

• • 2C6

Isaac (Ike) JOHNSON

b 29 Apr 1906; New Plymouth

d 28 Oct 1985; New Plymouth

Like his younger sisters, Ike rode to Okau Primary School on horseback because of the distance they had to travel. A story recounted the family tells of the day Ike misbehaved in school so had the teacher order him outside to fetch a supplejack (whacking wrongdoers with a supplejack seems to have been a favourite way for New Zealand adults to discipline children in those days!). Instead of returning with a piece of the narrow vine as he was intended to do, Ike apparently marched confidently back into the room with a chunk of wood slung over his shoulder—about the size of a four-by-two! It's a pity the outcome isn't known!!

Ike's said to have had a great singing voice and was a very good yodeller. He was called up for Army service during WW2 and went overseas in late 1942 as Pte [Private] 489284 in the Infantry Brigade with the 2nd NZEF. Ike enjoyed all sports and was proud of the fact that he managed to chop a 12" block in 21 seconds in a 1943 Army wood-chopping competition in New Caledonia. Another favourite past-time was pig-shooting.

Ivy, daughter of Samuel KENDRICK, a chairmaker, and Emma Elizabeth nee BESSINGTON (also written as BEVVINGTON), was born at her parents' home in Crompton Rd at Cradley Heath, Staffordshire. She came to Taranaki with her family when she was about 17, and one of her brothers later lived about half a mile off the Okau Rd. Ivy always liked football and she belonged to several church groups and the WDFE [Women's Division of Federated Farmers]. She and Ike married at the Presbyterian Parsonage in Gill St, New Plymouth.

Ike worked with his father as a general carrier and eventually took over running his father's business. After living in Okau for several years Ike and Ivy moved to 11 Bulkeley St in New Plymouth. Although he retired from the carrying business about 1961, Ike worked in the New Plymouth Railway Goods Shed for four or five years, followed by working for the New Plymouth City Council for about five years, doing mainly kerbing and contracting work. One day while jumping a wall Ike fell and broke his hip, resulting in a shortened leg and later hip problems. He died of lung cancer at Taranaki Base Hospital at the age of 79, while Ivy died at New Plymouth Hospital aged 74. They were both cremated at Taranaki Crematorium two days after their deaths.

Millicent Ivy (Ivy) KENDRICK

b 5 Mar 1910; Staffs, England

d 30 Oct 1984; New Plymouth



Ivy [nee KENDRICK], Joy, & Isaac JOHNSON during WW2



Ike & Ivy JOHNSON with their cream lorry

• • • 2C6A

Joy JOHNSON

b 24 Feb 1932; New Plymouth

Alec Stephen (Steve) GEORGE

b 9 Mar 1927; Waitara

Joy went to the Ahititi Primary School in north Taranaki until secondary level when she went to New Plymouth Girls High. Interested in all sports, she waitressed at New Plymouth's Peter Pan Dining Rooms for several years until she married. After their children were born Joy waitressed at New Plymouth Boys High School Hostel before becoming a meat-packer at Dalton's Supermarket, then spending the next 12 years as tea-lady at

generation
1 2 3 4 5 6 7