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Buderim Shops - Central Business Area 1870 to 1970

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Introduction

The businesses along the southern side of Buderim's Main Street are on a block of 20 acres (about eight hectares) originally set aside as a school reserve which was situated on both sides of the street.

In the 1880s nearly half of the reserve on the southern side of the street was allocated for community facilities such as a school of arts, church, blacksmith shop and other stores and shops. It was the opening of the Palmwoods to Buderim Tramway in December 1914 which brought the need to develop a shopping centre. Ernest Middleton, who had a store at Eudlo, saw the opportunity and purchased a block of 2359 square metres opposite the tram terminal.¹

There are many available old photographs of Main Street and adjacent areas of Buderim particularly from the archives of the Buderim Historical Society. Although many of the shops and other developments of the period from 1870 through to 1970 have been documented previously, our aim here is to pull together details of each and to document the sequence in which each started.

This has been researched by examining old photographs and certain written material, such as from newspapers via Trove and timelines originally produced by Neil McGarvie, and information graciously provided by Helene Cronin from her extensive Buderim database. A map and some relevant old photographs of Central Buderim are provided in the Appendices at the end of this paper.

¹Stuart Weir, Historical/Industrial Site Record Card, 26 March 1983, held by BHS.

Dating old photographs

The old photographs from the early part of the 20th century often have dates written on them or attached. Some of these dates can be shown to be inaccurate. There are two important methods of checking on these dates which will be discussed next. Firstly, the presence or absence of telephone poles on Main Street. These poles were erected in August 1921¹ and the wires added in October.



This well known image of Main Street (above left) is usually labelled as 1913 or 1915, but that cannot be correct as there are poles present. Similarly on the image of the western end of Main Street (above right) poles are present, so both must be after August 1921.

Secondly an important factor is the presence or absence of Grant's store. This building was certainly there in 1917 (see page 8). It was destroyed by fire in July 1925.² It was prominently situated at the end of Main Street. The photograph showing the store (above right) is an enlarged part of an image labelled as 'about 1916'. Grant's store is in the centre. Clearly the poles tell us it must be after 1921 and the presence of Grant's store places it as before July 1925 when it was destroyed by fire.

Large trees can also be indicators. The two large trees opposite Middleton's first store are an example, as is the tree with two prominent trunks under which Grant's store is placed. In the photograph above right, this tree has been cut down. Photographs on pages seven and eight show this tree in place over the store suggesting the image showing the tree reduced to stumps is not long before the July 1925 fire. One of these photographs on page eight shows a Red Cross procession which is reliably dated as August 1917.³ In this 1917 image the twin-trunked tree is present, but in the image above there is no tree, only twin stumps beside Grant's store. More about Grant's store later.

Other factors can be used, such as the presence of the buildings associated with the Palmwoods to Buderim Tram which commenced in December 1914, although most of the associated buildings were built a year or more later. The presence of Weakley's butcher shop, built in 1929 and replaced by The Hub in 1984 (see page 7), is also useful. The presence of cars can also be helpful. The first car on Buderim was probably Percy Board's Studebaker which was purchased in 1916, although I am not aware of any images which show this car in a useful context. By 1918 there were sufficient cars on Buderim for a motor garage to start operating.⁴ Detailed observation of the make and model of cars present can also assist. Another possibility is that people with better detailed knowledge than I have, may be able to date images by the clothing being worn.

¹ *Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, August 19, 1921, p. 1, BUDERIM.

² *Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, July 17, 1925. p.3.

³ *Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, August 3, 1917, p. 7, Buderim, Red Cross carnival raises £150.

⁴ Noel Williams pers. comm.

The shops

Buderim was settled in 1870 when blocks were surveyed and opened for settlement. In 1872 *The Queenslander* reported: *There are some ten or twelve settlers, sturdy pioneers, busy at work, and many a noble tree, the growth of ages, is brought low. They have about 50 acres down, and several more comfortable houses built.*¹ At this stage there were no shops although one of the first settlers, Joseph Dixon, is reported as running a butcher shop at the eastern end of Buderim Mountain. This would have consisted of Dixon killing a bullock and sharing it with his neighbours, either by bartering or for cash. Supplies of essentials such as flour were imported through the port of Mooloolah Heads. When the rail was pushed through Landsborough in 1890 and to Palmwoods and Woombye in 1891, supplies were imported by horse drawn wagon, mostly from Woombye. Obtaining supplies from southern localities, such as Brisbane, by road remained out of the question before, and for some years after, the train in 1891.

In the 1890s John Tytherleigh who had a store at Woombye, came around once a week on horseback and took orders for groceries and bread. Then wagons, which had taken bananas and other crops to the rail at Woombye, would bring the orders back and drop them on the roadside as close as possible to the house of the person who had ordered them.²

1882

Communities such as Buderim needed a specialist blacksmith. To fill this need **William Quarrie** came to Buderim and opened a blacksmith's business in 1882.³ He built his shop out of slabs with a shingle roof on what is now the Middy's Centre car park. This was not so much a shop or store, rather its purpose was for shoeing horses and repairing saddles and horse drawn vehicles. Quarrie sold the business to Billy Duncan.



Buderim's blacksmith shop in 1905. Left to right: Billy Duncan (blacksmith), Edgar Burnett holding the horse 'Lady Godiva', Ernest J. Burnett on his horse 'Aidecamp', Stephen Fountain (beside wagon), Joe Box (builder) behind him in the wagon along with Benny Booker. (Attached to photograph in BHS collection.)

Later the business passed to J.W. Sargood who continued as a blacksmith to about 1924.

The building was expanded and in 1930 Roy Carnie and A. Crack opened a case mill, installing the necessary machinery.⁴ The case mill was later reported to be working at full pressure to keep up the supply of timber cut to the appropriate sizes to make cases for citrus, bananas and pineapples.

This building was expanded again in 1942 and converted into Buderim's first ginger factory.⁵

¹The *Queenslander*, September 28, 1872, p. 11, Mooloolah and the Maroochie.

² Interview with Agnes Jones (maiden name Wordie, born 1887) by Sybil Vise in 1975, held by Buderim Historical Society.

³ Stuart Weir, 1989, *William, Quarrie*, Pioneer series, held by Buderim Historical Society.

⁴ *Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, November 14, 1930, p. 3, Buderim.

⁵ Joan Hogarth, 2000, *Buderim Ginger an Export Success Story*, Hogarth & Buderim Ginger Ltd, Yandina, p. 31.

1887

BUDERIM'S FIRST GENERAL STORE. The *Moreton Mail*, on July 23, 1887, page 7 reported that 'A general store being erected by Mr. John Burnett, has been painted, and will be opened shortly'.



J.K. Burnett's store is evident in the background of this image of the Buderim Tram arriving with a load of tourists in about 1917. By this time the store had ceased trading.

John Kerle Burnett came to Buderim in 1876, initially working at Dixon and Fielding's sugar mill. He saw an opportunity and opened Buderim's first store near the corner of Ballinger Road and Main Street. It was a low set building with a veranda opening on to the street. For almost a quarter of a century it was Buderim's only store. After the Buderim sugar mills closed in the late 1880s, Lionel, son of John Kerle, ran a saddle making and repair businesses from a room at the rear of the store. Another son Herbert, had a boot making business in another room.¹

After the rail was put through in 1891, most supplies came from Woombye as back loading on the farm produce wagons, although some of the bread was probably baked in the brick oven behind J.K. Burnett's house. The store was also the Post Office, with the mail coming three times a week from Woombye and it was an agency for the United Insurance Company.



J.K. closed his store in 1913 because he felt he was getting older and, perhaps more importantly, two other stores opened about this time in central Buderim. The building was purchased by Herbert Victor Fielding and moved next door on Ballinger Road in 1934, where it was used as a private residence. It was later purchased by Dr. Pauline Waterhouse who was building a surgery on the site (5 Ballinger Road). The house was sold in 1982 and moved to Palmwoods where it is still in use as a private residence.

¹ Interview with Charles Short (born 1890) by Sybil Vise, held by Buderim Historical Society.

1911

In about 1911 **Sion Singh** (opposite with his wife Hannah) purchased Portion 48 of 10 acres and 4 perches from Joseph Dixon and opened 'the Busy Bee' store on the corner of Gloucester Road (then known as Maroochydore Road) and Main Street.¹ He sold mainly fruit and vegetables, which he grew on his land, to local residents. When the Tramway opened in 1915 Sion had a busy trade with holiday makers who stayed at the nearby Birdwood Guesthouse.



In January 1922 he inherited £7000 from his father in India. In February 1922 he sold some of his general business interests,² (but not the freehold), to James Salway who built a bakery.³

In April, Sion purchased a block of land, from Mr. W. Bartholomew diagonally across the intersection, with the intention of building a large bulk store.⁴ This was to become the forerunner of the Buderim Depot of the 1940s, 50s and 60s. In 1924 he purchased more land where Manawee Nursery is now, growing more produce.



In January 1924 he leased/rented the general store part of his business to William Henry Trotter who made improvements to the building, after taking over at the beginning of February. He added a billiards saloon and cafe. Sion retained the freehold of Portion 48 through both these business deals. In 1926 the building owned by Sion Singh and occupied by Mr. W.H. Trotter, who was carrying on a business of general storekeeper, billiard room and refreshment room, was destroyed by fire.⁵

In June 1929 James Salway purchased Singh's block. Sion Singh retired in Buderim, but retained his bulk store business interest diagonally across the road until at least 1932.⁶ Sion Singh died in 1939. More of the developments on Singh's corner are presented on pages 12 to 14.

A brief summary of events at Singh's corner and nearby. For more detail see page 13

1911	Sion Singh purchases portion 48 on Maroochydore Road (now Gloucester Road).
1922 January	Sion learns he has inherited £7000 from father in India.
1922 February	Sion sells part of his business interests to James Salway, who builds a bakery.
1924 January	Sion sells grocery business to W. H. Trotter.
1924 February	Salway sells bakery to C. F. W. Kleeman.
1925 April	Kleeman sells bakery to Crack & Co.
1926 March	Trotter's store destroyed by fire, but bakery is untouched.
1929 June	Salway purchases Sion Singh's corner block.
1929 August	Salway subdivides and sells small block to Crack & Co.
1929 December	John Waters closes store on King Street.
1930 January	Herbert Fielding alters bakery building, intends running a grocery business.
1931 November	Crack & Co and Herbert Fielding have general store and bakery.

¹ Stuart Weir, Historical/Industrial Site Record Card no. 28, 1983, held by BHS.

² According to Len Kenna and Crystal Jordan, 2017, *Sion Singh: a Sikh pioneer: Buderim Queensland*, publ. Len Kenna, Sion sold only some of his business interests to Salway. He must have retained the general store part of the business, as in 1924 he sold this to Mr W. Trotter.

³ *Chronicle & North Coast Advertiser*, February 24, 1922, p. 2.

⁴ This bulk store was on the site where the Buderim Depot later operated, and it seems Sion's bulk store was the forerunner of the Depot.

⁵ *Daily Mail*, March 30, 1926, p. 3, Buderim.

⁶ Len Kenna & Crystal Jordan, 2017, *Sion Singh: a Sikh pioneer: Buderim Queensland*, publ. Len Kenna.

1913

The *Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser* recorded on 15 August 1913 that 'a prominent Woombye man has bought some land, with the intention of erecting a store in anticipation of the boom when our tramway is completed. May success attend him'. This was John Samuel Waters, who was managing John Tytherleigh's store at Woombye at the time.

By December 1914, John was advertising the Grand Opening of **Jno S. Waters Up-to-Date Store** at Buderim. The store was situated between the Methodist Church and the present Mayfield Street.¹ He advertised as follows: 'I have purchased a well assorted stock of all lines, such as Drapery, Clothing, Boots and Shoes, Crockery and Glassware, Toys, Saddlery, Patent Medicines, Grocery, and Produce etc.



In addition to his store, he was involved in real estate, selling many properties on Buderim and in the adjacent area. About 1918 John ran a store under canvas at Mooloolaba over the Christmas holidays. John and Lillian Waters had a family of six girls and a boy and were prominent in Buderim activities through the 1920s. John was secretary of the State School committee, the Buderim Show Committee and the School of Arts Committee. His daughters were in the tennis club and basketball club. Mr and Mrs Waters were members of St Mark's Church where he was a lay reader for several years.

The store was relatively distant from the Tram Station and this, along with the Great Depression, resulted in John and Lillian closing the store in 1929/30.² They moved to Maleny in 1930 and were given a farewell dinner by the Buderim community. John managed the main store in Maleny, owned by his friend and fellow English migrant, John Tytherleigh. John and Lillian both died at Maleny, Lillian in 1949, aged 67 and John in 1959, aged 79.

A Great Bargain. Buderim Mountain STORE FOR SALE and removal.

The well-known, up-to-date General Store lately occupied by J. S. Waters. Hardwood building, ceiled and painted. Dimensions: 59 feet x 12 feet, subdivided: three counters, one 18 ft. x 3 ft. x 2 ft. 9 in.; one 15 ft. x 3 ft. x 2 ft. 9 in., with three drawers; one 10 ft. x 3 ft. x 2 ft. 9 in., with eight stock bins, also about 750 super feet of 12 x 1 shelving. 1000-gal. galv. tank. A garage, 18 x 12, all galvanised iron.

PRICE: £250. Terms Cash.

Apply Mr. J. S. WATERS, who resides on the premises, or H. DYER, Landsborough.

¹ *Chronicle & North Coast Advertiser*, Jan 16, 1914, p. 4, Advertising.

² *Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, September 12, 1930, p. 2, Advertising.

1914

In 1914 **William Penn Mitchell** opened a butcher's shop opposite the present school oval. He had learned how to butcher an animal by watching butchers at work at Eudlo. He built his shop on Main Street and had a slaughter yard where the sports fields are now on Ballinger Road.¹ Business was good and Mitchell opened a second shop at Mooloolaba on River Esplanade in the early 1920s.

Each morning Bill would load fresh meat on his horse and ride to Mooloolaba, while his wife Lottie managed the Buderim shop. Bill's cattle came from Goomeri by train to Woombye, then up Mons Road over Buderim and down to the slaughter yard.



Above is an early image of Main Street probably about 1916. The nearest shop on the left is Mitchell's butcher shop, next then is Middleton's house, then Middleton's first store. Tram infrastructure shows it is 1915 or later. No telephone poles, so it is before 1921. At the far end of the road in the distance is Grant's store. The underlining consisting of dashes indicates the photographer was James Dyble.

In 1929 Bill built the shop shown on the right.² It was sold to Dave Weakley in 1941 and later passed to Dave's son, Colin, who many local readers would remember. It was demolished in 1984 to make way for The Hub development. In 1919 he advertised 'for sale, one first-class bullock team, young, good condition, 18 bullocks, 5 inch wagon and gear.'



In 1927 Bill Mitchell operated a spectacular limousine known as the 'White Elephant', conducting tours of the beaches and hinterland.

¹ Ross Mitchell, 1966, *Mitchell Family*, p. 70.

² Ross Mitchell, 1966, *Mitchell Family*, p. 72.

1915

In November 1915 an era for Buderim commenced when **Ernest Middleton** (commonly known as ‘Middy’) opened a store opposite the present swimming pool.¹ Originally from Wales, he had opened a store at Eudlo in 1910. In 1914 he purchased a block of 2354 square metres (over half an acre) at Buderim opposite the Tram Station. Ernest built a house set back from Main Street and took up residence in Buderim.



The store had two parts, each with a peaked roof, with ‘tea rooms’ separate to the store and on the west side.²

By July 1916 Middy was advertising a ‘hairdressing saloon, tobacconist and billiard saloon, to let on shares or rental’.³ Old photos show a building on the western side of his store (see Appendices). According to research by historian Stuart Weir, this is on the block owned by Middy.⁴ On a photograph held by Buderim Historical Society Inc. this is authoritatively named by the photographer James Dyble as ‘another billiard room’.⁵ This building is present on several old photographs and was probably built by Middy before he tried to enlist in the Army in April 1918. On April 13, 1923 Charles Clarke and John Benjamin Woodlands were granted separate billiards licences.⁶ It is likely Clarke managed billiards in the building to the west of Middy’s first store and that Woodlands managed billiards in Middy’s new 1918 building to the east (later Middy’s second store) – more on this later.

Middy’s store was something to see. It sold everything including millinery, ‘fancy goods’, hardware and food of various kinds – in fact his slogan was ‘We sell anything and everything’. These were the days when commodities such as flour, rice and sugar were sold in bulk from sacks or barrels. All sorts of tools etc. hung from the roof and there was little spare space.

In April 1918 he attempted to join the Army and the *Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser* of April 19, 1918 advertised his business for sale.⁷ The advertisement for this proposed sale states ‘Also the adjoining allotment, on which is erected a hairdressing and billiard saloon’ (see opposite). This was before he built his second store to the east (later in 1918) and must be on his block to the west of his original store. It is shown on an annotated

Sale. Sale. Sale!	
Buderim, Eudlo, & Maroochy River.	
E. MIDDLETON, who is leaving the State offers the following for	
PRIVATE SALE	
AT BUDERIM MOUNTAIN.	
Commodious Store complete with large General stock-in-trade Plant and Outbuildings etc. Along with large seven roomed dwelling beautifully situated at the terminus of the Palm woods Tramway overlooking the Ocean and Moreton Island.	
ALSO the adjoining allotment, on which is erected a Hairdressing and Billiard saloon.	
The most valuable business sites on the Mountain.	

¹ *Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, November 19, 1915, p. 5. Eudlo, Extending Business.

² Stuart Weir, Historical/Industrial Site Record Card no. 36, 26 March 1983, held by Buderim Historical Society.

³ *Brisbane Courier*, July 19, 1916, p. 5.

⁴ Stuart Weir, Historical/Industrial Site Record Card no. 36, 26 March 1983, held by Buderim Historical Society.

⁵ A copy of this annotated photograph is presented in the Appendix on page 18.

⁶ *Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, April 13, 1923, p. 5, Nambour Court Doings.

⁷ *Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, April 19, 1918, p. 2, Advertising.

photograph from about 1922, held by Buderim Historical Society¹ as ‘another billiard room’ (see illustrations in the Appendices). His attempt to join the Army was rejected and he returned to his business interests on Buderim.²

Later that year (May to July 1918) Ernest built the second store, mentioned above, on his land a couple of blocks to the east and added a cafe and fruit shop. This was initially rented to Mrs Skilton, then to J.B. Woodlands and later to Stan Burnett (see page 10). In July 1918 Middy advertised his hairdressing, billiards, and ‘studio’ which copied, enlarged and framed photographs. The ‘studio’ part was run by Clarence Blakey, who later became well known as a local photographer.

In 1932, due to white ant problems and the Great Depression, Middy closed his first store and, after a period of a few months, he moved into the second building which he extended using sound timbers from his first store.

This second store later became a Four Square Store and was managed by Ernest’s son Glynn after his father’s death in 1959. Glynn sold the business and it became the ‘Middy’s Centre’ in 1979.³



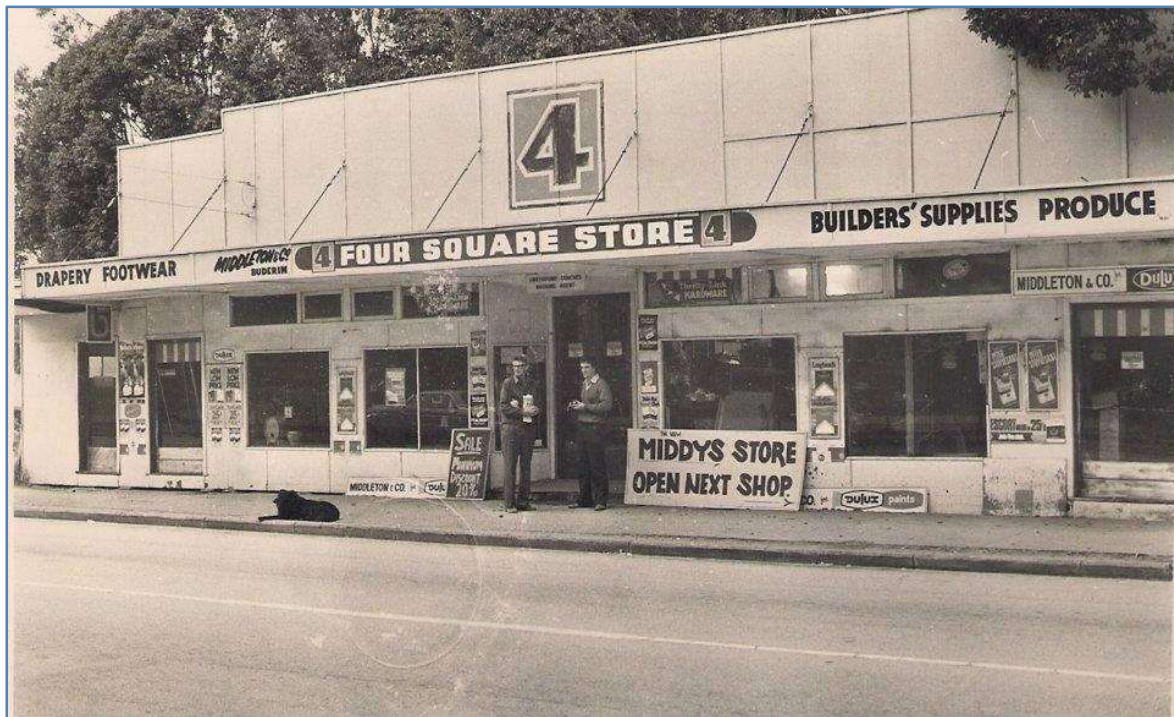
Ernest Middleton in about 1952.

Ernest Middleton, was a Shire Councillor, he was a first class football (soccer) player and was offered a contract to play in Brisbane which he rejected due to business commitments. He established the Buderim football (soccer) club and was president of the cricket club at one time and was involved in bowls and golf and was president of the Buderim Show Society and was prominent in many community groups.

¹ Buderim Historical Society has a photograph of Main Street, Buderim on which are authoritatively named all the buildings and people shown. This building is marked as ‘another billiard room’. See Appendix on page 18.

² Helene Cronin, 2015, *Buderim’s Great War Effort 1914-1918*, publ. by Helene Cronin, p. 294-5.

³ Helene Cronin, 2015, *Buderim’s Great War Effort 1914-1918*, publ. by Helene Cronin, p. 294-5.



Middleton & Co. 1970s

Ernest Middleton and billiard rooms (1916 to 1932). Between Woodward's shop and Middleton's first store there was a billiards room (see pages 8, 17 and 18). Billiards was popular on Buderim, and there were at least three saloons operating in the 1920s, 30s and 40s. Billiard saloons on Buderim in those times served soft drinks, not alcohol as they might do today. As well as the room mentioned previously run by Charles Clarke, John Benjamin Woodlands, then Stan Burnett ran one in Middy's second store building in the 1920s and W. Trotter had one on Singh's corner (see page 13). After the Second World War in 1946, the Buderim War Memorial Centre organised a Billiards and Snooker Club in the War Memorial Hall.

In 1919 Middy's new building to the east was occupied by **Mrs Skilton** who operated a small-goods, tobacconist, lollies, soft drinks and furniture shop and a hairdressing saloon.¹ Mrs Skilton and her husband Joseph George arrived in Buderim around September 1919. Joseph George had been discharged from the Army medically unfit due to constant bouts of malaria. In 1920 he was advertising as 'The Buderim Estate Agency' as well as selling furniture and other goods. By January 1922 the Skiltons had left Buderim to take up Soldier Settlement land in the township of Amiens, fifteen minutes from Stanthorpe. This business then passed to John Benjamin Woodlands who operated a billiards saloon as mentioned previously.



In November 1923 **Stan Burnett** took over Middy's second building from J. B. Woodlands. It then included a cafe/billiards saloon with carbide lights in those days before electricity arrived,² and a residence.³ This was on the site of the present Middy's Centre. Stan ran his businesses there until Ernest Middleton moved his store into the building in 1932, partly because of the Great Depression and also as his first store had become infested with white ants. The building was enlarged using the good timber from the first store, and became Middleton's second store.

¹ *Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, October 17, 1919, p. 7.

² Neil McGarvie, 1995/6, *Buderim History Timeline*, held by Buderim Historical Society.

³ *Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, April 4, 1924, p. 5, Buderim Bubbles.

1917



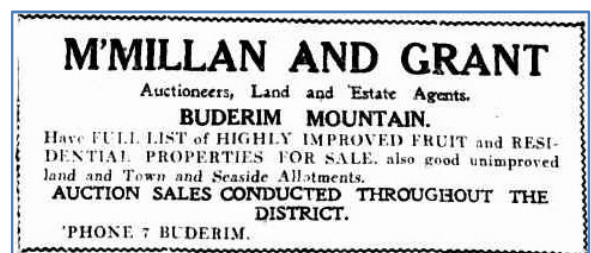
The image left is reliably dated 1917. It shows a Red Cross parade on Main Street. The shop on the left is Bill Mitchell's butcher shop. In the distant back-ground, left, is the building in which William Grant will later operate his store. Behind and to the right of the large tree is the infrastructure associated with the tram – the station, the manager's house and the carriage shed. Note the absence of telephone poles.

1921

While there are frequent references to Buderim store owners such as Ernest Middleton, John Kerle Burnett and Sion Singh, **William Thomas Grant** seems to have slipped beneath the radar. William was born in Longreach on June 9, 1894. He served in WWI (41st Battalion) age 21 – occupation, Stock Salesman. Discharged on March 27, 1919. He married Mary Mullavey on 21 April 1919. He arrived in Buderim around 1921, opening a general store approximately where the Old Post Office is now.¹ It was close to the Buderim Tramway carriage shed and is in the background of the photograph of the Red Cross parade (above). One report said he stocked 'everything from a needle to an anchor'.² The store is shown in images on pages 2 and 3.

It is not known who owned or operated the store between 1917 and 1921, when Grant came to Buderim.

The *Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser* of 21 January 1921 states Messrs R. G. McMillan and W. Grant are launching out as general commission agents (see opposite). In June 1922, William Grant became Secretary of the Buderim Progress Association. Along with James Lindsay and Captain Heape, he interviewed the Premier regarding the possible extension of the Buderim Tramway to Maroochydore and Alexandra Headland.



The *Brisbane Courier*, of 23 February 1923 reported that Mr. W. T. Grant had disposed of his property (banana farm) to Mr. Goldsmith of Wellington Point but 'Mr. Grant will continue to reside on the mountain'. On August 8, 1924, the *Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser* reported that the general business (grocery) carried on by Mr W. T. Grant for the past two years has been purchased by Mr Von Aplen who has 30 years' experience in this line in Clermont.³

¹ Helene Cronin, 2015, *Buderim's Great War Effort 1914-1918*, publ. by Helene Cronin, p. 294-5.

² *Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, April 4, 1924, p. 5, Buderim Bubbles.

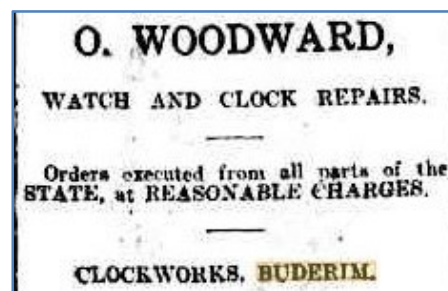
³ *Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, August 8, 1924, p. 3.

Percy Walter Von Alpen and his brother Hugo Ulrich Von Alpen were operating the store in 1925 when the *Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser* carried the following story: *A fire broke out in Mr W. Von Alpen's business premises at Buderim at 8:30 pm Tuesday evening. On arrival at the scene, it was found that the flames had secured a good hold and in a very short time the main premises and the store were completely destroyed.*¹

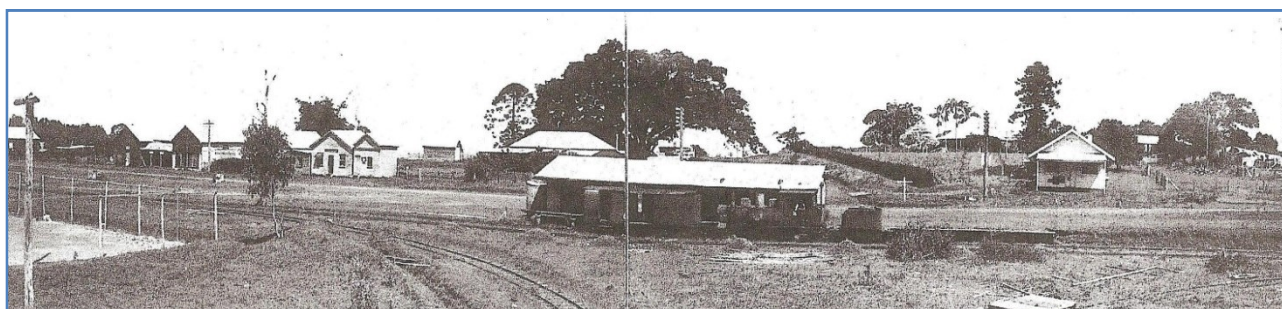
Grant left Buderim about 1925 for Cunnamulla where he ran a hotel. He returned for holidays in 1926, staying at Wharemoana Boarding House, Mooloolaba. This was the boarding house advertised on the Buderim Tram Station Wall and was run by Alma and Elizabeth Tucker.

It seems Grant was still involved with Buderim as on 28 January 1933, The *Brisbane Courier* advertised: 'NOTICE OF SALE OF LAND IN THE SHIRE OF MAROOCHY - Take notice that Warrant of Execution has been issued under the Local Authorities Act against the pieces of land described in the Schedule hereunder, and that the said pieces of land will be sold by a Bailiff of the above court, by Public Auction at the Supreme Court, Brisbane on Thursday the ninth day of February 1933 at eleven o'clock unless the respective sums including advertisement charges have been paid. Owner: William T. Gant, Buderim'.

Oliver Woodward had a watchmaking and jewellery business in a distinctive building with a two peaked roof, see photo below. It is also obvious in the Appendices. It was situated between Middleton's first store and J.K. Burnett's store and opened in 1921.² On 21 October 1914, Oliver Woodward was listed as a Buderim Mountain labourer.



His obituary tells us that 'he came to Australia by the P. and O. Steamship, *Geelong*, arriving at Sydney in April, 1913'. 'He arrived at Buderim Mt. in the late part of 1914. The late Mr. Woodward had for many years been engaged in the business of watchmaker and jeweller, and proved a great benefit to the residents of the district. For some months, however, his continued ill-health has prevented him from carrying on his business. He never married'.



This image has been identified as being after 1933 as the Shay tender is attached to the Krauss locomotive. The prominent white building to the right is Mitchell's butcher shop, built by Bill Mitchell in 1929, behind it with the palm trees and tall pine tree is J.K. Burnett's house, now Pioneer Cottage. Partially obscured by the station is J.K. Burnett's old store, then moving to the left is Oliver Woodward's white, twin-peaked building, then a billiards parlour, then Middleton's two-part first store which appears to be being demolished, then extreme left is Middleton's second store (occupied prior to 1932 by Stan Burnett). In the foreground left are the Buderim Central tennis courts.

¹ *Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, July 17, 1925, p. 3, Fire at Buderim.

² *Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, January 21, 1921, p. 4.

1922

William James Salway came to Buderim in 1922.¹ There was no bakery on Buderim at that time and William saw his chance. In February he purchased part of Sion Singh's business interests on the corner of Gloucester Road and Main Street and opened a modern bakery.² William Salway brought his wife Anne and four children, to Buderim from their home at Mutdapilly near Ipswich.



He employed a baker, Jack Cahill, and was soon supplying bread to Buderim and district. He delivered three times a week selling 1200 loaves each week on Buderim and a further 600 at Mooloolaba and Maroochydore.³ His two-horse bread wagon was a familiar sight on Buderim (see above). At the Gloucester Centre on the corner of Gloucester Road and Main Street there is a memorial consisting of an old baker's oven with an explanatory plaque which tells us that William Salway had Buderim's first bakery on the site. William died in 1956 and is buried in the Buderim Cemetery.⁴

In January 1924 Sion Singh leased/rented his general business to William Henry Trotter who operated the store adding a billiards saloon and refreshment room.⁵ Ownership of the freehold was retained by Sion Singh. In February 1924 Salway sold the bakery to C.W.F. Kleeman⁶ who, in 1925, sold it to **Crack & Co.**,⁷ this company consisting of Norman Fielding and Alf Crack, with Herbert Fielding⁸ as a 'silent' partner. Through these sales/business deals Sion Singh retained ownership of the freehold.

On March 25 1926, a fire destroyed Singh's original building, but the bakery, which was described in a newspaper (see right) as being 'opposite' the store was apparently untouched.⁹ 'Opposite' cannot be correct as the Methodist Church was opposite across Gloucester Road and the School of Arts was opposite on the other

Fire at Buderim.

STOREKEEPER'S PREMISES DESTROYED.

On Wednesday evening last the store owned by Mr. Sion Singh; and occupied by Mr. W. Trotter, who conducted a storekeeping business, and opposite Messrs. Fielding and Crack's bakery, was burnt to the ground. How the blaze started is not known, but it was first noticed at about 10.30 p.m. by Denny Books, who immediately gave the alarm, with the result that a good number of residents who live handy were soon on the scene. By this time, however, the conflagration had such a hold that nothing could be accomplished towards saving the building; or stock. For a time it looked as if Mr. J. G. Bate's residence, which is in close proximity, would be engulfed, but the efforts of those present, who formed a bucket brigade, averted the spread of the fire. Both the shop and its contents were insured, but for what amount was not ascertainable when going to press.

¹ *Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, February 24, 1922, p. 2.

² It seems that Salway did not purchase the general store business, as in 1924 Singh sold this to W. Trotter (see page 13).

³ Stan Tutt, 1994, *Sunshine Coast Heritage*, Discount Press, Sunshine Coast, Queensland, p. 270.

⁴ *Complete History, Gloucester Street Bakery*, file held by BHS, 2.5.7.2.1, author unknown, poss. S. Weir or H. Lindsell.

⁵ *Brisbane Courier*, January 29, 1924, p.8, Sale of Business.

⁶ *Brisbane Courier*, February 4, 1924, p. 9.

⁷ *Brisbane Courier*, April 29, 1925, p. 11.

⁸ A note on the Fielding family: John Herbert Fielding (1826-1890), along with Joseph Dixon, established a sugar mill on Buderim in 1876. He had a son Herbert Victor (1876-1947), who had three children: William Norman (1905-1975) known as 'Norman' or 'Bill', Herbert Francis (1907-2007) usually known as 'Frank' and Alice Grimmett.

⁹ *Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, March 26, 1926, p. 7.

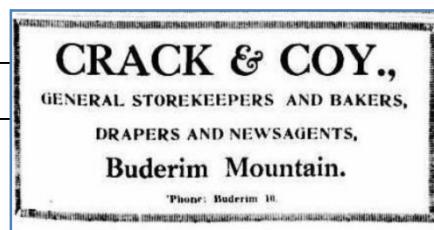
corner. Almost certainly it was beside the store. After the fire Trotter managed Middleton's interests in Buderim.

In June 1929 James Salway purchased Singh's corner block and, in August that year, subdivided it and sold part (37.9 perches) to Crack & Co.¹

In 1931 Crack & Co modified the bakery building and

Brisbane Courier, 27 Nov. 1931.

opened a general store on the corner.² The bakery was then in a small building attached to the side of the general store. This was certainly the case in the 1950s (Bev Lavarack pers. comm.).



Ivor Ede worked there as a baker before the Second World War. After serving as a prisoner of war, Ivor returned to again work in the bakery. William Salway's son Frank ('Solly') was employed in the bakery before the War. After serving in the Middle East and New Guinea, Solly bought a bakehouse at Mooloolaba in Hancock Lane. In the early 1950s he purchased the Buderim bakery started by his father thirty years before, and continued to deliver bread to Buderim, Mooloolaba and Maroochydore. He sold the business in 1967 to Geoff Fresser, a Maroochydore baker.

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Summary of shops operating in 1924 in Central Buderim

In 21 December 1923 Page 6, the *Nambour Chronicle & North Coast Advertiser* recorded the following: *PROGRESS. Since the tramway was constructed, the district has grown wonderfully. The township now boasts of four flourishing general stores, a sawmill, bakery, farriery, butcher, jewellers' shop, and all of the usual business establishments of a growing town.*

These stores etc. were run by the following Buderim residents in 1924 in Main St. and nearby.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| • J.W. Sargood | Blacksmith |
| • Ernest Middleton | 'Forward Store' & Tearooms |
| • John Waters | 'Up to Date Store' |
| • Stan Burnett | Fruit shop with café and Billiards |
| • James Salway | Bakery |
| • William Thomas Grant | General store |
| • Oliver Woodward | Jeweller, watchmaker |
| • William Penn Mitchell | Butcher |
| • William Henry Trotter | General store, tea rooms and billiards |

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1930 – 1970 Singh's Corner and Lower Main Street

The 'Top Shop' and the 'Bottom Shop'.

William Norman Fielding gained ownership of two shops after his father, Herbert Victor, retired in 1940, one at the top of the hill on Main Street (the 'top shop') and one at the bottom of the hill was the 'bottom shop'. In June 1946 Norman was trading as 'Buderim Stores'.

¹ Legal property documents held by Buderim Historical Society.

² *Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, January 10, 1930, p.1.

The **‘bottom shop’**. (See extreme right), This was later Woodriff’s Electrical Goods shop with a small ES&A Bank building beside it, and is on the site of the bottom shop. This shop was partly on the site of Buderim’s first store, established by J.K. Burnett in 1887. The original store building was purchased by Herbert Fielding in 1934 and moved back and the new store built in front. This was known as ‘the bottom shop’ and later became Woodriff’s Electrical Goods store. The bottom shop was



largely operated as a convenience for Fielding’s customers from the western end of Buderim, who didn’t want to walk up the hill to the top shop.¹ In the late 1950s Norman Fielding sold the bottom shop to T.E Woodriff. Fielding later built a row of shops to the east of this shop. In about 1964 Joyce Simper opened a small gift shop in the small ES&A Bank building beside Woodriff’s shop. In 1966 Tom and Joyce Simper purchased the newsagency from Norman Fielding and reopened it in Woodriff’s old building. A year later they extended their shop right to the corner of Ballinger Road.²

At the **top shop** Norman Fielding and his partner Alf Crack operated a bakery on the premises at Singh’s corner from 1925 on to the 1950s. In 1930 Herbert Fielding altered the building, opening a grocery store along with the bakery attached (see advertisement on the previous page.) Between the fire in 1926 and 1930, there was no store on the corner partly because of the nearby John Waters’ store. Herbert Fielding retired in 1940 and his son William Norman Fielding gained ownership of both shops, adding a newsagent and petrol bowser to the top shop.



The Top Shop Left: Locals gather for a chat in front of the top shop in 1935. Left to right - Ben Ede, Eddie Bell, Len Sorensen, Laurie Bell, Tom Atkinson, Rick Sorensen, Billy Iscak, Henry Iscak. (Photo Glynda Jones).

Right: The top shop on the right, as it appeared in 1955. War Memorial Hall on the left.

1940 – 1970 the Depot.

The Buderim Depot was situated on the corner of King and Church Streets across the road from the War Memorial Hall. It was a central location where local farmers brought their produce to be trucked to the markets in Brisbane.

¹ Joyce Simper, pers. comm.

² Joyce Simper, pers. comm.



The Depot is the white building with a single window. It was situated on the site originally purchased from W. Bartholomew by Sion Singh in 1922. Bartholomew's house is the large building, centre left. Singh developed a bulk store there. He attempted to sell it but failed, and he retained ownership until at least 1932.¹

In 1946 the Depot was operating with trucks loading fruit and vegetables and proceeding to the Brisbane markets.² It is reasonable to assume that Sion Singh's bulk store evolved into the Buderim Depot between 1932 and 1946. In 1946 a Public Notice advised: *As from the 1st March, Webb's North Coast Special Delivery Service will operate from the new depot, Buderim Mountain.*³

Public Notice

AS from the 1st March, Webb's North Coast Special Delivery Service will operate from the new depot, Buderim Mountain. Brisbane run will run as usual, leaving Buderim Mt. at 5 a.m., via Mooloolaba and Marcochydore. Consignments picked up from farms for transhipment to Brisbane.

Local carting catered for at hourly rates.

'Phone 18, Mooloolaba, or call at Buderim Depot for service.

Lorelle Flanagan and Beverley Lavarack, who both remembered the Depot from the 1950s, stated that successive owners or operators of the Depot included: Geoff and Ernie Reeves (possibly the first owners), Vic Jones, Audrey Jones (after her husband, Vic, was accidentally electrocuted) and Peter and David Wise who were the last owners. This was confirmed by Peter Wise.

As well as acting as a depot, the business also sold fruit and vegetables to local residents (pers. comm. Beverley Lavarack). In the early 1970s the volume of produce became too large, resulting in the closure of the Depot, with produce being sent to Woombye for shipment to the Brisbane markets (pers. comm. Peter Wise). The site later became a service station and is now part of the Sunshine Coast Council's Buderim Village Park.

¹ *Brisbane Courier*, Farming and Pastoral Properties, September 30, 1932, p. 21.

² *Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, May 3, 1946, p. 7.

³ *Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, February 22, 1946, p. 3.

Acknowledgements

Beverley Lavarack for her memories and knowledge of Buderim in the 1950s and 60s, for her family's memories of earlier times and for printing on the map on page 18. Similarly **Lorelle Flanagan** for her memories of Buderim in the 1950s and 60s.

Neil McGarvie OAM for encouragement over the years and for his detailed Timelines for Buderim (held by the authors and by BHS).

Noel Williams for advice on old motor cars and other matters.

Peter Wise for advice on the Buderim Depot.

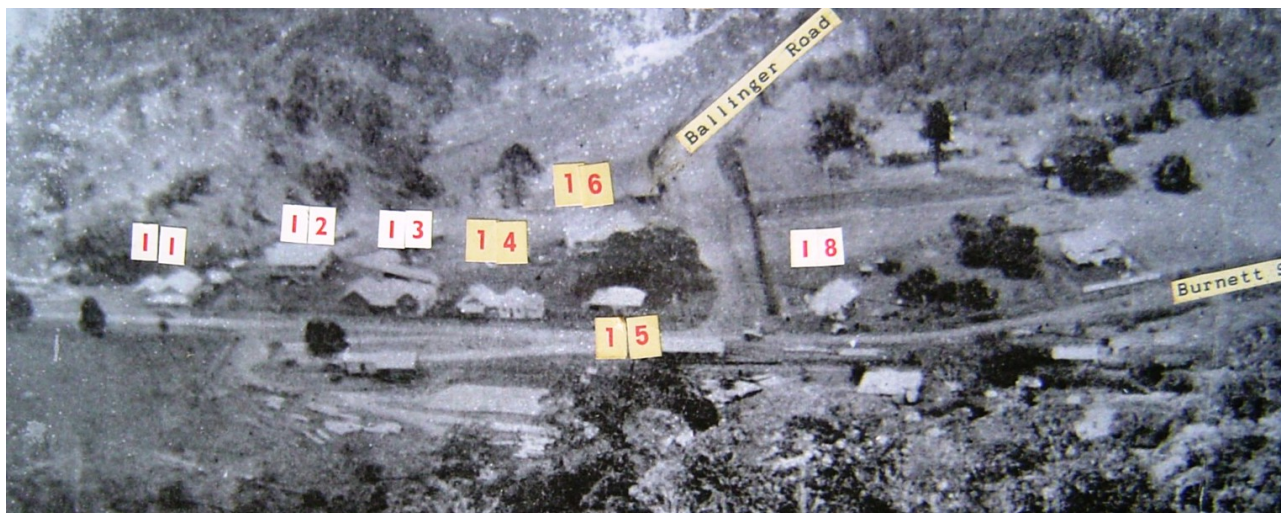
Sources

The information on which this paper is based came from two major sources: (1) Helene Cronin's extensive data base on Buderim and its residents and (2) research for Bill Lavarack's book *Stories of Old Buderim* published in 2014. Important references are given in the text or as a footnote.

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Appendices - Photographs and maps of Central Buderim.

Appendix 1 Central Buderim shops early 1930s. *From a photograph held by Jim Hennell and by BHS.*



- 11 Stan Burnett's tea rooms and billiards (Middleton's second store in 1932);
- 12 Ernest Middleton's house;
- 13 Ernest Middleton's first store;
- 14 Billiard room and beside it is Oliver Woodward's watchmaker and jeweller;
- 15 Tram Station and above it is John Kerle Burnett's old store occupied by Salvatore Scerri;¹
- 16 Gilbert Nomnus residence;
- 18 Bill Mitchell's second butcher shop (built in 1932).

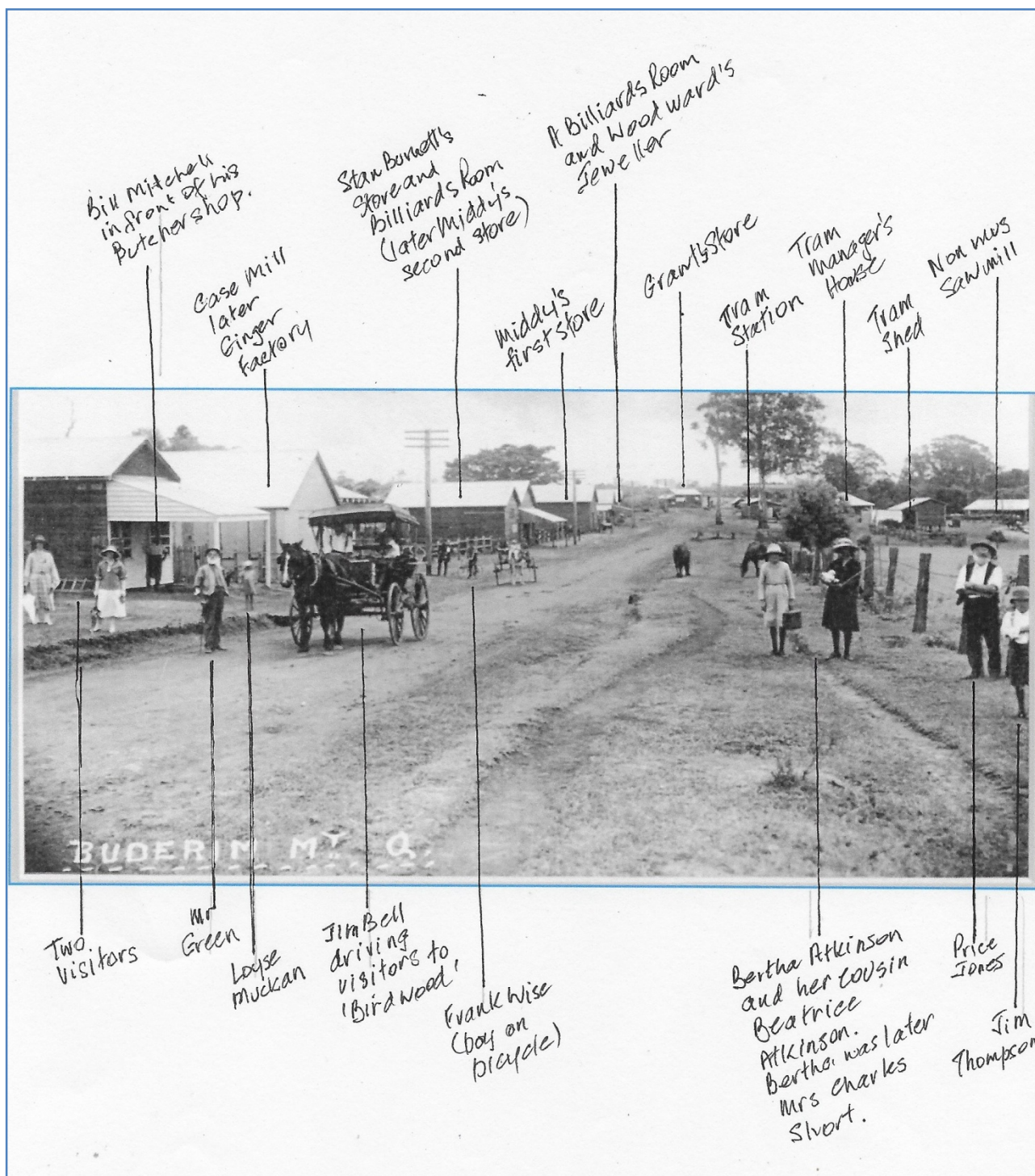
¹ Salvatore was from Malta and had much experience in citrus fruit culture. He arrived in Australia around 1912 and worked at the Nambour Sugar Mill. The 1922 Australian Census records him as a gardener.

Appendix 2

Buderim Main Street between 1921 and 1924.

Note the telephone poles which were installed in August 1921, also Grant's Store in the centre background, which was burned down in July 1924. The Tram from Palmwoods has recently arrived and a few passengers are evident.

The names on this image were copied from an enlargement on the wall of the Museum Room in Pioneer Cottage. On the image below the handwritten legend on the base is underlined with a series of white dashes or dots. This indicates that the photographer was James Arthur Dyble (1882-1958), and it is reasonable to assume he was responsible for identifying and naming the buildings and the people on the image.

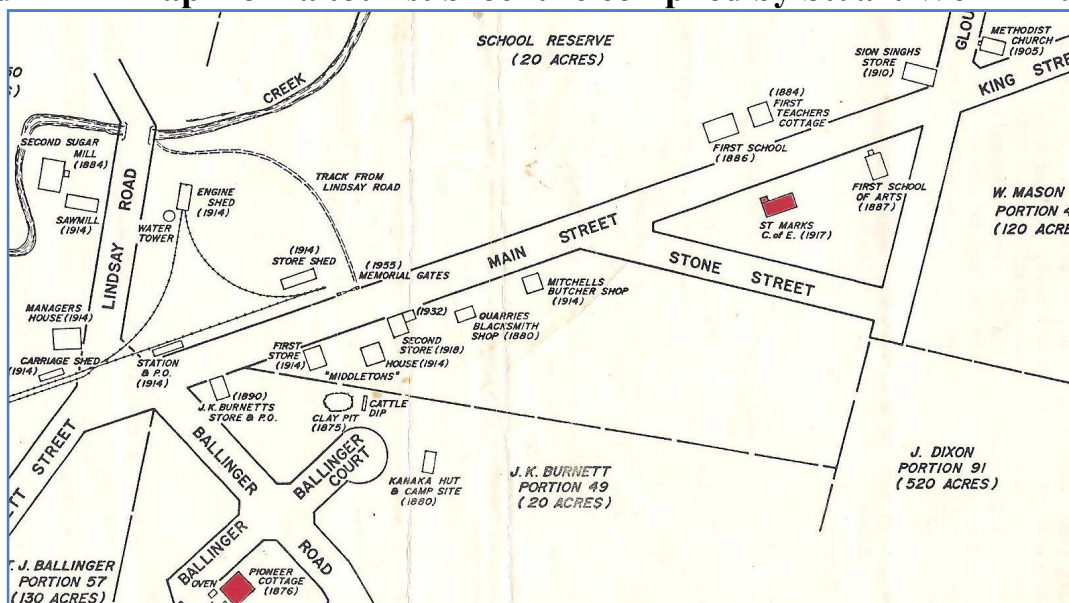


Compare with map below.



The above image shows the Central Tennis Courts (just above centre of image), the Old Post Office on the junction of Main and Burnett Streets (at that time a new building). To the right of centre in a line along Main Street are: JK Burnett's store, Woodward's store, a billiard room, Middy's 1st store (not yet fully demolished), Middy's house, Middy's 2nd store and then the case mill. On the mid left is the saw mill and, towards the top, a very small, dark rectangular building which is the carriage from the Tramway, being used for worker accomodation.

Appendix 4 Map from a tourist brochure compiled by Stuart Weir in 1986



This map is from a brochure promoting a walking tour of central Buderim and shows the buildings in central Buderim as they were in about 1920. Note that Grant's store is not shown. It was adjacent to the carriage shed (extreme left), the site now occupied by the Old Post Office.

Note that some dates given above are incorrect: Pioneer Cottage should be 1882, not 1876; Quarrie's blacksmith should be 1883 not 1890; J.K. Burnett's store should be 1887, not 1890; Middleton's first store and house should be 1915, not 1914, Most of the buildings shown are discussed above. Others such as Pioneer Cottage, the sawmill and the second sugar mill are outside the area discussed here. *From the files of the Buderim Historical Society.*