



**September 2018 Edition**



# Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.

*Incorporating*

## Bega Pioneers' Museum

87 Bega Street, Bega NSW 2550

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	Peter Rogers		Cheryl Moon	

### ***MUSEUM OPENING HOURS:***

*Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am to 4pm*  
*Saturday 10am to 2pm*

The Society's Newsletter is published quarterly and is free to all members and to kindred societies.

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# Museum News

## Bega District News' historic editions find new home at Bega Museum



*Peter Rogers examines a bound edition of the Bega District News from 1947*

Important records detailing the tragedies, heartbreak and milestones of Bega Valley's history have found a new home.

Hundreds of editions of the Bega District News stretching back to 1945 have been handed over to the care of the Museum.

"It means a lot to the museum because newspapers are one of the prime sources of research," Peter Rogers said.

The editions will not be put on display for general visitors to the museum in order to ensure their preservation as the old paper was fragile.

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so many still to be identified

## NEW VOLUNTEER

Welcome to our newest volunteer, Sue Southwell.

Sue has lived in the area for over 40 years. She and her husband Malcolm raised their 3 children here.

Sue's background is teaching. She taught at both Bega Public and Bega High.

She is proving to be a very valuable volunteer.

# Edgar Linger Filmer – His Memories

Researched by Karen Filmer

I was born at Mogilla on a property selected by my grandfather and now owned by Milton Alcock. My parents moved to a farm near Candelo in 1914. Mr Squire Denney, who had a wagon and a team of bullocks shifted the furniture and household goods. About the time my grandfather selected land several other selections were taken up around the foot of Tantawanglo Mountain and in behind Mogilla. Some of these people I remember from when I was young particularly Holzhausers, Ward, Jones, Bauer and Sirl.

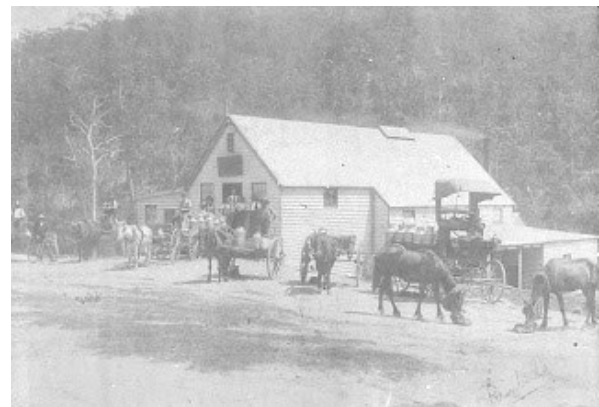
Mrs Jones was a very refined lady who was at everyone's beck and call. She would walk from their selection, which is still known as Jones Creek, to Tantawanglo to see anyone ill, then work all day and walk the five or six miles home.

At about the turn of the century several butter factories were built throughout the district. Prior to this the milk was taken to a separation station. The milk was placed in big tin dishes and the cream skimmed off. The milk and cream were then taken home and the butter made by hand. At the time the factories were built the farmers were able to buy separators, which were turned by hand. Cows were also milked by hand in this era.



A factory was built at West End and one at Mogilla. They were later closed and one built at Bemboka. The Candelo factory was built at Bimbaya, known then as Clarksons Crossing. Others were built at South

Wolumla, Pambula, Rocky Hall and Cathcart. Kameruka had three cheese factories on the farms and these were condemned about 1927, and were rebuilt of concrete. The Rocky Hall and Cathcart factories closed and the cream came to either Pambula, Wolumla or Candelo.



*Pambula Butter Factory*

The Springvale cheese factory was about the last farm factory to close.

All haulage was done by horse or bullock teams. Transport was horse-back or horse and buggy. All produce went to Sydney by boat and goods returned by the same method. Mr W. Taylor and Mr. Hazelgrove had horse teams and met the steamer. Mr. Taylor bought the first truck that I remember. The cattle were driven to and from market and when the Gippsland people started to buy cattle from this district, they were driven to Victoria taking several weeks. Pigs were also driven down to meet the steamer.

Work breaks were not heard of in those days. It was all hands to the work with a milk bucket seven days a week and every day of the year.

Candelo as I remember it was a town of four good stores, three hotels, four blacksmith shops, two butchers, a baker, a produce merchant, a coachbuilders, a barber's shop, a tinsmith and the usual lolly shop.

**TATHRA NEWS**

Mrs Schaffer of Sydney, is spending is spending a holiday with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr and Mrs Harry Fisher.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr and Mrs Vic Henderson, former well known residents of Tathra, and Campbelltown, are back on a visit to the town.

Their son Roger, who sat for the Leaving Certificate examination last year, is spending his school vacation in Perth, Western Australia.

\* \* \* \* \*

Among the visitors who arrived by plane to spend the holidays in Tathra were Miss Betty Smith, daughter of Mr and Mrs Aub Smith, and Mr and Mrs Moloney, of Punchbowl, who are the guests of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr and Mrs Cec. Lenson.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr and Mrs Bill Abbott and their three daughters, formerly of Newtown, Bega and now of Dapto, are spending a holiday at the beach.

\* \* \* \* \*

**CANDELO**

St Peters Church of England, Candelo, was beautifully decorated by friends of the bride, for the wedding at 6p.m. Saturday 19th, of Allan, eldest son of Mrs M Brown, of Armidale and the late Mr L Brown, to Nancy, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J. S. Solomon, of "Inglewood," Candelo.

\* \* \* \* \*

**BEGA**

The engagement is announced of Thea Margaret, only daughter of Mr and Mrs F. X. O'Donnell, of Bega, to Allan Warren, elder son of Mr and Mrs H. W. Smith of Liverpool. To celebrate the happy occasion, Thea and Allan were the guests of honour at a very pleasant party which was given by Thea's parents at the home of Mr and Mrs J. S. Solomon of "Inglewood," Candelo, on December 30th.

\* \* \* \* \*

At present camping at Tathra Beach are the Alex Robertson, and Leo and Ross McDonald and their families.

\* \* \* \* \*

Back in Bega for the school holidays is Miss Lorna Jeffrey, who is staying with her grandmother, Mrs A Solomons. A former pupil of Bega Primary and Bega High schools, Lorna is now a teacher with the Victorian Education Department and is at present stationed at Ballarat. Old friends are very pleased to see her.

\* \* \* \* \*

**BEMBOKA**

Mr Lance Alcock accompanied by his son Ian, and Mr Bruce Filmer, of Bimbaya, are spending a motoring holiday in the Holbrook area.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr Les Weeden, has returned to Sydney after a visit to his mother, Mrs A Weeden, at Bemboka. Mr and Mrs Vic Curtis and family of Sutherland are at present guests of the Weedens.

\* \* \* \* \*

# Wolumla's "Yellow Pinch" Ghost

By Edward Athelstan 'Bon' Wrightson

Wolumla is a small town situated on the Far South Coast of N.S.W. – it has an aboriginal name meaning "Water Hole". It is an historical township, although practically a ghost town now. It thrived in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Gold mining and wattle bark for tanning purposes were the two main industries – latterly it is principally dairy farming. The town boasted of having six pubs and several boarding houses in the prosperous days, to cope with the influx of many miners, together with their families, who came seeking work in the gold mines. All goods and passengers to and from Sydney in those days were transported by large steamers, calling at several coastal ports enroute – finally terminating at Eden, which is situated on Twofold Bay. Wool, butter and many other commodities were carried by teamsters from as far away as Cooma in the Snowy Mountains, Bombala and Nimmitabel, via Candelo and Wolumla to the seaport of Merimbula. All kinds of goods for business people, as well as personal belongings for residents, kegs of beer, rum and spirits for hotels, were carried on the return trip. These teamsters drove their horse and bullock teams through the township of Wolumla, enroute to their destination – they rested their horses and bullocks for the night on a property named "Yellow Pinch" on the outskirts of this town. Some of the drivers of these teams indulged in a drinking spree throughout the night. Besides tapping the beer kegs, many of them were heavy rum drinkers and would tap the kegs of rum.

At daybreak, while rounding up the bullocks and horses, many of them would see

Wolumla's "Yellow Pinch" ghost. Although not as prominently known as many other ghosts, this was a black ghost and could only be seen in daylight, mainly just after daybreak, other ghosts throughout the world being white.



The aboriginals living on this property claimed that one of their number was murdered there many years ago – consequently this black ghost used to appear every morning, just at daybreak. Several of us youngsters, a little on the curious side, visited this spot on occasions, but were eluded by the ghost. On bellowing "Were you murdered by someone", to our astonishment a voice would reply 'Yessssss'. It transpired that this voice that said "Yessss" was two trees growing together on the very spot where the murder took place, and when the wind was blowing they would make a grinding noise, which sounded like the word 'Yessssss', consequently we couldn't get back home quick enough and report what we had heard. The local Chinese gardener named Lammy was driving his horse and cart along the road early one morning on his vegetable run and to his surprise spotted the ghost. He turned back and was galloping his horse

## **Wolumla's "Yellow Pinch" Ghost...continued**

and cart through the township yelling out at the top of his voice 'I saw the ghost! I saw the ghost!' The residents heard the commotion and tried to console him, as Lammy was a favourite with everybody, but it was too much for the Chinaman. The following week he sold out and returned to China (pigtailed and all). The Chinese people are very superstitious, especially where ghosts are concerned, and Lammy, not taking any more risks, couldn't catch a boat fast enough for his home country.

In the year 1928 the local School Master, Mr. Jack Mulholland, who was visiting his neighbours' place next door, was shot while walking through his friends' front gate on his return home – they were courteously seeing him safely out the front gate. As he struck a match to light his cigarette, someone blew his head off with a shotgun. Although all available police from the surrounding towns were called to try and locate the murderer, he was never caught – it is still one of the State's unsolved crimes. Many local residents were suspected and questioned, but the evidence wasn't enough for a conviction. Everyone who lived in the township was spellbound and shocked at the atrocity, this schoolteacher being very popular with the majority of residents. As soon as the word of his murder was broadcast around the district, everyone was saying "I wonder will there be another ghost" but Wolumla's "Yellow Pinch" ghost is still in existence and can be seen to this day.

The town's only bushranger, by the name of Tom Jones, thought out a brainy idea. He built a house on top of a very high tree, not far from where the ghost appears, the reason being that no policeman or prospective captors would go within cooee of his hideout. He used the ghost as his protection. This bushranger never bailed up anyone for money or valuables, he only pinched goods that were edible. When captured he had thousands of tins of food-stuffs stacked away in the house on the tree. The story is told that the ghost paid him a visit one morning, and Tom was so

surprised and shocked he immediately went to the local police station and gave himself up to the policeman on duty. The locals suggested the ghost should be given Royal honours for the part he played in the capture of the bushranger.

In the latter part of the last century the State elections were being held and several would-be politicians were offering their services for the position. One spruiker and orator (of no mean ability), made many promises to the electors if returned as their member for the Far South Coast of New South Wales, (incidentally he beat all his opponents by a large majority, and became their representative in Parliament for a number of years.) One of the promises made by him was the continuation of the Railway service from Cooma on the Snowy Mountains and Nowra on the coast. Both these railway lines were to junction at Wolumla and continue to Eden, via Merimbula and Pambula townships. A local resident seized the opportunity and built a pub, naming it "Railway Junction Hotel". This hotel is the only one left in Wolumla and is still in business, but was purchased by Toohey's brewery some years ago. The old premises were pulled down and a new hotel erected on the same site, renamed the 'Wolumla Hotel'. This politician maintained that the new railway would be paid for in a very short space of time, attracting thousands of tourists and sightseers to the district to get a glimpse of the ghost, which was very much in the headlines at that time. The residents are still waiting for the railway to be completed from both Cooma and Nowra, just one more of thousands of promises made by Parliamentarians which never eventuate.

\*\*\*\*\*

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