



THE PIONEER

RURAL & RESIDENTIAL
PROPERTY

'The Pinnacles'

DENISE HAYNES - 'R & R' RURAL AND RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY



There were occasions when I was fortunate enough to have holidays on a property called 'The Pinnacles' a few miles out of town. It belonged to friends of Mum and Dad, Mr & Mrs Bill Lowrey. They had no children and loved to have one of us stay with them. Once my sisters started to work I often spent part of the school holidays there. Just to get to the property was an experience in itself. Once the town limits were left behind the road was a rough cattle track. Mrs Lowrey drove a sulky over this rutted track and through three creek crossings. There were no bridges, just the horse and sulky slipping and sliding over the river stones with an awful clatter, and me hanging on for dear life.

Mr Lowrey had built the weatherboard cottage. Perched on the side of a hill it had two unlined rooms and was very rough. There was no electricity and nothing in the way of conveniences. His wife cooked on an open fire and also boiled the clothes in a kerosene tin suspended from a hook over the fire. At the rear of the house was a vegetable garden and a fowl house that provided poultry and eggs. Meat for the table was supplied by Mr Lowrey.

If a wallaby ventured too near it was shot and butchered. I didn't like the strong taste of wallaby meat but I could eat the wallaby tail soup that his wife made.

One thing I really liked, and could never get enough of, was the home-cured bacon. They reared their own pigs and she cured the bacon herself. Sometimes a calf was killed and we ate fresh meat for a couple of days. Any meat we didn't eat straight away was corned to prevent it going bad. The brine was kept in a vat and large chunks of meat were placed in it until needed. Thanks to a house cow the Lowreys had milk and cream from which they made butter. The cream was first churned until it was solid and separated from the butter milk then patted into a square with butter pats. These pats consisted of two flat boards with a design etched on one that made an impression on the butter. Every housewife had her own personal butter pat and I remember that a Scotch Thistle flower was imprinted on Mrs Lowrey's butter.

An extract from 'Growing up in Stroud – A memoir of the 1920's, 1930's, 1940's by Mrs Beryl Bowden. Mrs Bowden has kindly given us permission to reproduce material and photo's from her book.



'The Pinnacles' pictured above are located along Mill Creek Rd, Stroud.