

## POCKETKNIVES

So, who are the men who carry pocketknives today? They are typically utilitarian. They are the type of man who work hard for a living, fix what is broken, and stand fearless in the face of a world full of evil. To put it simply, they are the type of men that I feel this world needs more of.

If you find yourself in a tight spot and need some help, just ask the guy with the pocketknife. Although they are few and far between these days, chances are he can and will be able to help you.

Some people's comments: Back when I was a boy, I asked my Dad if he had his pocketknife, he would answer, "Am I wearing my pants?" LW

My husband always carried his pocketknife as an essential farming tool and used it frequently. However, he had a special one taken off him at the London Mews, when passing through the security system. B H

My dear old Dad always carried a pocketknife- everywhere, and he was surprised when he wasn't allowed to take one on the plane. T N

My husband's knife may have been used to trim a sheep's foot, then he'd wipe the knife on his trousers and clean it with his hanky, then cut up an apple to eat. S L

I'm a farming girl and I carry a pocketknife with me every day – they are such useful tools. C B

My husband has a 'going out' knife and an 'around the house' knife. He also has a hanky in his pocket. A real fix-it man. S Y

My mother gave me a pocketknife in the early 70s and I have carried and used it ever since. As an electrician it has been very handy for stripping cable the pliers won't handle, and numerous other jobs. D J

The Australian cattle station I worked on used pocketknives to castrate their

'scrub' bulls ,thousands of them. R J

I had an old pocketknife, then eventually upgraded to a Leatherman 200, then a 300. They were much more functional and versatile than a simple knife. J V L

I graduated from a pocketknife to a Victorinox. Then I bought a Swiss Army knife in Switzerland to give to my son when he turned eighteen. D K

Everyone had an IXL - we could skin a rabbit, gut a fish, peel an orange, slice cheese, meat and tomatoes, but sadly I have left a few of them lying in the bush and on rocks. S C

That is my hubby. He usually has baling twine as well – he is a real fix-it bloke. J M

It's good to carry one in the car incase of an accident as you can cut the seat belts in an emergency. M O'B

My Dad, at age 95 years still carries a pocketknife and would whip it out for all manner of things. M S

I always carry a pocketknife, pliers and a lighter. You're not ready for work if you haven't got a pocketknife. D M

What about the woman who has a knife and much more in her handbag? The kitchen sink...? C A. R H



It would seem that the brand of pocketknife you carried was fashionable, as people could name their favourite type.

# Coach House Chronicle

Volume 10  
Issue 20

November  
2020

in association with

**Feilding & Districts Community Archive**

A collection of interesting items for friends and supporters of 'The Coach House'

## .Early Law and Order in Feilding

### Feilding Police Station and Stipendiary Magistrate's Court

The Police Station, in Eyre Street, consists of the usual wooden lock-up of two cells and a four roomed dwelling for the police officer in charge. The courthouse is a wooden building of three rooms, in Kimbolton Road. The Stipendiary Magistrate from Palmerston North sits for the trial of civil and other business every second Friday in each month. Local justices sit for the trial of criminal cases as required. The clerk of the court is Constable J J Tuohy, and he has the assistance at the police station of Mounted Constable F J Healy.

**Constable James Joseph Tuohy**, Officer in Charge of the Feilding Police Station was born in O-Gneloe, County Clare, Ireland in 1839, where his father was a farmer. He did not have the privilege of attending school and was entirely self-taught. When eight years of age he left Ireland to come to Australia in 1859. After working at the diggings at Castlemaine for some time, he came to Dunedin, to the Otago goldfields. Later, he went on to Invercargill and joined the New Zealand Police force in 1862. He rapidly rose through the ranks till he became a first-class sergeant and was transferred to the detective department in 1878. In 1881 he was sent to Christchurch to assist in quelling disorder in the land riots.

From Christchurch he was sent to Wellington and eventually Auckland, where he was stationed for seven years During that time,

he was in the detective department and was sent on the most difficult business to different parts of the colonies. In 1889 he was placed in charge of Feilding.

He was married and had six children and was a prominent Oddfellow.

From Manawatu Police Records Collection, held at the Feilding and Districts Community Archive. With thanks to Marilyn Wightman, Manager of the Archive.



Constable James Joseph Tuohy, with two young women, probably his daughters.

## What was this instrument?

This instrument was brought to Smoko and there were many guesses about what its use had been.

The original model of the Greener Humane Cattle Killer would have been in a wooden box, complete with a wooden mallet which was used to whack the firing pin and actuate the gun; a small bore cleaning rod and brush and a box of cartridges.

To load the instrument, unscrew the breech piece and insert the cartridge. When loaded, place the instrument well up on the animal's forehead. Care must be taken to see that the notch and the word 'TOP' on the instrument are pointing upwards between the horns, so the barrel is in line with the pith, a site between the poll and the eyes..

During the mid-1800s the demand for assembly line, meat packing increased. Advances in firearm and ammunition developments quickly led to the introduction of clean, effective and rapid slaughter using 'Humane Killers'. This was one of the very first, free bullet killers, being introduced in 1865, almost as soon as self-contained ammunition came onto the market and remained right through to the 1970s.

They were essentially small caliber pistols designed solely for the purpose of putting down animals by firing a bullet directly through the brain and into the spine. Therefore, the placement of the muzzle was critical, with such a small bul-



let having a humane and instant result. These humane killers were designed with a muzzle, shaped to provide the correct bullet entry angle, with instructions to ensure it was placed on the animal's head in the correct spot.

The Folding Pocket Model was small enough to carry in the vet's bag. Virtually every country and race-course veterinarian carried one. All the armies that had cavalry units in WW1 and WW2 were issued with them. The Pocket Humane Killer was issued at the four NZ Remount Stations of which Palmerston North was one, and onboard the transport ships and at the front in Palestine and France.

While most injured horses were 'put down' in the field by their devoted Trooper, using his revolver or pistol, the Humane Killer was used for horses that were attended to by a member of the Veterinary Service.

So now we know what the item is. R H

With excerpts from: 'Description of the Greener Cattle Killers', *Wikipedia*

Maybe this instrument was used by a Vet in the Manawatu area.

## Norm's Stamp collector's Holiday Class

Four budding stamp collectors spent 90 minutes engrossed in learning about the hobby during the first week of the school holiday programme. The young philatelists were given a starter pack of stamps and with the aid of a catalogue could add to that collection using supplies of virtually the full number of stamps ever made in New Zealand. The best part was they could keep whatever stamps they had accumulated onto their pages.

While today we don't use as many stamps for letters and parcels as in the past, it was great to work with youngsters as they worked with stamps worth a halfpenny and other pence and shillings through the change to decimal currency postage to today.

It was refreshing to work with the young collectors as they spotted stamps about Scouting, city centennials, Commonwealth Games and other ones commemorating

our country's history, and worked in chronological order through the catalogue scoring as many stamps as they could in the time.

As well, they were given first day covers, envelopes marking the first day release of some stamps, and the collection of stamps they had gathered on the day.

For \$6 outlay for the programme, the collectors took home more than \$100 of stamps.

By the end of the morning there were four very keen, new young stamp collectors.

A huge thank you to Norm Lind for his preparation of the morning, and for sharing his time generously with these enthusiastic children. Our appreciation also to the adults who volunteered to assist on the morning.

With thanks to Dennis Geddis for this report.



Two rare stamps— a one penny, Centennial of New Zealand—1840-1940 of Cooks Re-discovery of New Zealand in 1769.

A thruppenny value stamp commemorating the Royal Visit 1949 depicting the British WW2 Battleship H.M.S. Vanguard.

