAY SITES:

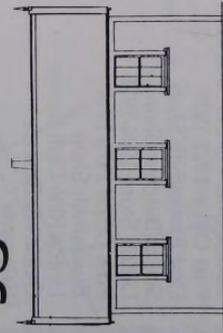
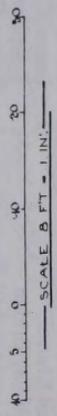
- |                                      |                        |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| A. Linton School and Community Hall  | G. St. Martin's Church |
| B. St. Columba's Church              | H. Linton Camp School  |
| C. Longburn Railway Bridge           | I. Telephone Exchange  |
| D. N.Z. Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Factory | J. Linton Garage       |
| E. Manawatu Prison                   | K. Store               |
| F. Ministry of Works Depot           | L. Camp Kilsby         |



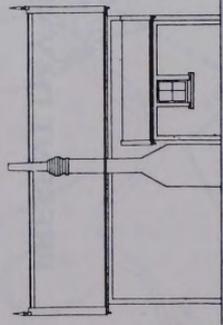
# Clinton School

## B5

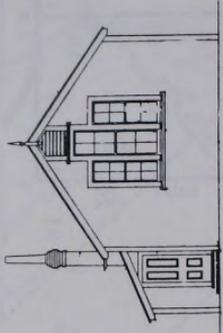
Plan of original school.



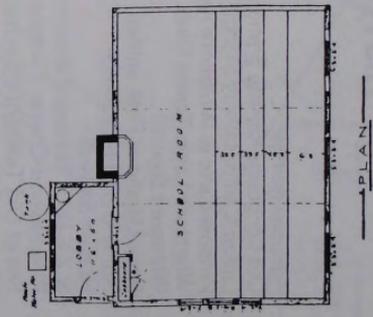
FRONT ELEVATION



BACK ELEVATION

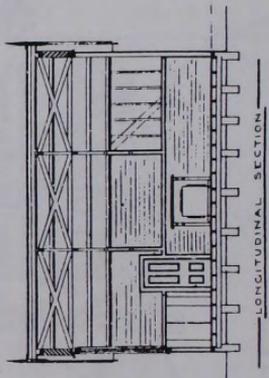


END ELEVATION

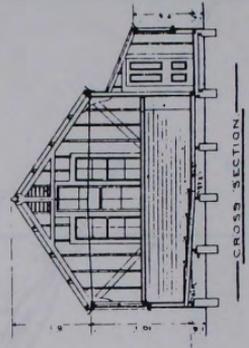


PLAN

*W. C. Wood*  
*Architect to the Mayaguez Education Board*  
*Mayaguez, P.R.*  
*July 1887.*



LONGITUDINAL SECTION



CROSS SECTION

## CHRONOLOGY

- 1840: (6th Feb.) Treaty of Waitangi signed.  
Jack Duff saw Manawatu Gorge and rich forest lands beyond.
- 1842: C.H. Kettle travelled up through Manawatu and down Wairarapa.
- 1846: Charles Hartley camped at Papai-o-ea (Palmerston North).
- 1864: Ahu-a-turanga Block sold by Maoris to Government.
- 1866: Sections become available in Fitzherbert district.  
G.H. Engels, A. Coborough & C. Shute settle in Fitzherbert.
- 1871: Road construction commenced through Manawatu Gorge.
- 1872: Manawatu Roads Board constituted.
- 1875: All Saints' Parish formed.
- 1876: Manawatu County Council constituted.
- 1877: (12th July) Palmerston North proclaimed a Borough.  
(Nov.) Opening of first Fitzherbert Bridge across Manawatu River.
- 1883: Oroua County Council constituted.
- 1885: Horowhenua County Council constituted.
- 1886: First Manawatu A. & P. Show.  
(3rd Nov.) Opening of Wellington-Manawatu Railway Line.
- 1888: (5th May) Post Office at Linton opens.
- 1889: (18th March) Opening of Linton School.  
(2nd Sept.) Fitzherbert Roads Board constituted.
- 1890: Sawmill opens at Whitmore.  
(Oct.) Freezing Works opens at Longburn.
- 1892: Mr Willans opens first Store in Linton.  
(4th Aug.) First Arbor Day Celebrations at the School.
- 1893: Palmerston North Public Hospital opened.  
N.Z. Farmers Dairy Union opened factory in Palmerston North.
- 1896: Opening of first Linton Hall.
- 1898: Opening of N.Z.F.D.U. Skimming Station at Whitmore.
- 1899: Levin Dairy Co. commenced operations at Levin.
- 1990: Linton Rifle Club formed.
- 1902: St. Columba's Anglican Church opened.  
(27th March) Last meeting of Fitzherbert Roads Board.  
(April) Formation of Kairanga County Council.
- 1903: First flaxmill opened at Crows.  
Levin Dairy Co. Skimming Station opened on Millricks Line.
- 1904: (23rd March) First meeting of Linton Sports Club.  
Mr Ward's Store opened (Adjacent to Church)
- 1905: (July) Opening of Opera House in Palmerston North.  
Linton Football Club formed.  
(August) Arawaru School opened at Hilltop (Later known as Moturimu).
- 1906: First flaxmill destroyed by fire.  
McGregor Bros. install tramway from Hilltop to Linton Railway.
- 1907: Levin Cheese factory opened at Millricks Line.
- 1908: Tomlin's Blacksmith shop opened.  
Opening of Wellington F.F. & Ice Co. Skimming Station at Whitmore.  
(7th Dec.) Wellington-Manawatu Railway Co. taken over by Government.
- 1909: Extensions made to Linton Hall.
- 1910: Linton Hall Society Inc. registered.  
Opening of N.Z.F.D.U. Skimming Station at Scotts Road.
- 1911: Second flaxmill destroyed by fire.  
(31st May) Moturimu School closed (Hilltop).
- 1912: First car in Linton owned by Mr Whitmore.  
(3rd Sept.) First Stock Sale in Linton Saleyards.

- 1914: (4th Aug.) Commencement of First World War.  
 1916: Closure of Skimming Station, formerly Wgtn. F.F. & Ice Co.  
 Opening of Ravenswood Co-operative Cheese Co. Ltd.  
 1917: Opening of Craw's privately owned Cheese Factory.  
 1921: Commencement of operation of Fitzherbert West Water Supply.  
 (29th Nov.) Manawatu-Oroua Electric Power Board constituted.  
 1922: Commencement of Linton School Bus Service.  
 1924: (3rd Nov.) Opening of Mangahao Power Station.  
 Electricity becomes available to Linton.  
 1925: Closure of Levin Dairy Co. Skimming Station.  
 1927: Closure of Ravenswood Cheese Factory.  
 1930: City of Palmerston North constituted.  
 1931: (29th April) Linton Women's Institute formed.  
 (May) Linton Branch of Farmers' Union formed.  
 1932: (1st June) Linton District Miniature Rifle Club formed.  
 Replacement of bridge on Main Road over Kahuterawa Stream.  
 1933: (May) Children from Linton School eligible to join Dental Clinic system.  
 1934: (25th May) Linton School destroyed by fire.  
 (19th Nov.) Classes start in new school.  
 (30th Nov.) Official opening of new school.  
 School Calf Club started.  
 1935: Second Fitzherbert Bridge opened across Manawatu River (Replacement).  
 1936: (2nd. Feb.) Severe storm lashes Linton.  
 Union Airways commenced operations from Milson.  
 Act passed abolishing Proficiency Exam.  
 Young Farmers Club formed in Linton.  
 1937: Joe Collis's Blacksmith shop closed.  
 (22nd Nov.) School holiday for Palmerston North Diamond Jubilee.  
 1939: (12th to 14th May) Jubilee celebrations of Linton School and District.  
 "Linton School and District Jubilee Souvenir" published.  
 (3rd Sept.) Commencement of Second World War.  
 1941: First School Baths built.  
 School classrooms enlarged.  
 1942: Building of Linton Camp started.  
 Manual Training classes start for senior pupils (in Palmerston North).  
 1943: (12th June) Anglican Church Hall destroyed by fire.  
 1944: Third Classroom added to Linton School.  
 1946: Parent-Teacher Association formed.  
 1949: (21st to 23rd April) 60 year celebration of Linton School and District.  
 1950: Store at Camp Corner established by R.W. Allen.  
 1951: Commencement of Linton Taxi.  
 1960: (18th Oct.) Opening of new Railway Bridge across Manawatu River.  
 1962: (2nd April) Opening of Dental Clinic at Linton School.  
 1963: (Feb.) New Headmaster's residence completed.  
 (29th June) New Community Hall opened.  
 (July) Local Telephone Exchange opened.  
 1964: (Feb.) Linton Camp School opened.  
 (16th to 18th May) 75th Anniversary celebrations of School and District.  
 Replacement of "Black Bridge" in Kahuterawa Valley.  
 Opening of new building of Linton Garage.  
 (13th October) Cessation of Linton Hall Society Inc.  
 1968: Interior of Anglican Church damaged by fire.  
 Passenger services cease at Linton Railway Station.  
 1969: (15th Nov.) Official opening of present school baths.

- 1970: Official opening of new 18 hole Golf Course at Linton Camp.  
Fourth permanent classroom added to school.
- 1971: End of School Bus Service.  
Palmerston North celebrates centenary.
- 1972: Linton Station closed to goods traffic.
- 1973: Parents vote in favour of Forms I and II attending P.N. Intermediate.
- 1974: (20th July) St. Martin's Chapel, Linton Camp opened.  
Lions Club formed in Linton.
- 1975: Linton Store (adjacent to Church) closed.  
(4th March) Opening of N.Z. Pharmaceuticals Ltd. factory.
- 1978: (8th Nov.) Closure of Linton Post Office.
- 1979: Manawatu Youth Institution opened.  
N.Z. Pharmaceuticals Ltd. wins Export Award.
- 1983: Termination of Private Siding to Linton Camp.
- 1984: Ian Argyle published "To Argyles Last Acre".  
N.Z. Pharmaceuticals Ltd. received Governor-General's Award for Export.
- 1987: (10th March) Third Fitzherbert Bridge opened (Replacement).  
New Telephone Exchange on Camp Road replaced the one on the Main Road.
- 1988: (29th March) Last meeting of the Kairanga County Council.  
(6th April) First meeting of the Manawatu District Council.  
Extensions made to Manawatu Prison.  
Major building development at Linton Camp.  
Gas supply extensions to Camp housing area and Hewitts Road corner.

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# Index

Names that appear in lists e.g. Club Presidents, etc, are not indexed individually but the lists are included in the index.

Names that appear in the Appendices and photo captions are not indexed.

## A.

Abraham, R.S. 103.  
Abraham & Williams Ltd. 136  
Aitchison, J.D. 108.  
Akers, Alan. 188.  
Akers, A.W. 30, 176, 183, 185, 186, 190.  
Akers, E. 74.  
Akers, H. 30, 75, 131, 176, 184.  
Akers, Wm. 19, 27, 30, 85.  
Aldrich, A.L. 144, 170.  
Aldrich, G.H. 44, 107, 142.  
Aldrich, Miss G. 170.  
Aldrich, J.R. 111, 178, 198, 200.  
Aldrich, R.W. 69, 132, 178.  
Algie, F. 181.  
Algie, S. 180.  
Algie, W. 181, 186.  
Allen, R.W. 127.  
Allison, Miss W. 180  
Allomes, G. 65, 144.  
Allomes, R.S. 80, 103, 142.  
All Saints' Church — Vicars. 143.  
Allwright, G. 13, 15, 48, 176.  
Amner, Miss G. 144.  
Amner, W.H. 142.  
Amyes, R.H. 107, 175.  
Anderson, G. 175.  
Anderson, J. 107.  
Anderson, L.W. 135.  
Anderson, Nils. 27.  
Argyle, H. 159.  
Argyle, I.H. 115.  
Armstrong, Bert. 111.  
Armstrong, J. 82.  
Attwood, T. 145.  
Austin, B.R. 171.  
Ax, J. 145.

## B.

Bagnall, H.G. 154.  
Bailey, E. 125.  
Ballinger, L.F. 159, 165, 186.  
Bannister, R.E. 176.  
Barber, B.O. 189.  
Barsanti, L.S. 77, 78.  
Bastin, E. 116, 129.  
Batchelar, Mrs A. 160.

Batchelar, B. 183.  
Batchelar, Miss C. 166.  
Batchelar, F.J. 136.  
Batchelar, Jos. 48, 51, 75, 92, 142, 145, 176, 183, 186.  
Batchelar, J.O. 103, 105.  
Batchelar, J.W. 195.  
Batchelar, M. 183.  
Batchelar, O. 76, 186.  
Beale, J. 103.  
Bearsley, A.W. 125.  
Beck, — 115.  
Beckett, A.H. 75, 125, 126, 134, 142.  
Beckett, K. 138.  
Beckett, R.A. 34, 35, 127, 131, 134, 180, 183.  
Beetham, R. 178.  
Bell, J. 22, 25, 39, 40, 82.  
Bell, R. 157.  
Bennett, Bishop. 15.  
Bergman, J.J. 68, 133.  
Berquist, A.G. 31.  
Berquist, J. 55.  
Bevan, T. 22.  
Blake, Miss M. 52.  
Blanchard, R. 62.  
Blenkiron, G. 117.  
Boddy, E. 144, 170.  
Boleyn, S. 62.  
Boniface Bros. Ltd. 199.  
Boon, Capt. A. 153.  
Boshier, D.J. 133.  
Boulton, G. 53.  
Bourke, Mrs B. 135.  
Bowler, E. 142, 188.  
Boyd, R. 58, 77, 182.  
Bradley, R. 63, 64.  
Brammell, R. 19.  
Broad, E.L. 48.  
Brogden, Rev. G. 73, 158.  
Brown, F. 147.  
Brown, Mrs J. 173.  
Brown, R. 110.  
Brown, S.H. 176.  
Brown, Miss S. 166.  
Brown, W.H. 78, 195.  
Brownlie, Joshua. 41.  
Bruce, G.J. 20.  
Bruce, J.S. 27, 39, 40, 106.  
Bryant, J. 48.  
Buick, D. 48, 176.  
Buick, T.L. 23.  
Bull, C. 103.  
Bull, J. 94.  
Buller, W. 115.  
Burgess, —, 68.

Burling, H. 64.  
Burnett, A. 188, 189.  
Burrell, F. 132, 133.  
Burton, Willie. 64.  
Bury, Mrs S. 183.  
Butler, T. 23.  
Byrnes, C. 23.

## C.

Cameron, Archie. 41.  
Cameron, Wm. 20.  
Campbell, A. 61, 78.  
Campbell, P. 109.  
Cantlon, J. 132.  
Carde, Fr. J.E. 146.  
Carmine, L.J. 197.  
Carmody, J. 23.  
Carr, J. 180.  
Carter, J. 184.  
Carter, R. 36.  
Chadwick, Miss E. 71.  
Chaffers, E.M. 19.  
Chapman, J.L. 191.  
Check, Rev. Dr. M. 138.  
Christensen, J. 186.  
Christensen, J.N. 74.  
Christensen, P. 178.  
Christensen, Nurse R.M. 59.  
Clochetto, C.V. 191.  
Clapham, J. 146.  
Clapperton, F.E. 27, 40, 76.  
Claridge, C. 175.  
Clarke, A.E. 175.  
Clarke, Nurse 59.  
Clausen & Anderson, 23.  
Clinch, Mrs J. 173.  
Coates, J.G. 91.  
Cobbe, J.G. 195.  
Coborough, A. 17.  
Cocks, A.V. 68, 69, 132, 133, 178, 182.  
Cohen, M. 28.  
Collis, Arthur. 106.  
Collis, C.C. 61, 142, 143, 178, 198.  
Collis, Clarence. 183.  
Collis, Miss J. 143.  
Collis, J.H. 128.  
Collis, R.M. 199.  
Collis, S.C. 186.  
Collis, Miss V. 144.  
Collis, Miss Z. 170.  
Compton, E.H. 147.  
Conland, C. 170.  
Connell, F.W. 84.  
Conquest, —. 109.  
Cook, A. 170, 183.  
Coombs, W. 20, 24, 40, 82.  
Costigan, L. 182.  
Country Women's Institute — Awards. 163.  
Country Women's Institute — Federation. 163.  
Country Women's Institute — Presidents & Secretaries. 165.  
Cowan, Rev. M. 145.  
Cox, M.E.C. 174.  
Craven, J. 125.  
Craw, Mrs B. 132.  
Craw, Clinton. 60.  
Craw, Deane. 60.  
Craw, Denzil. 36, 109, 112, 183, 188.  
Craw, George. 28, 32, 75, 76, 91, 107, 108, 119, 120, 121, 131, 175, 176, 177, 184, 185, 186.  
Craw, G. Lance. 112, 176, 183, 185.  
Craw, Hector. 29.  
Craw, K. 188.  
Craw, K. Dale. 36, 37, 63, 85, 180, 183.  
Craw, L.H. 28, 108, 120, 183, 186, 189, 194.  
Craw, Merlyn H. 28, 36, 80, 119, 186.  
Craw, Rex. 127.  
Craw, S. Mark. 28, 60, 63.  
Craw, Will. 131, 136, 142.  
Crawford, B. 189.  
Crawford, E.S. 31, 32, 57, 159, 165, 194.  
Crawford, J. 71, 115.  
Crawley, WO1. 187.  
Croucher, E.W. 176, 189, 196.  
Crowley, B. 188.  
Crowley, M. 188.  
Crowley, P. 188.  
Crowley, Pat. 188.  
Crowley, T. 188.  
Currin, Miss A.B. 127, 179.  
Currin, A.E. 23, 48, 75, 126, 137, 160, 175, 176, 179, 195.  
Currin, D.H. 76, 180, 195, 196.  
Currin, G.H. 76, 142, 186.  
Curry, G.H. 160.  
Curtis, V.K. 127, 134.

## D.

Dale, D.S. 56, 57, 142, 143, 144, 180, 194.  
Daly, P. 33.  
Dawkins, Mrs B. 174.  
Dear, T.W. 76, 127, 134.  
de Candole, Rev. D.V. 195.  
DeLaHunty, —. 115.  
Dew, Mrs J. 65.  
Donovan, J.F. 127, 134.  
Dryman, Mrs. 145.  
Drysedale, D. 64.  
Duff, J. 17.  
Duggan, J.W.H. 73.  
Duncan, Sgt. 187.  
Dunnachie, Mrs V. 135.  
Dunshea, L. 138.  
Dunshea, T. 109.

## E.

Edwards, B. 127, 134, 144.  
Edwards, Mrs J.L. 134.  
Edwards, R. 87, 88, 91.  
Eglington, —. 119.  
Eglington, K.W. 92.  
Elliott, Rev. K. 143, 155.  
Ellis, E. 116.  
Engels, G.H. 17, 26, 27, 82, 83.  
Evans, A.H. 45, 47, 142.  
Evans, Winnie. 45.

## F.

Fabian, K. 182.  
Fairhurst, Padre D. 149.  
Ferguson, A. 96.  
Ferry, P. 73.  
Field, G. 116.  
Field, W.H. 101, 176.  
Finnemore, A. 135.  
Fitt, C. 31.  
Fitzherbert, Sir Wm. 17.  
Fitzherbert, Country Girls Club  
— Club Officers. 168.  
Fitzherbert Roads Board — Chairmen. 82.  
Fitzherbert Roads Board  
— Ward Members. 83.  
Fitzherbert West Water Supply  
— Chairmen. 89.  
Fitzherbert West Water Supply  
— Committee Members. 90.  
Fitzherbert West Water Supply  
— Engineers. 90.  
Fitzherbert West Water Supply —  
Secretary/Treasurers. 90.  
Fitzherbert Young Farmers' Club  
— Club Officers. 167.  
Fitzsimons, H. 19.  
Fletcher, WO2. 187.  
Flower, J.W. 19.  
Flux, Major. 151.  
Forsaith, A. 21, 23.  
Fraser, Miss E. 166.  
Fraser, Miss V. 57, 166.  
Fraser, V.D. 68, 76, 92, 114.  
Freeman, S. 165.  
Freeman, W. 98.  
Fry, J.H. 39.  
Fulton, A.R.W. 94.

## G.

Gadsby, G. 183.  
Gadsby, Miss V. 57.  
Galpin, O. 165.  
Gardener, W.C.R. 125, 134.

Garland, Dr R. 124.  
Gawith, J. 188.  
Gee, D.M. 188.  
Gerritsen, Adrienne. 62.  
Gerritsen, C. 188.  
Gerritsen, F. 65, 142, 143.  
Gerritsen, W. 188.  
Gethin-Hughes, Fr. R.J. 146.  
Gilliland, Bill. 166.  
Gilliland, W. 76, 108, 143, 178, 180, 182.  
Goldsbury, A. 76.  
Gonley, J.J. 135.  
Gooch, A.R. 127.  
Gooch, W. 108, 177.  
Gordon, A.M. 200.  
Gore, N. 65.  
Grace, G. 75.  
Grady, A. 125.  
Grant, A.H. 110.  
Gray, W. 75.  
Greatorex, R. 67, 183.  
Green, Mrs J. 147.  
Green, Miss P. 53.  
Greenbank, Mrs P. 144.  
Greer, A. 175.  
Greer, Miss B. 144.  
Greer, E. 28, 152, 175.  
Greer, Miss Enid. 28, 33.  
Greer, F. 175.  
Greer, George. 159, 175.  
Greer, Gordon. 28.  
Greer, M.M. 28, 143, 170.  
Greer, S. 175, 176, 180, 184.  
Gretton, T.H. 111, 160, 194.  
Gretton, T.R. 200, 201.  
Grey, R. 116.  
Griggs, N. 23.  
Grimstone, A. 175.  
Gunn, Dr. E. 57.

## H.

Haley, F. 31, 185, 186.  
Hall, Sir John. 93.  
Hall, R.B. 75.  
Hallman, W. 31.  
Halsam, J. 115.  
Hampson, G.H. 176, 183.  
Hankins, G.H. 107.  
Hankins, J.H. 103.  
Hansen, C.V. 107, 142.  
Hansen, R.P. 87, 110.  
Hardie, J.R. 91.  
Harford, G.J. 91.  
Harper, Archdeacon G.C. 140.  
Harris, H.D. 189.  
Harrison, D. 56, 62.  
Harrison, E.W. 57, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 159, 161,  
165, 179.

Harrison, Miss P. 56.  
Harrison, Miss W. 55.  
Hart, C. 147.  
Harvey, B. 153.  
Harvey, Canon H.B. 139.  
Haumann, W. 116.  
Hawkins T. 175.  
Hazlitt, Mrs J. 66.  
Healey, A.E. 128.  
Heins, H. 116.  
Hemmingway, E. 53, 195.  
Henderson, W.M. 34.  
Henshaw, Mrs V. 135.  
Hepi, Mrs R. 62, 63.  
Hepworth, G. 74.  
Herlihy, Fr. P.J. 146.  
Hewitt, Capt. J.D.R. 19, 23, 139, 140, 142, 159.  
Hewlett, D. 153.  
Hibberd, —. 132.  
Higginson, H.P. 94, 95.  
Higgison, D. 183.  
Higgison, R. 183.  
Hight, B.G. 73, 132.  
Hight, Miss C. 143, 170.  
Hight, J.E. 61, 65, 142, 143, 144, 170, 182, 188.  
Hight, John, 181.  
Hiha, Chief. 14.  
Hiha, R. 73.  
Hillas, I.G. 178, 179.  
Hillas, J.H. 191.  
Hindrup, —. 132.  
Hodge, E.R. 52, 53.  
Hodgens, J. 195.  
Hodgson, T. 19.  
Hogg, Miss A.G. 71.  
Holgerson, J.C. 142.  
Home Guard Appointments. 192.  
Honeybone, P. 23.  
Honore, D. 116, 117, 154, 191.  
Hope Bros. 107.  
Hopwood, F. 170.  
Hosking, R.A. 175.  
Hudson, T.H. 106, 142.  
Hudson, Miss E. 144.  
Hughes, E. 135.  
Hunt, Herbert. 147.  
Hunt, H.W. 147.  
Hunt, M. 147.  
Hunt, W.M. 147.

## I.

Ihle, A.H. 18.  
Irvine, Graham. 59.  
Irvine, J. 142.  
Irvine, Miss M. 144.  
Irvine, Mrs Tracy. 165.

Irvine, S. 142.  
Irwin, D.R. 127, 134.  
Issacs, C. 135.

## J.

Jackson, G. 142.  
Jackson, J. 40, 45, 75, 76, 107, 134, 176.  
Jackson, S. 175.  
Jackson, W. 175, 195, 195, 197, 201.  
James, C.B. 133.  
James, N.C. 127, 142, 145.  
James, S. 73.  
Jansen, Fr. L.E. 146.  
Jebson, R.S. 143.  
Jeffs, T. 107, 138, 142, 145.  
Jenkinson Bakery. 125.  
Jensen, Fritz. 15, 115.  
Jervois, Sir Wm. 96.  
Jickell, S. 87, 91.  
Johns, Mrs B. 65.  
Johnson, W.W. 26.  
Johnston, C.H. 94.  
Johnstone, Miss N. 188.  
Johnstone, T.L.C. 168.  
Jonathan, C.H. 175.  
Jonathan, G.G. 45, 76, 125, 134.  
Jordan, E.B. 127, 134, 170, 179.

## K.

Kairanga County Council — Chairmen. 83.  
Kairanga County Council  
— County Clerks. 84.  
Kairanga Country Council — Engineers. 84.  
Kairanga County Council  
— Riding Members. 84.  
Keeble, C. 136, 137.  
Kendall, G. 20.  
Kendall, Wm. P. 20, 76, 142.  
Kenna, Miss Anna. 138.  
Kennard, C. 176.  
Kennard, H.N. 75.  
Kennard, J. 24, 107, 142, 184.  
Kennedy, J. 65, 184.  
Kennedy, Major J. 187.  
Kennedy, Archdeacon H.S.I. 145, 201.  
Kettle, C.H. 17.  
Kilgarriff, J. 165.  
Kilgarriff, T. 165.  
Kilpatrick, T. 108.  
Kilsby, H.W. 142, 145, 170, 171, 182, 189, 194.  
King, J. 20.  
King, W.A. 121.  
Kingan, Padre J. 146, 148, 151, 155.  
Kingsbeer, M. 125.  
Kingsbeer, P. 190.  
Kirkcaldie, J. 95.

Knight, W. 147, 195.  
Kyle, J. 105.  
Kyle, V. 128.

## L.

Laird, J. 44.  
Lange, E.H. 51, 54, 58.  
Larsen, Miss Caspira. 195.  
Larsen, J. 175, 190.  
Larsen, O. 175, 197.  
Laurenson, L. 75, 76.  
Lauridsen, Miss A. 147.  
Lauridsen, H. 65.  
Lauridsen, H.J. 67, 111, 129.  
Lauridsen, J. 67, 68, 147.  
Lauridsen, P. 68, 194.  
Lauridsen, W.J. 65, 196, 198.  
Leakey, W.H. 108.  
Lepper, H. 178.  
Levin, W.H. 94.  
Liggins, N. 169.  
Lind, S. 147.  
Linklater, J. 50.  
Linton, Jas. 11, 82, 94, 95, 199.  
Linton, Rev. J.A. 151.  
Linton Camp School — Dux for each year. 73.  
Linton Hall Management Committee. 80.  
Linton Indoor Bowls Club — Club Officers.  
179, 180.  
Linton Lions Club — Presidents. 169.  
Linton Miniature Rifle Club  
— Club Officers. 186.  
Linton School — Class Placings in 1935. 54.  
Linton School — First Day Pupils. 41.  
Lock, H.W. 71.  
Lonsdale, —. 57.  
Lowe, Col. 151.  
Luers, F. 75.  
Lucinsky & McIntyre. 132.  
Lynch, A.J. 54, 55, 65, 80, 106, 108, 188, 200.  
Lynch, A.T. 61.  
Lynch, D. 197.  
Lynch, G. 166.  
Lynch, John. 20, 23, 43, 75.  
Lynch, J.J.P. 160, 178, 180.  
Lynch, T.D. 53, 56, 57, 76, 145, 160, 161, 176,  
186, 191, 194, 195.  
Lyttle, A. 73.

## M.

McBrearty, R. 109.  
McBrearty, S. 55.  
McBride, J. 45.  
McCafferty, P. 20.  
McCarthy, J. 20.  
McCarthy, T.G. 23, 98.

McCarty, G. 23.  
McCaw, J. 136.  
McColl, J. 23.  
McCormick, Fr. P. 146, 149.  
McCrae, Mrs. 144.  
McDonald, —. 107.  
MacDonald, T. Kennedy & Co. 21.  
MacDonell, G. 117.  
McEvedy, A.J. 19, 33, 180, 183, 189.  
MacEwen, D. 17, 26.  
McFarlane, Shona. 148.  
McFetridge, H. 107.  
McGregor, A. 20.  
McGregor Bros. 38, 115, 116, 134.  
McGregor, J. 116, 135.  
McGregor, "Mac" 116.  
McKay, M.D. 73.  
MacKenzie, —. 19.  
McKenzie, J.D. 71, 72.  
MacKie, Mrs C. 161.  
McKinnon, Mrs. 144.  
McLaughlan, Fr. J.E. 146.  
McMahon, J. 186.  
McManus, Fr. J. 146.  
MacPherson, A. 103.  
McPherson, N.C. 68, 73.  
McRae, Fr. P. 146.  
Main, M. 77, 159.  
Malcolm, K. 173.  
Managh, Mrs M.T. 126.  
Managh, Miss Z. 144.  
Manawatu District Council  
— Administrative Officers. 85.  
Manning, J. 125.  
Mansford, A.E. 111, 145.  
Marsden, Rev. S. 117.  
Marsh, N.P. 127, 132.  
Marshall, M. 73, 181.  
Marshall, Mrs N. 178, 180.  
Marshall Bros. 19.  
Martin, A. 35, 107.  
Martin, D. 69, 76, 79, 80, 132, 182.  
Mason, L.A.H. & Son Ltd. 157.  
Mather, R. 116.  
Matheson, D. 26, 39, 40, 41, 43, 74, 99.  
Matheson, I. 43.  
Matheson, M. 43.  
Maunder, R. 110.  
Meads, A. 109.  
Members of Parliament. 81.  
Merriman, G. 186.  
Metcalfe, S. 116.  
Myers, Sir Michael. 104.  
Millar, J.A. 101.  
Millick, J. 19.  
Mills, W. 176.  
Missen, E. 138.  
Missen, W. 146.

Monrad, —. 48.  
Monrad, J.H. 105.  
Moody, B. 194.  
Moody, F. 52, 189.  
Moody, M.A. 75, 76, 175, 176, 183.  
Moohan, M. 102.  
Morgan, W. 135.  
Mosen, —. 115.  
Motorimu School Children. 71.  
Moyes, A. 109, 183, 195.  
Moyes, J. 165.  
Moyle, C. 121.  
Moynihan, Miss Joanne, 62, 188.  
Moynihan, J. 189.  
Mudford, I.W. 195, 197.  
Mudgway, R. 136, 180.  
Munro, C.J. 131.  
Munro, J. 19, 39.  
Munro, J. (Whitmore), 115.  
Munton, Rev. P. 57, 145.  
Murcott, J.H. 21.  
Murcott, M. 22, 178, 179.  
Murdoch, J. 48, 50, 51, 52, 54, 146, 190, 195.  
Murdoch, Miss N. 52.  
Murdoch, Miss R. 52.  
Murphy, B. 182.

## N.

Nash, J.A. 24, 35, 48, 81, 91, 92, 112, 125, 176, 196.  
Nash, J.L. 34, 81, 159, 160, 177.  
Nash, Miss M. 144.  
Nash, W.S. 169, 170, 178, 189.  
Nathan, D. 105.  
Nathan, J.C. 23.  
Nathan, J.E. 94, 96.  
Nelson, —. 159.  
Newport, L. 178.  
Newton, J. 100.  
Nielsen, N.I. 84.  
Nolan, C. 200.  
N.Z. Loan & Mercantile Ltd. 31.  
N.Z. Pharmaceuticals Ltd. 37, 121.

## O.

O'Brien, Miss. 49.  
"Observation Post". 151.  
O'Connor, D.J. 79, 80, 178, 182.  
O'Connor, K.B. 134, 160, 180.  
O'Connor, M. 95.  
O'Connor, W.J. 87.  
O'Donnell, E.P. 71.  
O'Donoghue, M.J. 37, 63.  
Okey R. Ltd. 60, 158.  
Oldfield, P. 116.  
Oliver, —. 125.

Oppatt, W. 138.  
Oram, Sir Matthew. 53, 81, 86, 110, 196.  
O'Reilly, P. 23.  
Osborne, W. 26.  
Osten, C.A. 85.  
Oxenham, S. 179.

## P.

Packer, E. 135.  
Pallesen, N. 196.  
Patchett, A. 111.  
Peck, J. 125.  
Penny, D. 160.  
Perry, Mrs L. 144.  
Peterana, J. 75.  
Peters, A.J. 183.  
Peters, D.B. 60, 117, 183.  
Peters, R.A. 35, 181.  
Petersen, Dr G.C. 13, 26, 81.  
Phillips, —. 120.  
Pickering, L.C. 194.  
Pilcher, R. 73.  
Plimmer, J. 94.  
Powell, H. 75, 142.  
Powley, D.J. 73.  
Pownell, C.J. 118.  
Previous Celebrations — 1964 Toast List. 200.

## Q.

Quartley, S. 143.  
Quinn, B.J. 73.  
Quinn, S.H. 73.

## R.

Raikes, F.C. 110.  
Raleigh, H. 189.  
Raleigh, K.E.S. 65, 142, 189.  
Ralfe, Miss B. 180.  
Rankin, Wm. 24, 45, 76, 107.  
Rastrick, L. 157.  
Ray, E. 170.  
Rayward, Miss M. 60.  
Reid, E. 182.  
Retter, L. 186.  
Rich, Assis. Bishop. 143.  
Rich, S. 181.  
Richards, Fr. 65.  
Richardson, L.J. 133.  
Rickard, B. 147.  
Rix, A. 175.  
Rix, B. 62.  
Rix, D.A. 61, 79, 80, 119, 144, 169.  
Rix, G. 48, 75, 107, 108, 116, 142, 186.  
Rix, H. 183, 186.  
Rix, Miss Heather. 144.

Rix, Miss Ivy. 144.  
Rix, L. 142, 143, 180.  
Rix, Miss L. 144.  
Rix, M. 23, 25, 29, 35, 46, 47, 76, 78, 79, 108,  
115, 116, 142, 143, 145, 160, 166, 177, 178,  
179, 180, 182, 185, 186, 188, 196, 200.  
Rix, P. 144.  
Rix, Miss Shirley. 144.  
Rix, Miss V. 143.  
Roache, L. 73.  
Robert, D. 170.  
Robert, J.W. 79, 80, 178, 179.  
Roberts, J.H. 107.  
Roberts, S. 199.  
Robertshaw, T. 19.  
Robertson, C.J. 62.  
Romley, J. 186.  
Ross, I.G. 127.  
Ross, R. 76, 125, 134, 175.  
Russell, K. 186.  
Rutherford, W. 84.

## S.

St. Columba's Church — Memorial Pews. 143.  
Sanson, —. 40.  
Satherley, Mrs D. 65.  
Saunders, A. 49.  
Savage, Miss G.H. 135.  
Sawers, J. 106.  
Scholes, A. 142, 175, 197, 199.  
Schwabe, J. 56.  
Schwabe, L.E. 55, 195.  
Scott, G.G. 103.  
Seifert, A. & L. 118.  
Sewell, Mrs. 144.  
Shakelford, A.T. 127, 134.  
Shannon, G.V. 95.  
Sharp, E. 109.  
Sharpe, G.M. 106.  
Shaw, A.C. 20.  
Shaw, Mrs P. 60.  
Shere, A. 189.  
Shere, C. 116, 189.  
Shere, J.C. 139, 142, 147.  
Shere, M. 189.  
Sheridan, G. 127, 165.  
Sheridan, M. 142, 143, 144, 165, 178, 179, 188.  
Sheridan, P. 127.  
Sheridan, R. 62.  
Sheridan, W. 165.  
Short, —. 178.  
Shultz, K. 189.  
Shute, C. 17.  
Sladden, —. 87.  
Smith, A. 48, 67, 110, 146, 176.  
Smith, A.R. 147.  
Smith, Evelyn. 67.

Smith, M. 73.  
Smith, R. 178.  
Smith, T.J. 73.  
Smith, W.J. 86, 110.  
Smith, W.W. 183.  
Snelson, G.M. 82.  
Sproal, R. 116.  
Spooner, W. 170.  
Stableford, C. 62, 63, 189.  
Stagpoole, T. 47, 76.  
Stallard, H. 45, 86, 142.  
Stead, Rev. P.A. 201.  
Steele, J. 73.  
Stent, R. 116.  
Stevens & Gorton Ltd. 21, 40.  
Stevenson Bros. 128.  
Stevenson, Mrs R. 147.  
Stewart, J. 52, 53.  
Stewart, J.T. 17.  
Stout, Sir Robert. 96.  
Stretton, J. 23.  
Suckling, W. 107.  
Surman, W. 142.  
Suter, I. 127.  
Sutherland, A. 190.  
Sutherland, B. 200.  
Sutherland, H. 31, 190.  
Sutherland, Sister. 57.  
Svendson, Mrs L. 134.  
Syme, F.E. 41.  
Symonds, R. 116.

## T.

Tasker, Mrs J.M. 60.  
Te Awe Awe, 13.  
Te Awe Awe, Hanita. 15.  
Te Awe Awe, W.K. 15.  
Te Kooti, 21.  
Tennent, W.B. 77, 78, 82, 197, 199, 200.  
Terry, J. 142.  
Terry, O. 165, 185.  
Terry, R. 165.  
Terry, Winnie. 54.  
Terry, Zelma. 54.  
Thomas, Miss B. 166.  
Thompson, J.S.M. 94, 95.  
Thomson, D. 75.  
Thorne, G. 127.  
Thornton, Lt. Gen. L.W. 155.  
Thynne, E.S. 26.  
Tingey, J.S. 53.  
Titcombe, E. 125.  
Tomlin, J. 75, 76, 128, 175, 176.  
Toomath, E. 20.  
Torrey, H. 109.  
Townshend, P. 78.  
Travers, T.W.L. 94.

Trembath, J. 109.  
Trembath, M. 109.  
Turnbull, W. 94

## U.

Underwood, Mrs D. 142, 143, 144.  
United Farmers Co-op Assn. 28.

## V.

Vandenberg, P. 65.  
Van Hove, M. 188.  
Vivian, O. 125.

## W.

Walker, J. 159.  
Wallace, J. 93, 94.  
Ward, G. J. 40, 75, 107, 126, 142, 159, 176.  
Ward, Sir Joseph. 100.  
Ward, W. 197.  
Waters B. 160.  
Waters, W. A. 91.  
Watson, J. 57, 68.  
Watson, Bros. Ltd. 28.  
Wattes, Mrs. 144.  
Waugh, R. 116.  
Waugh, S. 116.  
Webb, H. 106.  
Webb, R. 51.  
Weggerly Mrs. 173.  
West, H. W. 155.  
West, Mrs N. 160.  
White, K. McK. 54.  
Whitehead, E. G. 60, 79, 144, 178, 201.  
Whitelock, J. 80, 112, 114.  
Whitlack, J. 135.  
Whitmore, E. H. 75.  
Whitmore Bros. 131.  
Whitmore, Sir G. S. 21.  
Whyte, Col. 53, 195.  
Wickham, Dr. G. 115.  
Wilkinson, —. 116.  
Willans, H. W. 125, 134.  
Willcox, Mrs. 68, 133.  
Williams, C. E. 62.  
Williams, J. R. B. 80, 142, 189.  
Willis, D. 142.  
Wills, Rev. T. J. 148.  
Willshire, Canon. 145.  
Wilson, A. C. 31.  
Wilson, George. 116.  
Wilson, Guthrie. 120.  
Wilson, Rev. H. Fitz. 139.  
Wilson, Bros. 185.  
Wilton, Mrs. 142, 144.  
Winge, —. 107.

Witherington, H. 180.  
Withers, G. 111.  
Wood, W. T. 76.  
Woodham H. 105.  
Woods, C. W. 132, 133.  
Woods, W. 31.  
Woodward, Rev. G. Y. 140, 145, 195.  
Woodward, J. 93.  
Wray, E. 146.  
Wright, G. E. 107.

## Y.

Yardley, W. 107.  
Y. M. C. A., 153.  
Young, C. 45, 76, 142.  
Young, Miss E. 48, 144, 145.  
Young, F. 107, 108.  
Young, S. 107, 175, 176.  
Yuile, Mrs D. L. 134.



# TOWNSHIP OF WHITMORE

## SUBURBAN & RURAL SECTIONS.

TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION

BY MESSRS. STEVENS & GORTON

At their Rooms, Palmerston North,

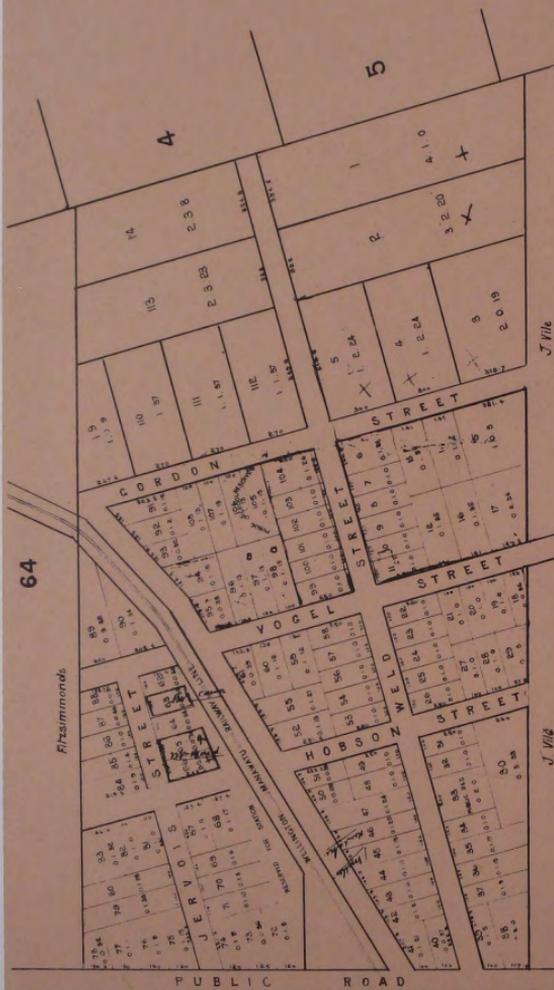
WEDNESDAY, 18th AUGUST, 1888

AT NOON.

TERMS HAVE BEEN MADE EXCEPTIONALLY EASY,

AND ARE AS FOLLOWS:—

*J. Mill*  
 Ten per cent. Cash on the fall of the hammer; 10 per cent. by P.O. Note at three months; and 10 per cent. by P.O. Note at six months, bearing interest at 6 per cent.; the balance in two years from date of sale, bearing interest at 6 per cent., payable half-yearly.



TOWNSHIP OF WHITMORE

SCALE—THREE CHAINS TO AN INCH.

SUBURBAN

SCALE—10

# TITLE UNDER THE LAND TRANSFER.

# BRIEF DESCRIPTION.

The Township is situated on high level land, mostly all in grass, and adjoining the Wellington and Manawatu Railway Line, near Longburn Hillside.

The Township is the situated point on the Wellington and Manawatu Railway to the junction of the proposed road to Pahiatua with the 1 1/2-hectare road. Money has been placed on the estimate for the construction of this road. A good dry road runs through the sections of this Township.

The rapid increase in the number of the settlers in the Huttland district calls for a genuine and well-situated township on the railway line.

The land is all level, and the soil is to be surpassed by any in the district, and is peculiarly adapted for dairy pursuits, successful growing of fruit trees, &c.

The whole of the road sections are fine fat land and very rich soil.

Section No. 12 is half fenced and laid down in English grass, with about 10 acres of standing bush in the northern corner.

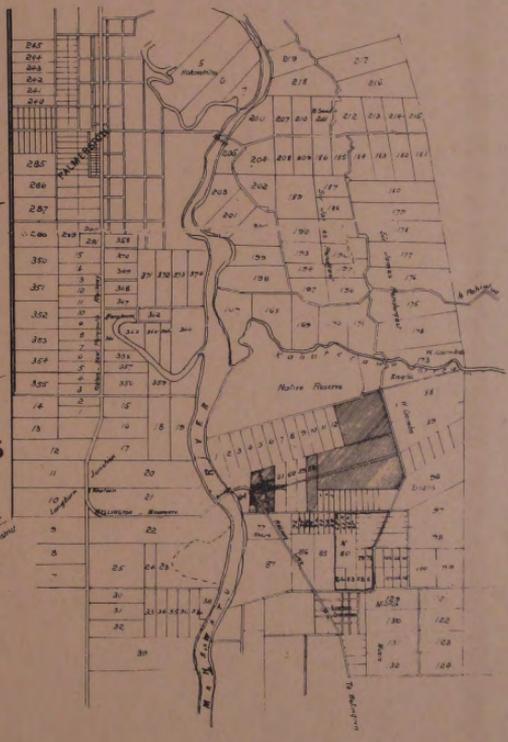
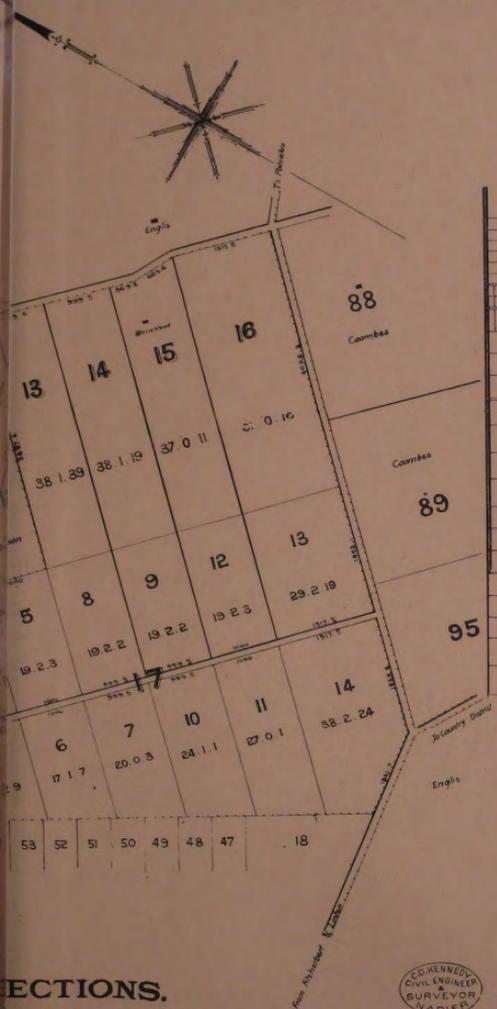
Sections 13, 15, 16, and Suburban 12, 13, and 14 of Section No. 17 are all laid down in English grasses. With the exception of 12, all are partly fenced, Subdivision 14 containing two small paddocks.

The remaining Subdivisions of Section No. 17, namely 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, are partly bush (approximately one-half each) and partly laid down in English grasses.

Subdivisions 1 and 2 of Section 18 are principally light bush, two acres of each forming the road being in grass. The land on each has been cleared with the view of it being fenced, leaving the bush portion in the centre.

The above only refers to Subdivisions Nos. 1 to 10 of Section 17.

The practical uses in the bush are Kauri, Kowhai, and Pukatea, with a sprinkling of Totara.

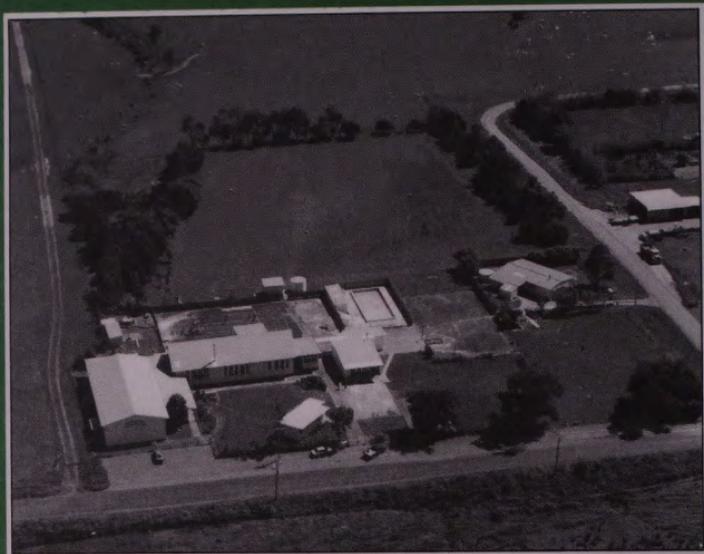


CTIONS.



# LOCALITY PLAN.

SCALE—60 CHAINS TO AN INCH. "HERALD" MACHINE LITHO, HAPIER



“The perusal of these pages, it is hoped, will awaken pleasant recollections in the minds of those who have lived at Linton; so that long-forgotten things will be recalled from the lumber room of the memory, and with the dust of time removed, will be viewed with a new and pleasing interest.”

— Extract from the 1939 Jubilee Souvenir Booklet.

