

Leonhard Wilhelm Nothling

Born: 20th January, 1915

Died: 26th December, 1999

Funeral: 30th December, 1999



Obituary

Leonhard Wilhelm Nothling was born on 20th January 1915, son of Bernhard Julius & Ida Maria Carolina, original settlers of Teutoberg, later renamed Witta. Len was the only son of eight children - all of whom survived to old age. He worked on family farm while attending the Curramor School – a school that is little remembered these days.

Len's family considered education very important and subsequently Len was sent away to board while attending Gympie High School - probably a considerable sacrifice for the family at the time.

Len then returned to work with his father on the farm and later, with his father's help acquired his own property from Cooke family, adjoining the family property. His new farm contained much virgin forest area that required clearing. He cleared the land himself with axe & crosscut saw, using springboards to cut trees at higher levels.

He operated a dairy on his own until enlisting during World War 2. Army service saw him on the ambulance train that ferried the wounded

particularly from New Guinea, back to army field hospitals in Queensland. He enjoyed his service time and often spoke fondly of the times spent on the ambulance train in North Queensland, and of the enduring friendships that grew out of this experience.

During his Army service Len met Doris May Pierpoint. They were married before the war finished. With his new wife Len returned to the family property to take over from his father & to manage all the properties as a consolidated dairy farm. Doris and Len were blessed with two children - Diana in 1945 and Bryan in 1948.

Devotion to his wife & children, the establishment of a new house and the operation of what was then considered a large dairy farm did not leave much time for self-indulgence or a high public profile in the community. There was a little time in summer to bowl a few balls down with friends at the local cricket association matches. Trophies from several seasons marked him as a bowler not to be meddled with.

He was always available when neighbours or local organisations needed a hand and supported functions in the community. His love of a good joke and never letting the truth get in the way of a good story made him a popular speaker at all sorts of gatherings. Len was a member of the Witta Lutheran congregation all his life, regularly attending worship.

Len's beloved wife died suddenly in 1981 leaving him to learn the skills to carry on alone. He managed his own affairs very well and even found time to assist newcomers who were settling in the district.

Listening to music gave him a lot of pleasure and he even taught himself to play piano when he was in his sixties. His idea of a good time was to gather with friends and family while his sister Olga belted out a few favourites on the piano with her husband Allan leading the singing.

He never really took a holiday and never retired from his farming, calling on friendly neighbours for assistance only in most recent years. He missed his first roundup just this December during his second hospital stay.

He accepted care recently in a retirement lodge only when it was absolutely necessary for his safety, and he remained appreciative, thoughtful & considerate to all as the end approached.

With his faith and his convictions intact he slipped away peacefully with great dignity as the sun set on December 26.