rendition of "When the midnight choo-choo leaves for Alabam".

Now having delivered my "short speech" I am so very pleased to declare the fete open for business and am sure it will be very profitable as you seem to be so well ORGANISED. Thank you.

THOSE FABULOUS PUCKEYS

In response to the request for information on the Puckeys. I've received some fascinating personal recollections of the family.

So instead of continuing the story of Courtenay Puckey's land holdings, I'll save that for next year and print the more recent material first. Our aim is to include every known reference to both the land and the Puckeys themselves, as at present there exists no easily available consolidated collection of material.

PUCKEY'S PRESCRIPTION COUGH MIXTURE

Mrs. Helen Fraser (nee King: born August 1903) remembers Courtenay Puckey's chemist shop as situated just one or two premises east of the northern Church and Crown Streets intersection.

Interestingly, she also remembers the Puckey house at North Wollongong and how the family would either cross Fairy Creeks to get to town in a horse and sulky or by rowing boat from a little loading dock where Mr Puckey would moor his skiff.

One of her most curious memories is of being taken to chemist and being told to "go home and gargle with raw milk" which sounds like a great way to treat throat infections.

Mrs Fraser also describes Mr Puckey as a "delightful man with a beard".

(Notes taken from a phone conversation with Mrs. Fraser in November 1993)

THE DAUGHTERS OF COURTENAY PUCKEY

When I started secondary school in 1915 I remember the Puckey home as a gloomy looking dark brick house on the north bank of Fairy Creek across from Stuart Park, and behind the house was the framework of the remains of a windmill which we were told were part of his experiments at distilling salt from seawater.
He had a pharmacy in Crown Street, a few doors off Church Street when there were two other chemists shops in Wollongong - one being Wiseman's and the other Harris's.

He had three daughters, Mary, Selina and Grace with all of whom I attended high school. To cross Fairy Creek he and his girls had three alternatives, dry footed if the seaward end was silted up, barefooted if the tide was low and by horse and sulky at high tide.

From Stuart Park they all walked to Wollongong, to shop and school. He always wore a bowler hat and a white dress shirt having a stiff ironed front but no collar or tie and his daughters were equally untidy dressers. This also applied to his shop with shelves and glass topped counters a jumble of assorted bottles, phials, pill boxes and photographic goods.

In fact the whole family were somewhat eccentric but good scholars of the plodding variety and all the girls were bent of a medical career. Mary and Selina became doctors and Grace a pharmacist. She was in my class which studied Latin which no doubt was necessary to become a pharmacist when all doctors prescriptions were in Latin those days.

I completely lost touch with them after we all left school and in the 1920's I went to New Guinea.

Selina became a doctor and became a ship's doctor for the Burns Philp steamer "Montoro" running to New Guinea.

This ship on reaching Rabaul took on board a Customs officer who travelled around the outports where no Customs officer was stationed. One of these was Bill Marshal who eventually met and married Selina. They lived in Rabaul but eventually in the mid-thirties Bill was posted to Salumaua, where I lived. So our schooldays' acquaintanceship was renewed. Apparently during their Rabaul days Grace came up on a visit and married a chap named Keith Walker, a Govt. head clerk but they later divorced.

When war came all civilians were evacuated to Sydney where Selina took a position as medical officer at Renwick Childrens' Hospital at Summer Hill and Bill I think become a clerk in some civilian role.

At war's end they retired to the Puckey family holiday home in Blackheath. They had two offspring, young Bill and Margaret, the
former becoming a doctor. Later in life they took a trip to Europe and Selina's husband died in Spain. As far as I know Selina is still at Blackheath but several years ago I tried to phone her only to find she had a silent number and could not be contacted.

Mary also became a doctor and for many years was medical supt. at the Rachel Forster Hospital in Redfern and died several years ago.

Of Grace I know nothing of her life as a pharmacist or if she is still living.

Bert Weston

DR. SELINA PUCKEY
FRIEND OF THE CHILDREN, RETIRES

Dr. Selina Puckey handed over to her successor yesterday after more than 21 yeas as medical superintendent of the Renwick Hospital for Infants, Summer Hill.

"I'm looking forward to being happily employed as a housewife by the name of Mrs. William Marshal," she said.

Marshal is her married name but she has always used her maiden name of Puckey during her career.

Dr. Puckey came to Renwick after she was evacuated from New Guinea in 1941.

She had been a resident doctor at Renwick for about six months in 1926, not long after she graduated from Sydney University.

Dr. Puckey recalled "In those days there were still not many women doctors and they still had to overcome prejudices and get themselves established."

Hopes To Visit Son In London

She said she had decided to retire "a little before my time" to be with her bushland at their home at Blackheath in the Blue Mountains.

She also wanted to go to England to see her son William, who is paediatrics registrar of St. Thomas Hospital, London.

For the past two years she said she had trouble in getting a resident doctor for Renwick and had to live most of the time in her flat in the hospital so she could be on call.

The hospital now has a resident, and Dr. Puckey has handed over her responsibilities to another woman doctor, Dr. V. Caradus, who has