



VALE

In the "Norfolk Island Times" of May 24th, 1933 kindly given to us by Rod Karl, we read:

"The death occurred on Thursday last of an old and respected resident, Mrs. Laing (Aunt Fan) at the age of 68. The deceased lady had been ill for some time and died in hospital after a serious operation.

She was a daughter of Thomas Buffett. She is survived by a sister, Mrs. Selina Buffett, a Pitcairner, and two brothers, Harry Buffett and John Edward (Snarr) Buffett, her husband Edward Baron Laing and 10 children, one of whom, Bert Laing, was a member of the famous All Black Team while Albert represented New Zealand against the last English team.

The deceased lady is mourned by a large circle of friends and relatives to whom we extend our sincere sympathy".

One of those surviving 10 children, Julius Cecil Churchill Laing - passed away on Tuesday, January 5th only a fortnight away from his 82nd Birthday - he was born on 19th January 1900 on Norfolk Island,

Jules father, a Scotsman, came to Norfolk on a whaling ship and married Fanny Buffett. ... (Aunt Fan). Jules was only 18 months old when his parents went to live in Wahi, New Zealand and it was not until 1928 that the family returned to Norfolk. Of the 12 children of the marriage, only 4 were born in New Zealand - the others on Norfolk Island..

A footballer of renown, Jules was chosen to represent New Zealand in the All Blacks team but had the misfortune to break his ankle just before leaving for England and his brother Bert (as above) was chosen in his stead.

However, from 1928 onwards, Jules took up golf and for several years was Golf Champion - he was a Life Member of the Norfolk Island Golf Club - then he turned to bowls and played in 7 Bounty Tournaments.

During his lifetime on Norfolk Island Jules delivered bread on horseback (his father then the local baker), laboured for the late Pop Dewey, worked for the late Charles Welsh in the butchery was a member of the whaling company until it ceased operation in 1960 and was also a member of the Administration Works force.

At the outbreak of World War II, Cassie (Kathleen) Jules wife and he sold up all their household goods by auction (they lived on Pine Avenue) and went to Sydney for the purpose of Jules joining up. He was classed 'medically unfit' and they returned to Norfolk after what they described as 'our eleven days' wonder trip to Sydney'. They then had to set to and build another home, which Jules did, in New Cascade Road and that has been their home to the present time. Not to be outdone Jules joined the Norfolk Island Militia and became a Corporal Cook - and a very good one, according to Cassie.

Nothing, even the last few years during which he has been more or less an inmate of the Norfolk Island Hospital, could daunt that wicked twinkle in his eyes and the ever-present wit which made Jules so much loved by all who knew him. He was one of the 'old school' of gentle, courteous Norfolkers whose passing leaves not only his wife and family but Norfolk Island bereft.

To Cassie and daughters Jean (Sims) and Dolores (Davies) and their families, the many, many friends both here and on the mainlands - to Norfolk Island - sincere sympathies.

We have also received the sad news of the death in Palmerston North, New Zealand, on 28th December, of Val Hill, a Norfolker, twin daughter of the late David Buffett (Jnr.) and Susan Florence Quintal.

Val had been ill for quite some while and we hear that Dolly Mitchell has been a tower of strength to Val and family during that time.

Twin sister is Flore Ireton also of New Zealand. Brothers are Gilbert, Moresby and Austin (Cup) Buffett. Readers may remember that Cup was here only a couple of weeks ago from Burrill Lake on the south coast, out of Sydney.

Our sympathies are extended to Val's family - relatives, and their many friends.

Address for cards is 16 New Haven Place, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

Jack and Rose Robinson of New Zealand, long-time friends of the late Jules Laing and Cassie, specially 'phoned on Thursday asking us to extend to Cassie and her family their sincere sympathies in the loss of their dear friend Jules.