

Almost A Century Later

Becklands, a property of 21 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres, was surveyed off by R. H. Davies in March 1896 and appears on the early Inglewood maps.

The property was owned by Dr. Valentine (District Health Officer 1901) until 1904, and on it he built an eight-bedroomed home, with five open fireplaces.

The piles were of split stone with 4 x 4 ground plates and 6 x 2 floor joists. The 10 foot stud ceilings were of rimu as were the partitions, and the studs were all mor-

liced and nailed with four inch long square nails.

In 1908 the valuation was 816 pounds (\$1632) and the land value was 880 pounds (\$1760).

Originally the property had only a street frontage on to Maire Street, and to get to the town there was a track through the bush, coming out onto the main road where the Marinoto Home has now been built (later on Crescent Terrace was formed and Tawa and Mahoe Streets).

In 1922, the property was bought by Arthur Drake for 4050 pounds (\$8100). At this

time the rates were 29 pounds 7 and 5 pence (\$58.74). Today the land value for the area (now 10 acres and the house) is \$299,000 and the rates are \$10,500.

In 1976 Dudley Drake bred some of the first half-bred Brown Swiss heifers in New Zealand and photos of them were sent to England to assist sales of semen there.

In recent years the large trees on the property were cleared, and the property which is a portion of the original Becklands is currently for sale.



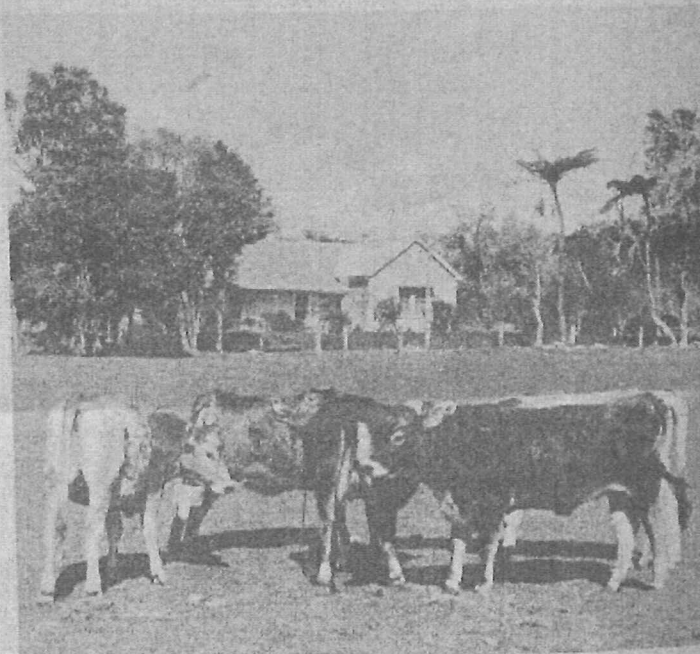
Removing trees from Becklands - the log, pictured, was 50 foot long weighing over 25 ton and it was loaded onto the truck from a hole 66 foot long and 8 foot deep. A 30 ton bulldozer was required to get the truck up onto level ground.

Inglewood Women's Bowling Club

There was a good attendance of members at the general meeting held on September 17.

Clean-ups and working bees were organised. Following this meeting the Indoor Miro Club held its annual meeting.

Very grateful thanks were extended to the retiring president Beatrice Collingwood and the secretary Maud Dodunski. They had both done a tremendous job organising indoor tournaments during the winter months over a number of years. These tournaments brought in very good revenue



Brown Swiss cattle outside the house at 'Becklands' in Inglewood. The eight bedroomed house was built by D. R. Valentine in 1896.

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