

Transport Problems

dated 1978

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One of the greatest difficulties which confronted the association in earlier days was the transport of the manufactured butter from Maleny to the railway at Landsborough.

The distance was about 12 miles of unmade and ungraded bullock wagon-track through red volcanic scrub soil for half the journey and glue-like mud the rest of the way from Bald Knob to Landsborough.

The first butter cartage contractors were Mr L. Tesch and Mr Fred Vandreike.

With two three-horse-drawn wagons, these two pioneers would arrive at the factory at 2 am, wet or fine, to load up, then set out on the journey down the range. They faced and overcame many difficulties, including sometimes having to unload the boxes of butter and carry them manually up steep grades and over bogs or hitch the six horses to one wagon at a time to get out of trouble and then reload the butter before going on.

Such difficulties happened often several or more times on each journey to Landsborough.

As the years went on, other cartage contractors used horse or bullock-drawn wagons and they also had to overcome difficulties, particularly as increasing production meant heavier loads.

The road was gradually improved, with gravel or metal put down on the worst patches.

Bridges were built over creeks, motor trucks began to make their appearance, but for some years these could be used for dry weather only. Horses and wagons still had to be put into use in wet weather.

In the early 1920's the first section of bitumen road was constructed at the Landsborough end and by 1927 the once ugly and difficult wagon track had developed into a well-graded bitumen road all the way from Landsborough to Maleny, where cars could climb the 1400 foot rise over 11 miles and do it comfortably in top gear.

Since then the road has seen major reconstruction work, which still continues from time to time, so that in 1978 the road is a safe highway through some of the best scenery in Queensland.

Today too, motorists are able to travel in all parts of the Maleny district on well constructed roads in safety and comfort in all kinds of weather and all merchandise is carried by modern motor transport.



Landsborough to Maleny goods truck 1917 - 1918



Neilen's truck after it went over in the Ice Box C1975