

# Eulogy Earl Symonds

2/2/1916---9/2/2012

Earl was born on 2-2-1916 at Temora Hospital as it was said the Parkes hospital was not up to standard at the time He was the second eldest of five children Merle Dec Earl Keith Dec Vera Dec Roy At Rosedurnate

He left school at 13-14 years old as He was needed on the farm (the Gums a part of the original Goobang station,}. This didn't mean he was not a bright student as some years later whilst staying with Joy and Rob they were doing accounts. Joy was reading out the figures and Rob was punching it into an adding machine. Before he had pushed to total button Dad had sprouted out the correct answer. He had done all the calculations in his head. He was often asked by people with higher qualifications to come up with solutions to problems and inevitably he would come up with a solution. The faithful ready reckoner was never far away far data

On leaving School He worked on some farms for contract using his Fathers second horse team Plowing Chipping Burrs and fencing

Dad was called up during the war with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Army Troop Coy (Engineers Known as The blue ducks) Time was spent in Katherine Alice springs Darwin and other places in the Northern Territory

Whilst there he became lonely so one of the other members of the Army Joe Doust suggested he write to his sister Grace. On one leave he went from Darwin to Adelaide then back to Parkes and Fifield to meet Mum.. The initial meeting was standoffish as they were both shy and reserved people. They were Married on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1946 and Moved to a tin hut at Myralee where dad was share farming.

After a mix up with the banks and solicitor where he lost his deposit on a new farm, he also lost the share farming and worked for sometime in town with the caterpillar company in Parkes. When this job fell through he started his own farm machinery business there and eventually moved to the outskirts of Parkes town just after Graham was born

Here they raised all their Children Phillip, Brian, Rose, Milton, Graham, Ian Lesle Karen or Joy.

Dad worked from 6am to 10pm most days as he said” I’ve gotta keep the wolves from the door “At no time were we ever hungry or wanting of the necessitates of life .Some people paid by stock or eggs or some other means when they had no Cash on hand.

Dad and Mum in the early days never went on holidays except to visit family at Fifield over Christmas each year. When Phil and I become involved in the town band, Dad and Mum became involved in fundraising. During this time He Help shift the OLD RSL building to the Cook Park for a new Band Hall. He also fixed many music stand and Instruments Made trestles and tables out of old pipes and packing boxes just to save the band some money. It was here he met Pat and Harry white (now deceased) who become good friends of the family. They introduced us to the annual Family Camping Holidays on the beach every year> this was a great time for the family and included many fishing expeditions to supplement the family budget and save on meat

Phillip did his apprenticeship as a fitter and turner with dad. Some of the jobs beside general farm repairs were reconditioning Crawler tractor tracks and rollers ,Changing iron tyred farm vehicles to rubber tyred farm vehicles and as always plenty of picks ,crowbars and jackhammer points to build up and sharpen. One time a guy turned up From Wollongong with at trailer load of these for dad to do as he said “They don’t bend shatter or wear down easily. His comment was” he was the only person who could do it properly “They also built bulk wheat bins on the back of trucks for harvest transport when bulk delivery of wheat came in.

After an antique farm Machinery day at the Parkes Show, Dad became more interested in the old farm equipment machinery and wanted a record kept for the coming generations. He used his old home made crane and a trailer and collected a lot of farm gear for the museum. He has been quoted as saying he used about 44 gallons of fuel a fortnight which he paid for out of his own pocket. Mum would also go with him on these travels. He also donated and sold some of the eight acre block so they could have somewhere to put this equipment Establishing sheds and moving Buildings on the site including the Wongalea school and the Goobang Church where he had attended as a child

In latter years he was involved in the men's shed where people just met and talked about the old times which he thoroughly enjoyed

In growing up the children all had chores to do either in the shed or around the house in the garden etc One chore was cleaning bricks and pulling nails out of second hand wood as over a process of time dad moved four houses to the bottom of the block, initially for rental but each one was sold at a base price to the eldest children when they married to start them off in life. The rest of the children were given a helping hand in some way by cash etc. He did this so we could have a better start in life and I know I was very thankful for this as I was starting out with a new family.

He would often go to clearing sales and buy a heap of scrap iron just for one piece in it. Before he left the sale he would generally sell other items in it plus using his crane would pay for the fuel and outing for the day. The rest of the scrap would be placed in a heap in the back yard. Years later he could still send someone down to the heap to collect a piece that they required from it

The shed became a meeting place and focal point for the boys as they repaired cars upgraded engines and made trailers Cement mixers etc. over the years Dad was innovative in the units he built from scrap iron Chairs ,cement mixers saw benches wood slitters cranes and all sorts of equipment was manufactured to meet the needs of his customers.

In his early years he was involved with the freemasons in the "Lodge star of the West" and the "Blue Lodge "He revisited this after retirement

At another time he did a display for the sword turning into a ploughshare as mentioned in the Bible and this is on display in the rear of the Anglican Church Parkes

After retirement he enjoyed to travel. He visited family in Papua New Guinea USA and at Gosford. He also went on numerous bus tours. These entire journeys were taken with the faithful Grace by his side. They rarely went anywhere unless they were together, Dad loved his sea food especially his feed of prawns at family gatherings He was one to ever say much but enjoyed seeing his family especially the Grandkids

His latter days after the death of Grace were spent at the Southern Cross Village where he said "Good food, company and a warm bed, what more can a man want?"

I have found dad very quiet and a reserved person, true to his word and not willing to back down if he knew he was right, a willing listener and always supportive. He enjoyed the simple things of life. Hard work and, Integrity was important to him. More important than all the goods we can acquire.

On closing I would like to comment on the strength of his Hand grip. Even in old age he could grip you like a vice. Even when he was very ill in recent weeks when you squeeze his hand he gave you a large squeeze back .His life was built about the anvil of time and shaped by his hard work and the family he loved.

We Miss you dad

Brian