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LOCAL HISTORY
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'ADVERTISER' 1994

BUN BASHAM

**BORN 'PLEASANT BANKS' 2/1/1910
DIED S.C.D.H., VICTOR HARBOR 27/9/2007**

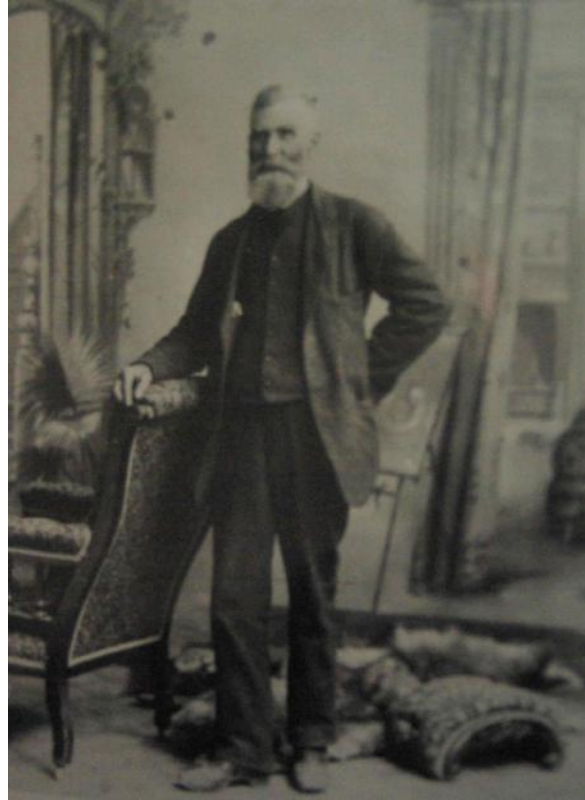
**BOOK COMPILED BY G.W. (FRODO) KROCHMAL,
DOROTHY & LINTON JACOBS**



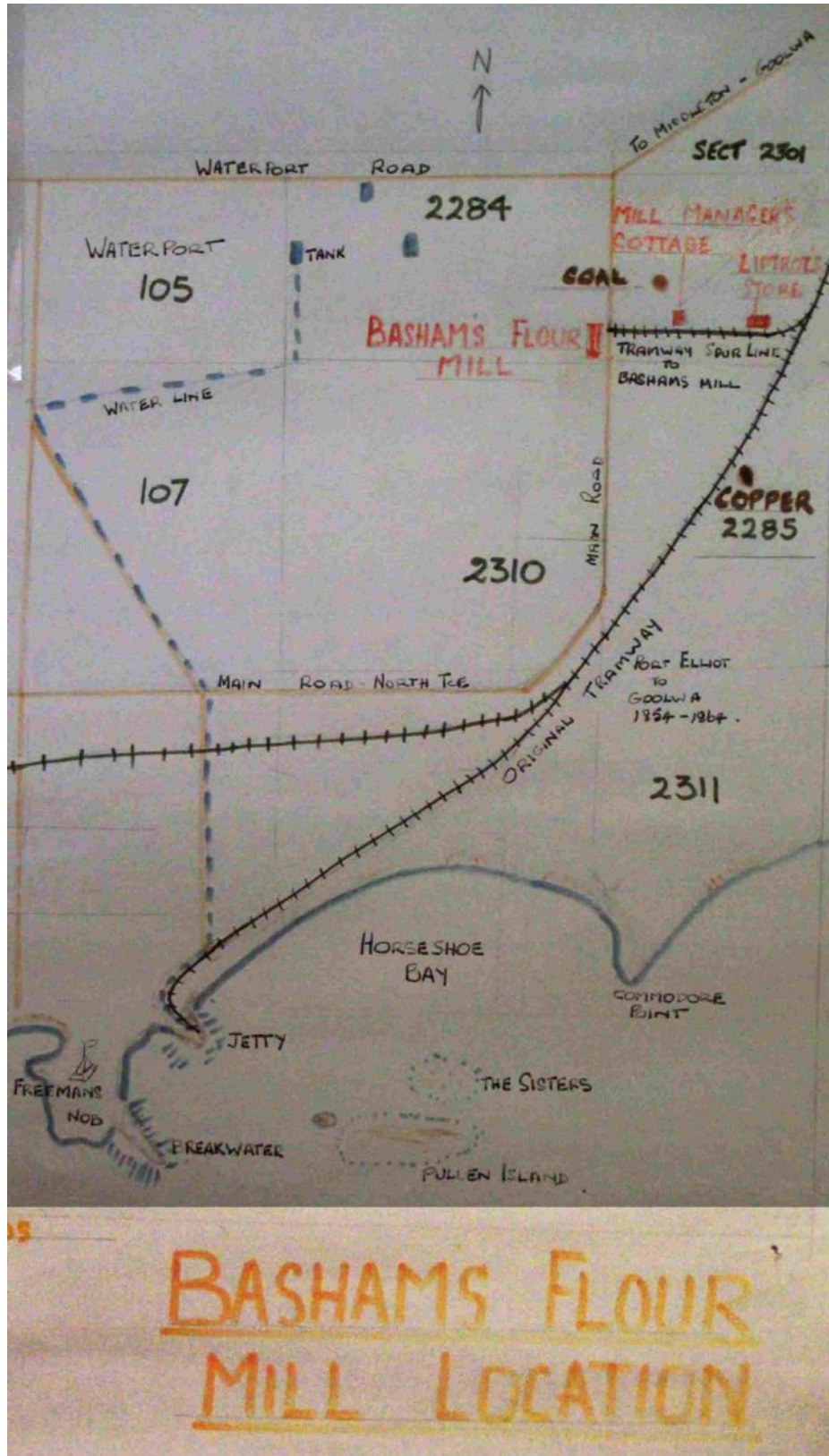
William Basham early settler
Hindmarsh Valley, from Pt Elliot
National Trust Collection



The 'Jolly Miller'



CA Basham, son of William, from Pt
Elliot National Trust Collection



Basham's flour mill location. Map by L. Pomery, from Pt. Elliot National Trust Collection

BASHAM'S STEAM FLOUR MILL

On December 17, 1852 a prospectus for building a Steam Flour Mill in Port Elliot was issued...

'A Capital of Two Thousand Pounds (\$190,000) shall be raised in Four Hundred Shares at Five Pounds (\$475) per share for the purpose of building a Steam Flour Mill as near as circumstances will admit to the Harbour at Port Elliot.'

In 1854 two acres of land being part of Section 2284, Hundred of Goolwa were purchased from Thomas Dodd the elder for £60 (\$5,700) and the mill was erected in 1855, possibly to the design of Edmund Wright.

Water was piped from the springs at Waterport direct to the mill.

A spur-line was constructed between Basham's Mill and the main line for the raiiling of flour, bran, pollard and wheat from the Mill to the Seaport. Wheat cost 3 shillings & 10 pence (\$18) per bushel and a bag of flour cost £1/3/- (\$110).



Basham's Mill at Port Elliot... Today all that remains is a mound of dirt and a small heap of stones.

Basham's Steam Flour Mill, from display at Port Elliot National Trust Railway Station

Later in 1858 the Southern Argus recorded:

'STEAM FLOUR MILL FOR SALE

The Port Elliot Mill with COTTAGE and SHEDS, situate on two acres of land near the Township, together with two valuable allotments forming the corner block of the opposite section. This property is close to the Port Elliot and Goolwa Tramway and shipments can be made with equal convenience from either Port Elliot or Goolwa. The Mill contains two pair of Stones and is worked by a good engine. The storage room is unusually large.

Apply to D.M. MACKIE, Port Elliot
ELDER, STIRLING & CO., ADELAIDE'

Mr William Basham purchased the mill from Thomas Elder for £1,450 in 1866 and later in 1871 he sold to JF Smith for £700. In 1876 the property was sold for £100 (\$9,500).

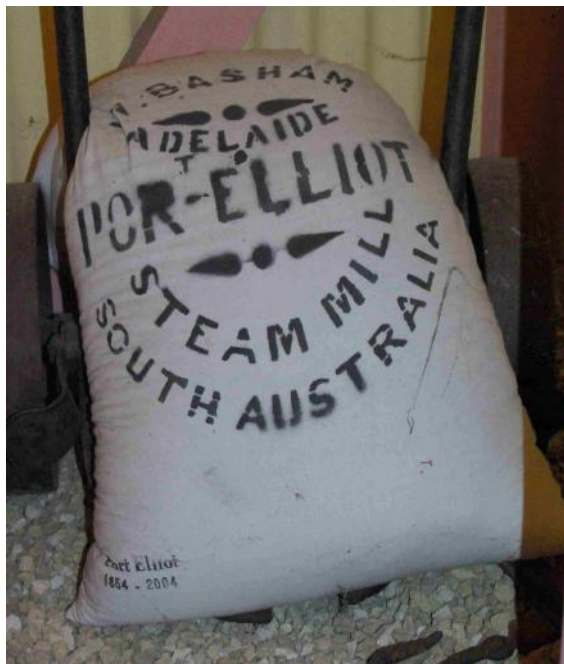
In 1892 it was returned to a rural property. Later the huge mill was demolished and the stone used in road making.



Flour bags on board flat top truck



Basham stencil, from Pt. Elliot National Trust Collection



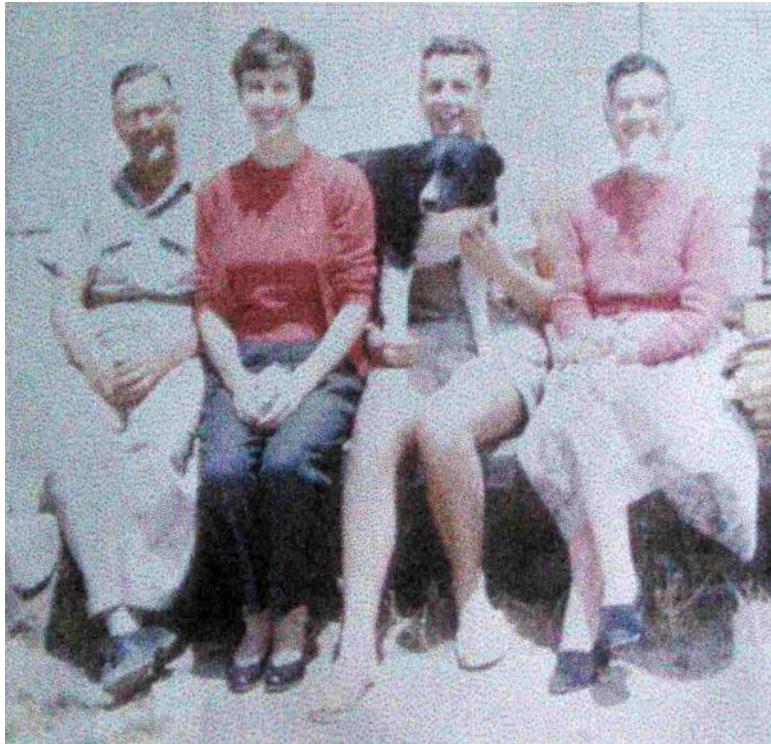
Flour bag with Basham stencilling, PE Nat Trust Collection



Bernard & Bess (Elizabeth) on front wall, Pleasant Banks, 1933 They married
25 Aug 1934



Elizabeth Basham 1975



Bun, Janet, Roger (with Laddie) and Bess at
Louisville, Feb. 1960



Janet (now Renk), Bun & Roger.
Bun's 95th Birthday, 2/1/2005



Roger and Laddie at Louisville – February 1960



Louisville 2009

(Situated on the main road between Port Elliot & Middleton)



Pinecroft, 7 Murray Terrace



B.H. Basham & great-grandson Thomas Hastings 30 Dec 2001



B.H. Basham being interviewed at Royal Adelaide Show Sept 2006

TAPE 1 - SIDE A

Interview with Bun Basham at Port Elliot on 20th July, 2000.

Interviewer: Rob Linn.

Bun, now I happen to know that you were born in January 1910. Am I right?

BB: That's correct.

Could you tell me a little bit about your parents and your family, Bun?

BB: Yes. My mother was a Scrymgour-Blanche Scrymgour-the Scrymgours that had the stationery in King William Street in Adelaide.

They were printers too, weren't they?

BB: Printers. That's right, yes. And my dad lived at Pleasant Banks all his life, and I've lived here in the district all my life.

And what were their names, Bun?

BB: Blanche Winifred Basham and Charles William Hussey Basham.

So Husseys come into it as well, do they?

BB: Husseys? Yes.

That's an old Port Elliot name.

BB: Yes. I can remember when they had their drags and that-horses-just down the end of Murray Terrace here-Port Elliot. Down where Joe Barton is living at the present time.

Down where Joe is?

BB: Yes.

And, Bun, what are your first memories of Pleasant Banks? Was it always a dairy?

BB: No, it wasn't always a dairy. Well, they always had a couple of cows just to send a bit of cream away. But, no, it was a mixed farm really. It was wheat-I recall carting bags of wheat to the local miller at Middleton, where the flour mill is still standing at the present time. Dad used to grow a fair bit of wheat for the people in the district-had a lot of fowls and that like, and we used to deliver wheat to the local storekeepers in Port Elliot. They'd sell it in bushel lots to make a bit of extra money out of it.

So how many acres was Pleasant Bank in those days?

BB: I've got to stop and think now. Would be approximately 300, I suppose – 350.

And all in that coastal strip?

BB: Oh, no. My eldest brother had a property here next to Port Elliot, which is all subdivided at the present time. I can recall when the first Port Elliot tennis courts were on his property. Would be a lot easier if we went around the district -

Yes, I know what you mean.

BB: I can show you everything but it's a bit harder trying to explain it.

So it was quite a large property in other words?

BB: Oh, reasonably large, yes.

Can you describe Pleasant Banks to me as a place though, Bunny? The house and the outbuildings?

BB: Oh, well, the house was only a three-roomed house when my grandfather had it first. He came there from Hindmarsh Valley. And my Dad took it over - can't tell you exactly the right date, but back in the 1800's. I had

two brothers and four sisters, and as the family grew he built on it - added to it. And it is a very reasonable - it's just got seven rooms in it. It's quite a large building. This table that we're sitting on has got two extensions that go in the middle, and I can remember down at Pleasant Banks sitting around that table with all my elder brothers and sisters with their friends. There was quite a heap of us, I can tell you.

I was going to say, Bunny, if you extended this you'd be seating-what? - about fourteen people around it, would you?

BB: Yes. It was nothing to have that many after a tennis match or a cricket match.

So, Bun, did you go to school in Port Elliot?

BB: Yes. I started in Port Elliot and then left there and they sent me down to St Peter's College in Adelaide, and put in a couple of years down there. Dad said, 'I think you'd better come home and do some work. You weren't doing too well at school'. *(Laughs)*

Well, tell me a little bit about the school here in Port Elliot, Bun.

BB: I can remember when I went there first they only had the one room with a Headmaster and an assistant, Miss Polly Golding. She taught me.

Polly Golding, was it? She was the assistant?

BB: Yes. Golding.

She was the assistant?

BB: Yes.

Who was the Head, Bun?

BB: Mr Keen. If you misbehaved, he'd stand you up at the door outside and hold his cane up and down, and he'd say to you, 'Hear it whistle? Hear it whistle?' (*Laughter*) He never hit you though. He was a very kind-hearted man.

And what was Polly Golding like? Was she interesting?

BB: No. She was a fairly elderly lady. Quite a good teacher. Very passionate with the children. But the most I can remember about it was-the most interesting part-was that it had different levels in the floor. it rose at the back. (*Laughs*) if you were lucky enough to be sitting near the back you could get out of your seat and crawl around and have a yarn with your mate up the back of the room without getting caught. (*Laughter*)

That happened a bit, did it, Bun?

BB: Quite a bit. (*Laughs*)

Who were some of your mates that you went to school with?

BB: The late Cliff Barton. Sam Beeby(?). His father had the bakehouse here. Swifts. Smiths. Greens.

Oh, yes, Greens. I've heard of them.

BB: Clarrie, Don and Ken. in fact, old Mrs Green's house was the-she used to live in, not the next one, but one south of where I'm living now.

Had most of those families been in the district for some years, Bun?

BB: Oh, yes. As long as the Bashams I think. *(Laughter)*

So you all knew each other?

BB: Yes. Oh, yes, we were all pretty good friends.

And in the school, was it all ages in the one room?

BB: Yes. It worked alright, too. Makes you wonder how these people these days complain about having too many children to teach in one grade. In those days, we were all in the one room.

And how many? What, fifty kids?

BB: Oh, would've been more than that, I think.

True?

BB: Oh, roundabout that I suppose. I can remember when the new building was built.

And, Bun, was it always a district where there was a lot of sport going on?

BB: Yes. There was always cricket. In fact, the first football that I can remember in the district was out in front of my place, out here, where it's all built up. There was only two houses out here, one just on the left on the other side of the road, and one next to the railway line. All the rest was open space.

This is Murray Terrace? There was only two houses?

BB: Yes. That's when I was in my teenage. I used to come over and watch the local footballers play. I've always barracked for Glenelg because Jim Handby played league football for Glenelg and he was a local boy. Handby had the tourist house I think.

So, Bun, did you play sport yourself?

BB: Oh, yes. Played, mainly, football. Keen on that. Played in the boarding house-the school house-at Saints for a couple of years.

You weren't a ruckman though, were you, Bun?

BB: Oh, no. *(Laughter)* Bit too small for that. I was a little rover. Played for the locals down here. And Lawrie Rosser *(couldn't decipher words)* only by about three months.

Were you talking about Lawrie?

BB: Lawrie Rosser, yes. He lives just opposite me on the corner over here. And Lawrie and I used to be a couple of rovers for the local team. We used to do pretty well. We had Green brothers, and Roses-Keith Rose and Bill Rose. Vern Harding. Vern's brother-elder brother-we always called him Duky Harding. He was as deaf as a post but he could always hear when you didn't want him to. *(Laughter)*

So who were you playing against in that competition?

BB: Oh, there was only Victor Harbor, Encounter Bay, Goolwa, and later years Yankalilla came in. I remember one match we played at Yank, and on the way home Lawrie Rosser got out at Encounter Bay to go and see his girlfriend, who was Yvonne

Rumbelow. *(Laughs)*

Oh, OK.

BB: We used to have pretty good times in those days. Football was concerned with Port Elliot and Victor. They were the main rivals. Pretty keen, too.

You mean, pretty tough?

BB: Yes. *(Laughs)* Not as tough as Goolwa are. I remember Lawrie Rosser getting cleaned up at a Goolwa match once. They had a few natives playing for them. Old Billy Armfield at Goolwa, he played until he was about 40-odd I think. They had three or four Armfield brothers that played. They were pretty good.

Who cleaned Lawrie up? Do you remember?

BB: No, I don't remember who it was. But they used to play on the right-hand side of the - going into Goolwa. The crossing there, where the Foodland store is now.

Okay. So it was on the other side of the road from where the oval is these days?

BB: That is correct, yes.

So did you know most of the Goolwa people as well, Bun?

BB: Oh, I used to know quite a few of them but - Gordon Lawrence, he was another one. And Val Lawrence, his wife. She is a bit of a historian.

I know. *(Laughter)* Yes, that's true. And Bun, was Middleton just a tiny community? Really a railway siding as such?

BB: Oh, yes, that's all it was. The siding was down by the flour mill. That's all there was there until my Dad offered the railways two acres of land, and he gave one acre to the railways to get the siding shifted up to where it is at the

present time. But, back in the early days, well, there was only a handful of houses around. They're nearly all outsiders on the properties.

I can remember back when - where the Middleton Heights - that was just opened. It was Jack Chibnall's property. He had a daughter called Lorna Chibnall. I think her name is Curnow now. And she was a fairly bright person. She worked in the Port Elliot and Goolwa Council Office until she was married and did quite a good job. She was a very active person in the Show Committee, the local Southern Agricultural Society. She used to be a convener for the poultry section. It was nothing to see her working there the night before, putting the numbers up on the cages with a lantern in it.

That's how keen she was.

Oh, yes, Chibnalls, they had (*sounds like, boys*). Jack had one, and Mid Chibnall, that's the late-Bill Chibnall's father, which Bill's son, Peter, has at the present time. There was another brother, Ron Chibnall. When he came back from the War he went up to Mount Pleasant.

That's correct. He did. I knew him there.

BB: You did?

Yes.

BB: He married a Welch. Welch's were very local people here and used to come to Port Elliot for all their goods. Their property was down on Waterport Road where the Victor Harbor Industrial Centre is now. That was part of Welch's property.

So, Bun, did Middleton in effect sort of run out towards Skewes' land? If you talk about all the Middleton locals, did they go out that far or was that -

BB: Oh, yes, they did. Michelmores, they're still there. Golding - his wife.

Skewes would've been considered Goolwa, wouldn't they?

BB: Yes, they were. There's an old cemetery in that area - in Skewes' area.

Yes. I've seen that. That's off the road that cuts through the back there.

BB: Yes.

So, Bun, when did you take over Pleasant Banks with your brother?

BB: Oh, that's a great question, that is. *(Laughs)*

Roughly, what age would you've been?

BB: Oh, I was only about -1927, when we started a Guernsey stud.

Was your Dad still going then, by the way?

BB: Oh, yes. He was living in this house here. Well, he and mother retired here (Murray Terrace), and Phil and I took over the property Pleasant Banks.

So did they build this place, Bun?

BB: No. A chap by the name of-now, what's his name? He built three houses. He built the one on the northern side of me first and lived in that. Then he built the one on the opposite corner. Then he built this one.

So, Bun, this bloke built a number of houses here?

BB: He was a retired builder. I can't think of his name just at the moment. Doesn't matter much.

Anyway, it's stood the test of time.

BB: Oh, yes. All this area here, where this house is built, is all sort of limestone. I can remember when there were no houses here at all and just limestone all on the surface. If you do any planting or anything in the backyard now you've got to go through the limestone and put a bit of dirt there. I can remember when Dad came here first we had a couple of horses – three - and a heavy dray and we carted dirt from down at Pleasant Banks and put it in the garden here.

To make the garden?

BB: Yes.

So the knoll, which went up there, that would've just been all limestone going up there.

BB: Yes. Right up to the very - where Cliff House is, or where it was, that was all limestone. You've only got to go up there now and you can see the limestone on the-oh, what do they call it now? On the lookout up there.

On the lookout, yeah.

So, Bun, in your youth, were tourists still coming here to the guest houses at those times?

BB: Oh, yes. Well, I can remember when I left Saints - I was only about sixteen then - and New Year's Eve we used to have a few of the - three or four local boys that went to Saints. Abbotts at Middleton - the three Abbott boys, Jack Luxmore(?), whose parents had Mindacowie at one stage. Victor Harbor, there were a few, too. And we'd start at Middleton and go through to Victor and do a bit of, not damage, but we had a bit of fun, which was pretty good really. *(Laughs)*

Stirring up the tourists, were you, Bun?

BB: No, we didn't know them. We didn't know how good they could fight. *(Laughs)* We'd tackle the locals that we knew. *(Laughs)*

So there's a lot of fun there, eh?

BB: Yes. Such as putting a local's buggy down in the sea - in Horseshoe Bay. Another trick that we used to get up to was painting cows. I took a couple of my - I think it might've been three or four - of my nephews down to Adelaide Show one year, and got a champion and reserve champion cows in the Guernsey section. And got up one New Year's morning and thought I had a couple of neighbour's Illawarra cows in there. They were red and white, and

roan. 'Course, I got up and found that they were a couple of my own cows painted white with lime! (*Laughs*) if I'd only got up about five minutes earlier I would've caught them in the act! They knew which ones were quiet. They were the ones they had down at the Show.

Who did that, Bun?

BB: Bruce Basham and Peter Grundy and Guy Kohler. They were all my nephews. How we found out, I used to take a truckload of milk to the Amscol factory at Victor, and I was picking up my brother's milk - that was Hubert. H.J. Basham, he was always known as, and had the dairy just opposite the white gates where the railway crossing is-the camping ground. And they used to have to bring their milk out to the side of the road, and Bruce was milking at this stage. I had a chap that worked at the factory, and as he was loading up the milk, he said, 'There's the culprit there. He's got it on his hands'. So that's how we knew who did it. (*Laughter*) He hadn't had time to wash the lime off his hands.

Did you actually deliver the milk for the district, did you, down to Amscol?

BB: Oh, yeah. I did it for quite a number of years actually. When petrol rationing came in just after the War, Amscol decided-they used to come in to the farms and pick the milk up-they decided they couldn't get the petrol to come in. So we decided that we'd cart it ourselves. My brother and I had decided we'd pick up a few of our neighbours, just around Middleton, and cart it in with a trolley with two horses. But when the time actually came we thought that it would take too much time out of our day's work so we bought a lendlease Chev truck and picked up a few of our neighbour's that were close handy and carted it in, but that soon grew into a fairly big round. It got that way that I had to-I built an old semi-trailer out of four by two Blitz. Put a trailer on behind it and we used to cart milk in that until the Milk Board decided that we had to have canvas covers, or a hood, over it. Course, it was too big to put a canvas over it so we had to give that away after a while. It finished up - I carted right up to when Amscol sold out down here. Went

right out to a farm next to where Roger is at the present time. Out on the Goolwa/Mount Compass road. There was a Bob Smith out there and Leon Hutton. Picked up their two lots of milk. Went around Currency Creek. And in Goolwa, there were Bedfords in Goolwa. I picked their milk up, too, for quite a few years.

Is that Harold?

BB: Harold Bedford, yes.

Just died recently?

BB: Yes, that's right.

I knew Harold.

TAPE 1 - SIDE B

Well, Bun, you're talking a bit about you picking up the milk cans and taking it to the Amscol factory. Tell me a bit about Pleasant Banks as a dairy, and as a stud.

BB: Dad and an employee used to milk 50-odd cows by hand in the early days. Then they bought a bit more land and got rid of most of the - not all the cows but quite a number of them and went in for cropping and fat lamb breeding.

In 1927 when my brother, Phil, and I took over Pleasant Banks, Dad went to a sale at Hindmarsh Valley and bought a Guernsey bull and a Guernsey cow that were bred by Captain Payne in Victoria. His stud name was Yarra View. He had one of the best Guernsey studs in Australia at that time. Imported a lot of cattle from overseas. And Dad bought these two, one cow and a bull, and the cow used to have a heifer calf one year and a bull the next. *(Laughs)*

Really?

BB: Yes. Did that all the time we had it. *(Laughs)* Anyway, the people that had the property at Hindmarsh Valley were Dawkins. Dawkins, a well-known Gawler family, and he put his son on the property at Hindmarsh Valley, which they called Glenlea, and started this Guernsey stud. His son, Frank, used to go into Victor too often and got tangled up with the local hotels and that, and used to do a bit of betting and that, so they decided to disperse the stud.

So that Frank would've been related to Lance and Bill and all that crew?

BB: Yes, all those. Distant relation. I think Jack, and the one that was on the -
Lance?

BB: No, his father. What was his name?

Can't remember, Bun. Anyway, his old man.

BB: Yeah. That's put me off my track.

Frank was visiting the pubs.

BB: That's right. And got tangled up with horses and betting and was neglecting the stud and so they decided to sell and disperse the stud. Phil and I went down and bought some more at that dispersal sale. And at the same time, Vern Harding had a dairy here in Port Elliot. His son still lives here -Ted. They bought a few, too. We rode down there on horseback and drove them home on the road, and dropped Hardings off on the way. On the way home past Welch's (they had Poll Hereford cattle), one of the cows jumped the fence and got in with theirs, and in with the bulls. We had a bit of a trouble to get them out, but we got her out and went on our way as far as Hardings, and left theirs' there and took ours down to Pleasant Banks. That's how we really started with the Pleasant Banks' stud. You've only got to look up there and see all the badges that I've got up there.

That's how Pleasant Banks ended up, didn't it, Bun? Winning everything in the Guernseys all around Australia, eh?

BB: Yes. Not all around Australia. I didn't –

You used to take them to Victoria, didn't you, on the odd occasion?

BB: No.

No? Only Adelaide?

BB: Only Adelaide, yes. Took about 30-odd championships there between Phil and myself. We dissolved partnership in '52 I think. Somewhere around that era. I took the land on the northern side of the farm and Phil took the Pleasant Banks side. I retained the Pleasant Banks stud name.

And you kept the Guernseys going, Bun?

BB: Yes. Still got a few out at Roger's. He's still got a few.

Has he?

BB: But he's not so interested in Guernseys. He likes the black and whites.

The black and whites. Seems to be the way, doesn't it?

BB: Yes.

**So, okay, that's the beginning of Pleasant Banks.
Just tell me a bit about farm life in the late 1920's when you and Phil
were beginning. What was it like in the year on the farm?**

BB: Pretty tough work, I can tell you. *(Laughs)* Coming back from St Peter's College and pitching hay around and going out stoking in 100-odd degrees in the middle of the day and that. You never knocked off at the middle of the day like they do these days if it gets too hot. *(Laughs)*

So it was all using binders for your hay, was it, Bun?

BB: Yes. Binders, and sheaves of hay, and stoking, and throwing a snake up on the chap that was loading the trolley now and again. *(Laughs)* You'd never get the snake. He'd make his way down in the sheaves and you never knew whether he was still on the load or whether he'd slipped down on to the ground. Sit in front of the load, driving back to the haystack, you didn't know whether you were going to have a snake around your neck or not. *(Laughter)*

What were they? Blacks down here?

BB: No. Mostly greys. And brown. Still plenty down there in the sand-hills now, too. Joe Barton used to walk his dog down in the Pleasant Banks area, what they call Basham's Park or something now, until he ran across - he used to take his dogs for a run and one stood up on its tail (they can stand up) about five feet straight up with about six inches of their tail. Did that to his dog once and he never goes down there again! *(Laughter)*

Poor old Joe!

So Bun, the haymaking was part of it. Was that all oaten hay in those days?

BB: Yes. Oaten and wheaten hay. Wheaten hay that had a solid straw that was good for chaff.

We used to have fat lambs. Dad used to breed a lot of fat lambs and supply Ted Field, the butcher-local butcher-at Victor Harbor.

So were they crossbreds?

BB: Yes. Use a Shropshire ram-black-nosed sheep. Was a good meat-Yeah.

BB: - with Border Leicester ewes. Used to have pretty good lambs. Meat was always very tender. Ted Field used to come up and have a look at them at the beginning of the season and buy the whole lot at a fixed price, and on conditions that he sent a man halfway to Port Elliot and we'd deliver them halfway. His man never ever turned up. *(Laughs)* I was the one that was always keen on riding ponies and this sort of thing, and I'd have to start off in the morning before school to deliver them to Ted Field's butcher yards out-in fact, the old slaughter-yard house is still standing I think. It was two or three years ago.

At Victor?

BB: At Victor.

Out the other side?

BB: Just the other side of the -

Bay Road?

BB: Yes.

Yes, it was still there when I-oh, two years ago. Some of the yards were there but-oh, no, maybe they'd gone. I know where you mean though, Bun. North off Bay Road, isn't it?

BB: Yes. Just past the school. This is where I think the TAFE and the government have bought it now I think.

Yes, that's right.

BB: They're going to build there.

I used to have to deliver about twenty-five lambs down before I went to school. Nearly always late for school. *(Laughs)* My mother and father were friends of the school teacher and his wife. They used to play cards and that of a night. I never ever got into trouble being late for school. *(Laughs)*

That must've been pretty good for your Dad to know what money was coming in ahead of time each year.

BB: Yes, quite handy.

So how many fat lambs was he producing a year? More than twenty-five?

BB: Oh, yes. Be two to three hundred. Be about three hundred I suppose.

So, Bun, in those days was it that most of the stuff produced here was getting distributed locally for people to eat, or whatever?

BB: Yes, most of it was. The population was fairly reliant on the farmers, I think, around the district. Eggs and butter. In fact cheese-there's a factory, Basham Bros, not Phil and I, but my father's two uncles, they had a butter factory down at the end of Murray Terrace here, where the doctor's clinic is now. On the block there that used to be a - I can remember that being - the building was still there. It was never working when I went to school but it was still there.

I'm just trying to work out the years. That would've been for export probably before the First World War, Bun.

BB: I should say that it probably was, yes.

So there was a fair bit of local production going on down here?

BB: Oh, yes.

And after, when that one closed, there was another one that Ellis' had down on Waterport Road. They used to go around with a horse and dray collecting

cream. There were three Ellis boys. Jack, Tom and Bert. Bert Ellis used to live next door here when he got married.

So, Bun, were you doing your own separating on the farm?

BB: Yes. We were until - I don't know what year it was but they had a milk strike in Adelaide.

In the 'Thirties.

BB: That'd be about right, yes.

About '32 or '33, I reckon.

BB: Amscol sent a truck down here to pick up milk and, of course, we were mugs and let them have it, which these days we wouldn't have I suppose. Would've been stuck out with their mates in town. That's how Amscol started down here. They sent a truck down and collected our milk and then they decided to build a factory down here. There's a factory at Mount Compass as well. That was a different lot. That was dairy farmers that built the Mount Compass factory.

The Amscol one at Victor though was actually a very successful factory, wasn't it?

BB: Oh, yes. That was the one I used to cart the milk-truck load in. I finished up before the bulk tanks came in. That's when we shifted out to Mount Compass because my dairy was only a blacksmith's shop before I made it into a dairy. *(Laughs)* I put it over the milk inspector. I'd tell him that Phil and I were going to dissolve the partnership, and he said to me, 'You tell me when you're ready over there, I'll come and see you'. *(Laughs)* Course, I'd put a floor in it-cement floor-and had a milk room and everything there. And I saw him one day on the road and I said-I was picking up some milk, and I stopped him and said, 'I'm milking over here now. Over at the dairy'. Course, he straightaway - I lost my licence -

Did you really?

BB: - over that, and I didn't know that I'd lost it until I got to the-Aif Schubert, the manager of the Amscol factory at Victor, told me, 'You've lost my licence. Do you know why?' I said, 'No'. He told me, and sure enough I got a letter from the Milk Board saying that I'd lost my licence. Didn't comply. I simply wrote back - in those days you had to nominate the section numbers that you owned, and the one that the dairy was on, and I wrote back and told them that it was already licenced on the Pleasant Banks dairy, and told them which section numbers I owned and which my brother owned. After that I went into the factory one morning and Alf Schubert says, 'You've got your licence back again'. *(Laughter)* I can tell you that I wasn't very popular with the dairy inspector.

I bet that you weren't.

BB: He finished up winning in the end. He caught me one morning with a lendlease truck, for not having my blinds down when I went into the factory. I used to be the first truck in, a bit after 8 o'clock in the morning, and I didn't reckon it was necessary to have it. It was never very hot down here at that time of morning. Anyhow, he put me in Court in Victor. The other chap who was carting milk - Charlie Wheaton in Victor - he had a truck similar to mine, he got caught but he got fined ten shillings more than I did because he back-chatted the inspector. *(Laughs)* And I didn't say a word. And he put me, when I got the notice, put me in Court.

So he got you in the end, Bun?

BB: Oh, yes. He won in the end. I reckon I had a better win than he did over the dairy.

So these sort of things must've gone on all the time down here.

BB: Yes. I'd pass him on the road. I'd be going out - went out as far as Stan Lucas' property on the main road to Compass. Just before the milk vats came

in, they gradually thinned all the small suppliers out and they had to put in milk vats. And I'd pass him on the road out there. I'd know that he'd be around the place. He'd be heading back to Victor and I made sure that I had my curtains down. *(Laughter)* He used to - I knew when he was at the factory. I'd go down McDonald Street (that's the one straight opposite the Victor Amscol factory there) and I'd see his car. He always used to park it outside the office. And I'd see it coming down there and I'd stop and put my curtains down. *(Laughter)* Occasionally he'd park around the back and I wouldn't know and drive in on the south side of the factory to go around to the unloading on the northern side, and sometimes the chaps would tell me, 'You'd better put your curtains down. He's here'. *(Laughs)* I'd stop on the south side of the factory and, sure enough, he was around the back.

So, Bun, getting back to Pleasant Banks. You said you had your hay carting each year. And was it just the daily dairy chores apart from that? Sorry, your fat lambs and your hay and the dairy. Was that the main thrust of it?

BB: Oh, no. We planted a lot of the couch grass. I could take you over there and show you where there was nothing but cockle shells in behind the sand-hills where the natives used to -

Middens, yeah.

BB: - gather them, and you could see where they'd had fires and cook them and eat them. Took us quite a while to - it was just bare sand, just the colour of paper. It was covered in cockle shells. There's two areas there. I suppose it'd be five or six acres in the lot that were just bare sand. There used to be a row of sand-hills-like, that area that was bare sand, and then there were the sand-hills on the beach, then there was that bare, and then another row of sand-hills around the back. That went about two-thirds of the way from what they call Fisherman's Bay down towards Pleasant Banks homestead. So when Phil and I took it over we wanted to get all we could - all the grass, and make enough money out of it to live on.

I used to get draught horses from my brother-in-law, Jack Grundy, on

Mundoo island. He used to breed horses there, and he'd lend them to us to break them in for him. I'd break them in, and we decided that we'd knock the sand-hills down to a reasonable level. We had an old cultivator that you could stand on, and had a handle on it. You could lift it up and down to put it in the ground. So we took the shears, or tines, off it and put a couple of bits of flat iron across it and used that as a scoop.

Oh, yeah. I see. So it was a spring tine cultivator, was it?

BB: No, it wasn't a spring. It was a set tine.

Set tine. So you basically made it into a big grader.

BB: Yeah. Anyhow, it was all - took everything that it sank into. *(Laughs)* I'd choke the horses down now and again with a collar. You know, too tight a collar, and you'd choke them down-they couldn't breathe. The collar would come up against their throat. *(Laughs)* How you let it in-the axles had a right-angled bend in it with a wheel sticking out the side, and when you let that down, that went down as deep as it-till it filled right up. And that's how I dragged the top of the sand-hills into the hollows that were there. If you go down there now, you'll find that that is nearly all fairly level. Very little water there in 1914. Dad carted water for the house and 1914 was a drought year.

It was indeed. And '15, and '16.

BB: And just by digging a hole you could - down about two feet or less, you'd get really good water. So we planted in behind there where there was - there's two areas halfway between Fisherman's Bay and Pleasant Banks homestead that had this double row of sand-hills around it. One half had good soil and the other half just had sand. And we planted lucerne in the good soil. We had the lucerne up two feet high there for a while, but as soon as it got down to the water that was the end of it. Must've been too brackish or something. Killed it, anyway. We didn't sow it again. But over where this bare sand was we planted that all with couch grass, and tried kikuyu there as well. Couch was the easiest to get it to take. Ki was a bit harder. The same down here in the

top end of Pleasant Banks. That came right up to the bowling green. In fact, the first bowling green that was there, half of it was on Basham's land.

(Laughs)

Did they know?

BB: Not when they put it (in), but they did afterwards. *(Laughs)* Dad was a pretty fair-minded sort of a chap and he didn't worry about it. The late JW (John) Trigg, that had Cliff House, he had a few cows that he used to milk for the milk and cream, for his boarding house. He ran down the other side of the town. And he used to keep a few pigs as well. Dad used to let him keep them next to the bowling green. Anyway, that went on for a number of years. He used to keep his pigs there until - he kept too many really for - and they wanted to make that area, which was - some of it was Dad's land. It was only 99 links from High-Water Mark, I think was your boundary around the foreshore. Most of that was Dad's land. Phil and I planted that with couch grass and kikuyu.

The way we did it, we drove over it with a spring dray and made wheel tracks and then went along and laid the couch in the wheel tracks. That's how we covered that area and the other area that was around by Fisherman's Bay.

It obviously worked, Bun.

BB: Mm. it was pretty tough work in those days.

TAPE 2 - SIDE A

Interview with Bun Basham on 20th July, 2000, at Port Elliot.

Interviewer: Rob Linn.

Well, Bun, we've talked about your couch planting and your kikuyu planting, and how successful that was. Did that actually mean that you could carry quite a few more cows, did it?

BB: Oh, not really. It more or less saved the sandhills from drifting. Pleasant Banks is all fairly light soil. There's a lot of limestone over there, too. I recall that once Dad brought a lot of - about 400 ewes (the Yankalilla clearing sale), and put them over there and they went from one area to another, onto what we call The Point, which is just opposite the Frenchman's Reef.

I'm not sure where that is. I can't picture that.

BB: Fisherman's Bay, you know where that is?

Yes, I know.

BB: Well, just on the east of that, there's a couple of rocks out of the water.

Yes.

BB: That's what we call Frenchman's Rock. Because a French boat got shipwrecked around Crockery Bay and a lot of the crockery got washed up onto the beach in Crockery Bay. That's the bay that's-like, there's The Point, then there's Crockery bay, a little bay in here that's got a sandy beach, and then Commodore Point. The big point out where the camping ground is there.

Yes.

BB: Crockery bay is just off the camping ground as well.

So this crockery was before your time though, Bun, was it?

BB: Oh, yeah. it certainly was. I've heard about this.

Recent years there was a boat anchored in the foreshore here in Horseshoe Bay - I don't know what it was or anything but a chap was doing a bit of diving, and I saw him stand up on this Frenchman's Reef on the rocks there when he was-somebody else in the town may've told you about him.

No.

BB: I don't really know how long ago it was. It must be forty years ago. Perhaps it may've been longer, it may've been shorter, but he had a fair lump of boat in Horseshoe Bay here. He was doing it as a diving-I don't know what for, whether he was a cray fisher or what, but he did a bit around Frenchman's rocks. I just happened to see a bloke standing up on it. It was quite amazing really because when the sea is a bit rough the waves break over the top of it. When there's a low tide you can see quite a bit more of the rocks.

So, Bun, you were mentioning that there were these Aboriginal middens. You know, where all the shells were behind the sandhills?

BB: Mm.

Did your family have any story about Aborigines locally at all?

BB: Oh, yes, they had a couple-we had an old cottage. It was still standing until a few years ago. We knocked it down. It was on the - you know Basham Beach Road?

Yes.

BB: Just before you get to the crossing, there's a vacant block there. Houses on all the other blocks but there's one vacant block, and to get out and walk down the railway line about fifty metres or so from the fence you'll see the old ruins there. That used to be our shearing shed. Had sheepyards there.

They were wooden sheepyards, weren't they?

BB: Yes. All the roofs around in the district used to have Amgoorie Tea painted on them in the old days. Mum and Dad had - Tommy Holmes and Jenny Holmes, they lived in our shearing shed for, oh, years. They used to come over to the house. Jenny Holmes used to come over in her clothes right down to the ground. Well covered up. My eldest brother, Hubert, he was a bit of a devil and teased people. Like, he tried to tease me - *(Laughs)*
All in good fun.

Yeah.

BB: Anyhow, he used to - in the washhouse - Pleasant Banks in the early days when I was a boy there was no means of - there wasn't a bathroom or anything. Had a washhouse outside. Separate room. Hubert used to get a tub of water - full of water - and put two shillings in the water and get one of these old batteries - telephones that you wound the handle - and put the earth in the water and tell old Jenny she could have that if she could get it out. *(Laughs)*
Course, he'd wind the handle as soon as she put her hand in there and give her a shock. *(Laughs)*

So do you remember them at all, Bun?

BB: Oh, yes.

Were they pretty fine people?

BB: Oh, they were pretty elderly people. Yeah, they were alright. They were never any - used to have a bit of trouble when they got visitors come and see them. You'd hear them squabbling over there of a night. Dad would take them in a spring dray back to Goolwa and they'd catch a boat and go to Point McLeay while he was doing his shearing, and then come back again. They lived there for, oh, a number of years.

So were there any Aboriginal camps up and down this area here at all?

BB: The only one that I can remember was when I was going to school, riding to school and collect the cows on the way home over in Basham's Beach over there by what we call The Point. There was fairly high sandhills and then it went down in a bit of a gully. And the reeds, these green round reeds that grow in the sandhills - mainly must have been in this dip. It got to the water - was pretty close to the surface. One Aborigine on his own used to camp there in a wurley made out of these reeds. Just high enough to - he'd have to crawl in to get in there. And I used to be as frightened as hell when I was getting the cows. Thought he might chase me or something. *(Laughs)* I'd go right over and see if he was still there, and say, g'day to him and that of a night. That's the only one that I can recall that ever lived there. But, of course, there were plenty down at Victor. The Tripps(?) and those people.

Did your father ever talk about them much, Bun?

BB: Not a lot, no. He used to tell us how they used to walk past in single file. Come up over the hill, what we call Shelly Beach. Up over the rise and down, and walk past in front of our place, and they'd go about halfway around. There is a reef that runs out in the sea. and there's a gap, and then the reef continues. But this gap, when it's low tide, you can see it from the main road. The natives used to go out there with their spears and spear the mulloway. The lubras would carry them back across the reef to the beach.

Fantastic.

BB: That's what Dad used to tell me about.

So your father lived here from his youth, too, didn't he, Bun?

BB: Yes.

And your grandfather before him?

BB: Yes.

Oh, your grandfather built the place.

BB: Built the place, yes.

So in one sense, your family is amongst the earliest here, Bun?

BB: I would say so, yes.

And you got caught up with some of the other early Port Elliot families like the Husseys and that crew?

BB: Oh, yes. They were related, you see. Charles William Hussey. Don't ask me how they were related but they were related back - young Rodney Hussey. Have you heard of Rodney?

No.

BB: He used to live at - he was the son of the Hussey that was down here at the drags, and he's living in the town now.

Oh, he's come back?

BB: He's come back.

Yes, I've spoken to Rodney. Okay, sorry. He used to live out the other side of town, didn't he?

BB: Yeah.

Salisbury way somewhere.

BB: That's right.

He's told me that he's building his house down here. Young? He's retired, isn't he, Bun? (Laughter) Young for you.

BB: I only saw him a couple of days ago around at the Post Office. I've got a letterbox around there and I go and get my mail there, and he pulled up behind me.

So he knows you pretty well, does he, Bun?

BB: Oh, yes. His father used to fly an aeroplane, and he used to land in my

brother's land just out of the town here where it's all built on now.

So, Bun, did Port Elliot stay more or less the same-Port Elliot/Middleton-more or less the same until just after the Second War, or was it changing before that?

BB: Oh, no. I used to go up - my mother used to send the family to the Sunday School.

What, the Methodist Church?

BB: No, Church of England.

Just down here.

BB: Yeah, the old Church of England down here. The Sunday School down on the corner. And I always had a headache when it was time to go to Sunday School. *(Laughter)* And then about five minutes when it's too late, about five minutes afterwards, 'I feel alright again now, Mum'. 'Oh, you naughty boy', she'd say. That's about all I'd get. And I'd get on my pony and ride up to Surfers, where Surfers is now. It was just ordinary open country, only just sandhills in those days. And I had a staghound-cross dog. I'd go up there and catch foxes with him on a Sunday afternoon. Quite often come back with a couple. Nearly every time I went up there I'd get one - at least one. But that's all built on now. In the early days, when all my brothers and sisters weren't married, we used to pick up a couple of their friends - it was Hilda Ellis. Call it Miss Ellis anyway, and her brother, Ivan Ellis, and they were the Ellis' from the Middleton store. We'd go down the road there in a spring dray. Anne's probably - you've probably got photos of it I reckon.

Yes, she sent me a whole lot of stuff, Bun.

BB: We'd drive along the beach and go 'cockling' on the other side of the cliff at Surfers there, between the cliff and the Goolwa Beach Road. That was at night time, and by the time we came home the sea would be up and you couldn't get past those high cliffs up there and we'd take a short cut through the paddocks and come out on to the main road. *(Laughs)*

So when did the build up start to occur?

BB: Oh, it wasn't until-I think it was - better be careful on this. They might go me. *(Laughs)* People that subdivided Surfers, when they sprayed all the grass green and made it all look nice and green in the summertime. They sprayed all the grass with green. I won't mention who it was. *(Laughs)* Pretty handy with going to Court at the present time. You know who I mean?

Only too well. I'm not in that boat though, Bun. I haven't been summonsed yet.

Yes, so this is well into the 60's then?

BB: Surfers went ahead-yeah, I suppose it would've been - might've been 50's.

As a small boy in the late 50's, I remember very, very few houses at Middleton. There may've been-well, a dozen.

BB: That's all, yes.

And then come the end of the 60's they were getting up towards 100, I reckon.

BB: Yes. I've ploughed that patch of land on the opposite side of Mindacowie Road down to the beach. It used to be Abbott's. I've ploughed it then with horses and a three furrow plough.

Seems a bit amazing, doesn't it, Bun?

BB: Yes, it does. I can remember when Mrs Abbott (she's still living at Victor - Mrs Mavis Abbott, Hedley's wife), her father from Mount Barker - her father and mother built their shack out in the middle of the paddock. And that's the last time - it was never ploughed after that. That and the land on this side of Mindacowie Road was all Bashams. Phil sold that in *about-(cou/dn't decipher word/s)* the other day. It must've been in the 60's/70's. 70's I suppose.

So, Bun, that house on the corner there opposite Mindacowie on the northern side of the road, was that one of the Basham's houses there?

BB: No, that was Field-Joe Field. Joe Field had - there was a blacksmith's shop opposite, right opposite the tavern. On the corner there. And that had a shingle roof on it. His two sisters lived in the house and he lived-he was an old bachelor, a bit of a builder, a blacksmith and all sorts, and he lived over there. That was the Watson's. That house has only just been sold just recently to somebody. The council wouldn't allow them to build houses on that block of land-the people that bought the house and the block. The block of about three acres I suppose.

So, Bun, just some final questions. You were mentioning much earlier about the local show down here. Was that actually a Port Elliot show?

BB: No, that was started off with a single furrow plough, with the horse dragging the plough. I think it started at Middleton first and it used to go - alternate years it'd go Middleton (I don't know about the order) - Middleton, Goolwa, back to Port Elliot. And then I think it went to Victor once or twice.

That was the Southern -

BB: Start of the Southern Agricultural Society.

So originally it was a ploughing match, was it?

BB: Yes. Single furrow plough.

And then they bought land down where it's held now. The old timers bought the land. The showgrounds is made up of blocks really. When I was President - I was President for about 15 or 18 years or something - bought land on the southern side. I can't recall the names of the road but the road used to come from Waterport Road due south, past the butter factory there, and come to the road that goes around the showgrounds now. Around like that. Used to come and go straight on across, through the showgrounds, and around the southern side of the showgrounds, and come out into Montpellier Terrace. The local land agents (pretty shrewd boys)-young(?) Philip down here. Old Mrs Dodd used to-they had a dairy just around the back of Cong Church, and she used to milk cows and put them on these blocks. You know,

free paddocking and all that sort of thing. *(Laughs)* When I was President they owned a few blocks there, and to make the showgrounds -got a bit small for us. We got bigger and bigger. Anyway, I reckoned we could buy it if we offered them enough money, and buy the lot. I told the Show Society that they'd have to be prepared to pay, you know, a good price for them to get them, and sure enough we did.

Anyway, Ian Kirk (he was a pretty prominent Show member that lived out the back of Middleton), he said that he'd put in a pretty good donation, which turned out to be £10 . Ten pounds in those days.

Ten quid.

BB: And I thought to myself that that's not going to go far so I'll put in £100 to try and buy it, and some of the others put in money as well.

Anyway, we bought them, and when we settled up for them old Mrs. Dodd gave us about £50 back. Reckoned that we paid too much for them. *(Laughs)*

Did she?

BB: Yes. That was the only way we could get them because I knew what they'd done in the past. They used to pay the rates on these vacant blocks of land, and after a certain number of years you do that you can get the land for nothing.

Oh, yes, I know the ones. The old titles, yes.

BB: The old titles, and that's what they - Dodd & Page –

Pretty shrewd, eh, Bun?

BB: Yes. Not far behind now either. *(Laughter)*

Better not go into that. *(Laughs)*

BB: No.

So the show became very successful, Bun?

BB: Oh, yes. Well, I believe the Education Department at the present time is trying to shift the Port Elliot School down onto the showgrounds. Have you heard that?

No.

BB: I had a young lad, young Dean Perry - I call him young. He's older now but when he was only about ten or twelve, he lived just down by the showgrounds. Every Saturday morning he'd come around to my dairy and help me milk my cows and then go on the milk run with me and help me load the cans on. He'd do that. He'd come around at half past five in the morning. *(Laughs)* He was President of here for-he's had a couple of goes at it I think. He called in one night and asked me if I knew anything about the row of trees that were left there. There used to be a row of trees on the southern side, on the road. No, they were on the showground side, next to where we used to have a luncheon pavilion. And he was telling me that the Education Department want to shift the school down there on to - there's a government paddock here and there's a lot of opposition to putting housing on the land down there with the Port Elliot mob. I told Dean - I said, 'You want to make sure you get a slice of that land to make up for what you're going to lose with the other'. I don't know how - that was only about a month ago he called in.

No, I've not heard that, Bun.

So was it always a purely agricultural show, or was there horticulture as well?

BB: It's both. Horticulture and agriculture. It's been - well, it still is - the biggest trouble now is getting people to work for nothing. That's what they're up against. Getting volunteers to run the sections and that. When I was President they had a paid secretary, and they had that for quite some time afterwards too, but lately they're making the convenor of each section send out-they may live at Murray Bridge and Strath - sending out their prize schedule. That's how they're working at the present time.

Well, Bun, I might leave it there today. Thank you very much for talking to me.

BB: A pleasure.

NOTES OF HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MIDDLETON EFS AND CFS MINUTE
BOOKS 1957-1991.

As Bun Basham spent many years in fire service, it seems logical to put this information in his life story.

Alan Higgins from his family's farm "The Brook" we think, had the first motorised specially built fire truck in Middleton and he was a leading member of the Brigade. It is recorded that in 1949, the Volunteer Fire Fighters Act was passed Parliament with the specific aim of insuring Fire Fighters.

The state EFS was started in 1957 and the Middleton Brigade was officially launched a little time before this. Reading through the minutes, I can appreciate how strong the Brigade was in Middleton, when up to 40 members were present at their Annual Meetings.

It is interesting to observe that, from the beginning, knapsack sprayers to tanks on a stand, as well as mobile power units, were ready to transfer to farmer's trucks. These were talked about for 20 years before Middleton actually bought a mobile unit and equipped it. Later, they went on to acquire a new truck about 1990 and today, can work in with other Units to quickly be at a fire scene.

These are notes from the Minute Books:

1957 E. Coote, President, Bruce Basham Vice President, L. Hann Secretary-Treasurer, E. Teakle Equipment Officer. Landholders to be rated 1 penny in pound from Council Rates to pay for fire equipment. W. Chibnall offered use of motor bike for communication. Walkie Talkie base at Cliff House. Purchased 2 Ajax hand pumps.

1958 District supervisor Mr. Edgar Skewes. 6 pence an acre sought for donations to buy a Finsbury power pump. Tank to be at Church of England Brick Kiln. B.H. Basham, L.E. Scott Fire Control Officers. (CORRECTED to L.E. Stock)

1959 37 present at Annual Meeting. Mr. E. Skewes spoke. Mr. Langford spoke on speed in which the devastating fire travelled in the area. Many suggestions to fight a fire more efficiently.

1960 40 at Annual Meeting. Cliff Thorpe President. It was decided to buy 6 knapsacks and a Rex Power Pump.

1961 Burning of St. Jude's Church of England Cemetery advocated.

1962 Alan Higgins recommended to Council as Chief Fire Controller on retirement

of Edgar Skewes. Chief Fire Controller to have a vehicle. Quick loading ramps cost 32 pounds.

1963 Spray Crow's Nest Road with Vorox to kill grass on roadside. Burn off blocks on Western Boundary at 30 shillings per block.

1964 Budget for a 30 hundredweight Blitz vehicle. Have manpower standby system for bad fire days. Get rotary mower to clear roadsides.

1965 Get 6 knapsacks. Appreciated use of Council Spray Unit. \$80 received for burning blocks.

1966 Mr. B. Byrnes President, L. Hann Secretary- Treasurer, E.C. Teakle Equipment Officer. Spray roadsides with Vorox on 30th July.

1967 Purchase more quick loading tank stands. Buy a Villiers 415 HOV engine and pump.

1968 N. Coote, President. W. Langham, Secretary-Treasurer. Key for Fire Plug to be left at Roger Basham's. Council area has 2 new vehicles.

1969 South African Feather Grass spreading. Should be declared a noxious weed. New plant to be at Gordon Michelmore's. EFS Field Day at Pt. Elliot Showgrounds. Gas Firelighter bought from Barton Bros. Charge \$6 a block to burn them.

1970 New plant to be at Brickyard with Quick Loading Stand. E. Teakle resigned as Equipment Officer because of ill health. Moved a Letter of Appreciation be sent to him.

1971 G. Michelmore President, W. Langham Secretary-Treasurer. G. Michelmore suggested tractor with 3 pt. Linkage, scalloped disc Harrows be used for used for Fire Breaks. B.H. Basham said Council was incorporating all EFS Units in the District.

1972 Supervisor Alan Higgins to sign account before we hand them to Council. Middleton EFS Incorporated.

1973 Miss Ann Basham and A. Langdon thanked for typing documents of incorporation. H.J. Chibnall President, Bruce Basham Secretary-Treasurer, W. Langdon thanked for services rendered over a number of years as Secretary. Subscriptions 20 cents. Bought a Rotary Slasher from Barton's.

1974 5 new members. \$1000 donation to Pt. Elliot EFS to purchase new truck. Bun [B.H.] Basham as District Supervisor Chairman pro tem for Annual Meeting.

1975 \$7 per block charged for burning. Block Burning money to go to get new truck. Slasher to be housed at Gordon Michelmore's.

1976 New Port Elliot Fire Truck operational. First new lady member, Muriel A. Higgins. Knapsack sprays to be bought and housed at Middleton Store. Request from Bert Dent to burn block at back of his house. A. Higgins reported Rubbish dump will be closed and new one started at back of Goolwa.

1977 EFS changed to CFS. Truck for Middleton discussed. Subscriptions 50 cents.

1978 Continued spraying with Vorox on roadsides. Notice to be in shop window stating when blocks will be burnt.

1979 J. Chibnall President, Bruce Basham Secretary-Treasurer, I Teakle Vice President. Charge \$20 a block for burning. H.J. Chibnall asked for new wireless to replace old one in his Willys Jeep. K. Dix to help with new radio. Middleton purchase new plant and leave it at H.J. Chibnall's.

1980 N. Coote President, I. Teakle Vice President, P. Michelmore Secretary-Treasurer. Future new radio network discussed.

1981 International ASW 160 4-wheel Drive cab chassis from Coonalpyn purchased. Council approved.

1982 Shed for truck to be at Middleton Hall site. President Norm Coote, Vice President I Teakle, Secretary-Treasurer Bill Chibnall. I. Teakle and J. Harding thanked for voluntary work on truck.

1983 Hino 4x4 Fire Truck demonstration.

1984 Hon. J. Wright to open Fire shed.

1985 Paging System – we go in with Pt. Elliot. 6 helmets applied for.

1986 H.J. Chibnall resigned. Peter Johnson Secretary-Treasurer, N. Coote Deputy Supervisor.

1987 Have a Door knock campaign to recruit new members. A Fire Truck transferred from Pt. Elliot to Middleton. Kevin Higgins to be new District Supervisor. 10 Paging units applied for. Block burning discontinued. Request not to close Middleton Station.

1988 Old Fire Truck sold to Goolwa Airport. Brian Dugmore gave address on Paging System available for purchase.

21 Jan. 1988 Middleton Brigade thanked for patrolling area for 6 hours when a steam train was used on a Fire Ban Day to bring Prince Charles and Princess Diana to Goolwa to open Signal Point. Brigade Captain H.J. Chibnall. Peter Michelmore Training Officer.

1989 Middleton received advice that it will not close. Communications Officer

Michael Burgar. Brian Brawley to be Group Captain. K. Higgins Pager to go to Brian Brawley.

1990 Bun Basham received Life Membership Certificate and badge of Brigade.

Kevin Higgins Testimonial to be a BBQ at showgrounds, Pt. Elliot. Middleton to have top priority for new vehicle. Westpark Aged Cottage Homes made donation after fire on premises. Council Water Tanker to be on standby 24 hours a day. Messrs. Sweetman and Dugmore responsible for after duty hours.

1991 New Hino Fire Truck received. Must be driven 30 km. unbroken trip each week. Brigade Captain reported on fire at Cut Hill – Glenford Gully Rd. He commended Crew members on their efficiency and speed with which they moved on to the actual operation. Thanks were also given to Weinman family for direct advice given.

These notes, compiled by Linton Jacobs, were from the Middleton EFS and CFS Minute Books. Michael Burgar from Middleton CFS, has given permission for these notes to be included in Bun Basham's Life Story.

Linton Jacobs

THE BASHAM FLOUR MILL AND BUTTER FACTORY.

In 1866, William Basham, at the age of 66 years, purchased the Pt. Elliot Flour Mill from the Bowman family who were wealthy Adelaide businessmen.

To develop a good outlet for his flour, he built the iron paddle steamer, the "*Jolly Miller*" and used it on the River Murray trade. The boat was launched on the 7th March, 1866.

William Basham, with his usual eye for a chance at promoting it, invited a large number of people to the launch. These were Commissioner of Public Works, politicians, public servants and local celebrities. These were entertained in the evening at Varcoes Goolwa Hotel and toasts flowed in abundance.

George Jones rose and praised Basham for being upright, honest and straightforward, and continued saying "Basham had bought the Mill at 66 years of age, merely to give himself something to do in his twilight years – and not satisfied with that alone, had proceeded to build the *Jolly Miller*. His desire in all this was to be actively employed in doing good to others as well as himself."

Basham's reply said he was flattered by Jones' words and the truth was he needed to get the flour transported by some means, and he thought he could not do better than to build the *Jolly Miller*.

Abraham Graham in responding, toasted the success of the Murray trade and hoped the *Jolly Miller* had a bright future.

By 1891, farming had fallen far short of expectations and some Flour Mills were shades of their former glory. Yet, undaunted, those who remained on the land like the Basham family – in various offshoots – at Pleasant Banks, Middleton and elsewhere, found numerous ways to battle on. By diversifying interests and investing in mills and Dairy Produce factories, they added to their farming income and learned to manage the land.

By 1890, the Basham Bros., William John and Charles Abraham, owned a Dairy Factory on the site of the present Medical Centre in Pt. Elliot. This gave an outlet for the dairying in the area.

This information came from Rob Linn's book "A Land Abounding", and authorisation to use it was obtained from him.

Linton Jacobs

Bun Basham's 1958, 1959 Fire Diary

as provided by Janet Renk 14th April 2009

The 1959 bushfire that began near the bottom of Cut Hill occurred on 17th January, just three weeks before my marriage. My father, Bun Basham, a Fire Control Officer, left home in his car during the late morning of a very hot north wind day to see at first-hand what was happening with the fire he had just heard about.

As the fire appeared to be getting uncomfortably close to our home and property on the Port Elliot to Middleton road I decided to try to contact him for his advice about what to do with our dairy cows. We were unable to speak to him directly but a message was passed on by the operator of the base radio in the EFS (as it was then) shed in Port Elliot.

"Take the cows to the beach!" This was easier said than done as cows are creatures of habit and to do that it was necessary to drive them in the opposite direction to the way they usually walked to the dairy for the afternoon milking.

My mother and I had begun the task when our next door neighbour, Les Hann, came across the paddock and said that he had cut the boundary fence so our cows could go onto his patch of lucerne. With his help we managed to get them there where they were safe.

Then it was a matter of sitting in the lucerne paddock and watching the progress of the fire. The smoke was dense and although we were only about 300 metres from it we were unable to see exactly what was burning but it seemed very likely that it was our home, complete with my wedding finery, ready for my marriage 3 weeks later.

At one stage the smoke cleared and we were able to see the main road and my father's semi-trailer with a water tank on it being driven by my brother – complete with his dog, riding on the roof of the cab – Laddie's preferred place but usually he was only allowed to do that while being driven round in the paddocks.

The fire came into the paddock next to the lucerne and at that time my father appeared in his car and I was able to help him put it out there.

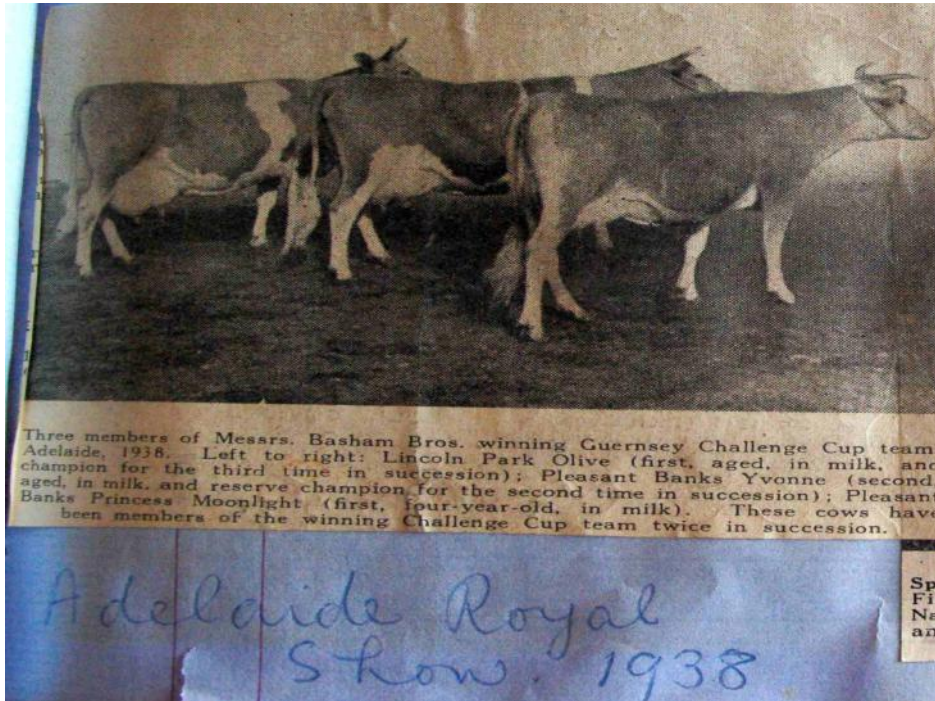
Fortunately, the house and dairy were saved by the fire-fighters without any damage occurring but a stack of hay that was very close to the dairy had burned.

The following is a note taken from BH Basham's Diary of Fires that occurred during 1958 & 1959, transcribed by JE Renk in January 2005

"17th January 1959

Mr Les Stock rang at approximately 11.00 am to ask if I knew where the fire was, I had a look, and the smoke was straight behind Les Stock's hill, so I informed Base Radio and then went to see where it was, saw Wilf Langham and asked him to alert Middleton units etc. I went to Crow's Nest road, saw fire in Langsford's property, and will never forget the rest."

from BUN's SCRAPBOOK



"PLEASANT BANKS" GUERNSEY STUD
 Established 1927


Yarraview Benedictine

Purchased from Capt. A. E. T. Payne, Victoria. 1st prize yearling bull, 1938 Melb. Royal, sire Honoria's Benefactor (imp. Guernsey Island), Champ. Melb. 1937; Res. Champ. Melb., 1938; dam—Clara's Fashion 7th (imp. Guernsey Island). Res. Champ. Melb., 1937, and as senior 2-year-old produced 400 lb. fat; senr. 3, 439 lb.; senr. 4, 492 lb. (273 days). Founded and maintained on world-famed "Sequel" blood lines. 1938 awards include Adelaide Royal Champ. and Res. Champ. Cows, also 10 first, 4 second and 1 third prize Southern Agricultural (Port Elliott).

Winners at AMSCOL Cup against all breeds; trophy of S.A. branch of Guernsey Cattle Society for Best Exhibit of Guernsey Cattle, Mt. Barker. Senior herd sire Yarraview Governor 2nd.—Winner of Bull and Progeny prize 1938, Adelaide Royal; sire, Yarraview Gem. 2nd; 1st 2-yr-old Melb. and best male 3 yrs. and under, 1934; dam, Yarraview Jennie A.R., at 4 yrs. old produced 8,639 lb. milk, 5.5 per cent.; 490.87 lb. fat (273 days). Recently purchased from one of the leading Victorian breeders 16 specially selected females, including a Nundorah (N.S.W.) bred cow and heifers by imported bulls.

BASHAM BROS.
 The Largest Guernsey Breeders in S.A.
 "Pleasant Banks" Port Elliott
 South Australia 1939

**"PLEASANT BANKS"
GUERNSEY STUD**
LARGEST IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Established 1927 - - - T.B. Free Herd.



Yarraview Benedictine, at 2 yrs. old, Champ. Adelaide Royal Show, 1939.

Sire—Honoria's Benefactor (imp. Guernsey Is.)—Res. Champ. Melb. Royal, 1938-39.
 Dam—Clara's Fashion 7th (imp. Guernsey Is.) Res. Champ. Melb. Royal, 1937—
 Produced as a senr. 2, 400 lb. fat; senr. 3, 439 lb.; senr. 4, 492 lb.; mature, 663 lb.
 (273 days).
 Senior Herd Sire—Yarraview Governor 2nd, by Yarraview Gem 2nd, 1st prize 2-
 year-old and best male, 3 years and under, Melb., 1934.
 Dam—Yarraview Jennie A.R., at 4 yrs. produced 8,639 lb. milk, 5.5 per cent.
 480.87 lb. fat in 273 days.
 His grand dam, Rose Gem of Maple Lodge (imp.) holds the Aus. Guernsey record
 for butter-fat in 273 days; her figures were 13,808 lb. milk, 6.2 per cent., 856.37 lb. fat.
 Yarraview Governor 2nd was 1st prize, aged bull, 1939, Adelaide Royal, also won
 bull and progeny class 1938-39. Seven of his daughters are in the Advanced Register
 of Merit, and six other females in the herd have also won this distinction.
 "Pleasant Banks" is the only Guernsey herd in this State being officially tested.

Buy your Guernsey Bulls under the Gov. Subsidy Scheme from

BASHAM BROS.
 "Pleasant Banks," Port Elliot
 South Australia. - - - Phone 27

**BASHAM BROS.'
PLEASANT BANKS
GUERNSEY STUD**
Founded 1927. - - - T.B. Free Herd

**LATEST IMPORTATION
IS
YARRAVIEW SYRIAN**

The dam of this outstanding sire, Yarraview Siren, was CHAMPION COW OF ALL BREEDS in the Victorian Standard Herd Test, 1944, her figures being 11,732 lb. milk, 6.10 per cent. average test, and 715.9 lb. butterfat in 273 days.

This noted producer has an average production of 575 lb. butterfat for seven successive lactations, beginning as a two-year-old.

The sire of Syrian, Sun Rose of Maple Lodge (imp.), was the last bull imported direct to Australia direct from Guernsey Island.

In 5 years of Official testing the Pleasant Banks Stud has produced 16 advanced Register of Merit cows.

To improve your herd use a Government Subsidised Guernsey Bull.

ENQUIRIES:
BASHAM BROS.,
 Port Elliot. Phone Port Elliot 27.



1948 Jackman Trophy winners - Twilight, held by Janet, Fancy, held by Roger, Vanessa, held by Bill Whiting, Prosper, held by BH Basham

PLEASANT BANKS GUERNSEYS
 Founded 1927. T.B. Free Herd
BEST GROUP 3 REGISTERED GUERNSEY FEMALES
 ADELAIDE ROYAL SHOW, 1947

March 1948

Pleasant Banks Violet,
 2nd Prize Aged Cow in
 Milk; 2nd Prize Type and
 Production.

Pleasant Banks Fashion,
 Reserve Champion. 1st
 Prize, Aged Cow, Dry.

Pleasant Banks Poppy.
 Champion Cow. 1st Prize,
 Aged Cow in Milk, 1947

**Five of the Seven State Breed Records are held by the
 PLEASANT BANKS STUD**

Junior 2-year-old Pleasant Banks Ysabel, 9,081 lb. milk, 4.57 p.c. average test, 415.35 lb. fat, 273 days.
 Senior 2-year-old Pleasant Banks Vanity, 9,250½ lb. milk, 5.45 p.c. average test, 504.5 lb. fat, 273 days.
 Senior 3-year-old Melbourne Sequel's Lily, 9,837 lb. milk, 4.69 p.c. average test, 460.99 lb. fat, 273 days.
 Junior 4-year-old Pleasant Banks Poppy, 9,472½ lb. milk, 5.01 p.c. average test 474.52 fat, 273 days.
 Senior 4-year-old Pleasant Banks Lily, 12,934½ lb. milk, 5.00 p.c., average test 646.31 lb. fat, 273 days.

Proprietors: BASHAM BROS. Port Elliott Phone 27

October 1949

Entries And Gate Takings Higher At Yankalilla

In spite of wintry weather over 1,600 people attended the Yankalilla, Rapid Bay and Myponga Show Society's display at Yankalilla on Saturday.

Gate receipts at £140 were an increase of more than £30 compared with last year, and the 1,100 entries exceeded the 1948 figure.

The show was opened by the editor of "The Chronicle" (Mr. H. Plumridge), and Messrs. Densley, MLC, and Brookman, MP, also spoke. They were introduced by the president of the society (Mr. A. G. Wallman).

Mr. J. B. Snell, of Bolivar, who with Mr. L. E. L. Dunn judged the cattle, said that competition generally was weak. Guernseys were outstanding, showing plenty of breed quality. The quality of the Jerseys and Ayrshires was good.

N. Fraser and Son, of Waitpinga, practically scooped the pool with Jerseys, winning the Jersey bull under two years and Jersey heifer under two years. Basham Bros., of Port Elliot, took most of the Guernsey awards, among their successes being Guernsey bull (1 and 2), Guernsey bull under two years (first), Guernsey cow (1 and 2) and Guernsey heifer (first). W. A. Harding, of Port Elliot, took the remaining Guernsey awards.

L. G. Thring, of Strathalbyn, carried off all the Ayrshire awards. R. C. Shepherd scooped the pool with Aberdeen Angus and D. C. Coombe with Herefords.

| | | |
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| 111A | 2 | 6 |



Two prominent Guernsey breeders, Mr. Ted Harding (left) and Mr. Bunny Basham (right) have a joke with Mr. J. B. Snell (judge) at the Yankalilla show, while Johnny Snell listens.



Thursday, December 1, 1949.

PLEASANT BANKS VIOLET TOPS FIRST QUARTER OF S.A. TEST YEAR

Roseworthy Radiant Star Also Exceeds 600 lb. Fat

WITH two cows producing over 600 lb. fat and twelve more over 500 lb., the South Australian tests for the quarter ending 30th September, 1949, contain some interesting results.

The two top cows are Roseworthy Radiant Star, a seven-year-old Jersey, and Pleasant Banks Violet, a rising eight-year-old Guernsey, when tests were commenced. Both have outstanding yields to their credit in past years. Pleasant Banks Violet gave 656.92 lb. fat from 13,783½ lb. milk of 4.77 per cent test over the 273-day period for Messrs. Basham Bros., whose outstanding Guernseys have been a feature of Adelaide Royal Show

over the years. Her previous yields include 501.35 lb., 441.51 lb. and 530.75 lb. fat. She is by Yarraview Benedictine. Radiant Star has even better figures in her earlier tests, including yields of 665.68 lb., 602.97 lb. and 515.88 lb. fat. Her latest production is 628.71 lb. fat from 13,344 lb. milk of 4.71 per cent test. (Her tests in previous lactations were 5.26 per cent, 5.14 per cent and 5.01 per cent). She is by Roseworthy Star.

Guernseys

Apart from their 600 lb. producer, Pleasant Banks Violet, Messrs. Basham Bros. had many good workers. Pleasant Banks Melody gave 491.17 lb. fat from 8,121½ lb. milk, with the exceptionally good test of 6.05 per cent as a mature. Pleasant Banks Regina did very well with 444.8 lb. fat from 8,982½ lb. milk of 4.95 per cent test as a senior 4. The consistent Pleasant Banks Vanessa gave 452.56 lb. fat from 9,001½ lb. milk of 5.03 per cent test as a junior 3. Pleasant Banks Prairie as a senior 2 gave 366.69 lb. fat.



1950 B.H. Basham with Monica

Royal Agricultural Society of N.S.W.

BOX 4317, G.P.O.
TELEPHONE: BW 4061-6.

Endeavour House, 33 Macquarie Place,
Sydney, 6 MAR 1950 19

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY

B.H. Basham, Esq.,
"Pleasant Banks",
PORT ELLIOTT, S.A.

Sir,

As you have accepted the position of **JUDGE**
in Section C.A.T.T.L.E. (Guernseys) your attendance will be
required on Monday, 3rd April, 1950 at 8.45 a.m. (Guernseys)
Tuesday, 4th April, 1950 at 9.45 a.m. (Judging Competition)
at the Office on the Showground.

N.B.—The Judge's Award Cards, before being passed as correct, must be checked by the Steward acting with each Judge by comparing the awards as shown on the cards with their marked section catalogues and re-signed as correct. It is essential that this request be complied with.

Enclosed you will find Official Badge, and Luncheon Tickets, duplicates of which cannot be issued. Please acknowledge receipt.


Yours faithfully,
G. C. SOMERVILLE,
Secretary.

GOLDEN GUERNSEYS FOR **GREATER GAINS**
THE PLEASANT BANKS GUERNSEYS
 EST. 1927 T.B. FREE HERD

Have attained their present high standard by concentrating on the best Guernsey Island blood
TYPE — PRODUCTION — DOCILITY

Proved by PLEASANT BANKS winning 1ST AND 2ND PRIZES in Garden and Field 48 hour butterfat contest against ALL BREEDS, 1949, and 1ST PRIZE, 1950, and winning trophy outright.
 TESTS CONDUCTED AT ADELAIDE ROYAL SHOWS

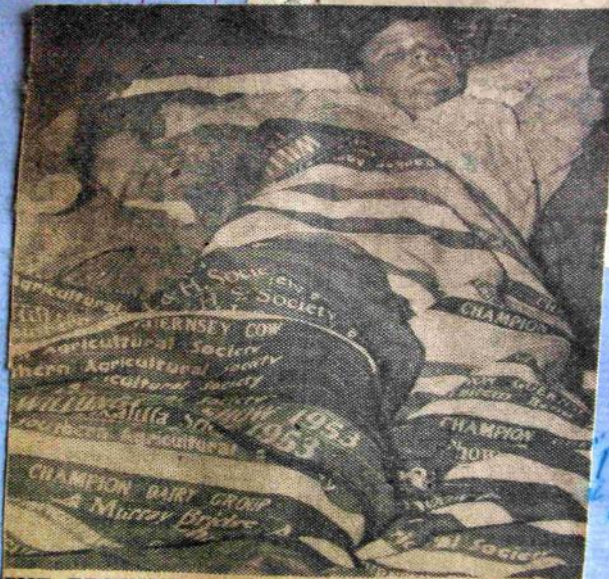
INSPECT THE PLEASANT BANKS EXHIBITS AT THE 1951 ROYAL SHOW
Subsidy Bulls and 5 Females to be offered from this Stud at the Show Sales



BASHAM BROS.
 MAIL
 P.O. BOX 15
 PT. ELLIOT,
 S. AUST.

Proprietors
 PHONE
 PORT ELLIOT
 27

Under cover of ribbons



THE PRESSURE OF HIS FINGERS showing a white strip of body wool on one of his charges, Mr. K. Gibbs, of Naracoorte, beds down for the night at the Show under a blanket sewn with first prize ribbons won by his employer, Mr. B. H. Basham.

1953 Under cover of ribbons

ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW SEPT. 1954

Port Elliott Breeder Gains 17 Prizes

IDEAL milk producing cattle were exemplified in the Guernsey section, where 82 entries paraded —12 up on last year.

FEATURE of the judging was the success of Pleasant Banks Stud, owned by Mr. B. H. Basham, of Port Elliott. This breeder took 17 awards and showed both champion and reserve champion cows.

Refined bone, good markings and an excellent udder gave Pleasant Banks Yolande, a six-year-old cow, the top female award. This splendid beast carried all the points of a high-producing dairy champion.

The reserve cow, five-year-old Pleasant Banks Romance, was also an ideal dairy type, with plenty of character, but her udder was not quite as good.

Champion bull, Pleasant Banks Don, exhibited by Gawler dairyman Mr. A. L. Jones, won this award for the second year in succession.

Very little difference separated this bull from the reserve, Yarraview Juror, shown by Port Elliott breeder Mr. P. L. Basham.

The winner was a younger bull and paraded somewhat better.

Mr. B. H. Basham's Pleasant Banks Monica came first in the "type and production" class with 648 lb. of butterfat in 273 days.

TOUGH HEIFERS TURN OUT TOP PRODUCERS

By PAT RIVERS

Reeds, sapphire and water couch must be good feed judging by results at the Pleasant Banks Guernsey stud of Mr. B. H. Basham, Port Elliot.

His heifers spend two years on a half-submerged island, and then return well grown, in good nick and ready to take their place in his 400-lb. butterfat herd.

ONE such heifer became the State Guernsey breed record-holder for production—Pleasant Banks Monica, who in 1951 produced 622.88 lb. of fat in 273 days, and has been twice champion at Adelaide.

From calves to matrons, the stock get neither pampering nor forcing to win these results in Port Elliott's 19-in. rainfall.

Pleasant Banks calves are reared on wholemilk and outermilk powder by Mr. Basham's daughter Janet.

At six months, over they go to lonely Tauwitherie Island, near the Murray mouth. The journey takes in most of the barrage and a trip on the Goolga ferry, but it is well worth while.

For there, on swampy, treeless Tauwitherie, grow reeds, sapphire, and water couch to build big-framed and well-fleshed, healthy heifers with never a sign of foot trouble, though they spend most of the time inches deep in water.

At night they camp on the barrage or on the few square yards of raised ground at the loading ramp.

The heifers are brought to the mainland during the worst of the winter months. In summer the island's 200 acres carries an average of 35 head.

"You should see their shiny coats in summer," says Mr. Basham. "Because the island is in Lake Alexandrina there are no water worries; they drink where they stand. The only trouble is when the sea comes right over during a strong southerly!"

Mr. Basham runs a semi-trailer to transport stock to and fro. They leave the island for good about two months before they are due to calve.

He visits them about once a month.

The Homestead farm, of 114 acres, relies on dry lucerne for a summer green pickling.

Mr. Basham buys selected meadow hay and feeds a balanced ration of proprietary dairy meal in the mids. The concentrate feeding is not heavy. Using his own judgment, he feeds strictly according to production.

Dry cows are fed on concentrates for the whole of their rest period to make sure they calve in good condition.

"I'm a great believer in this," he emphasises. "It's one of the secrets of the production I've achieved."

A great help to Mr. Basham is his daughter, Janet, who helps in the dairy, rears the calves and is busiest at show time.

GOOD BREEDING

To back up his sound feeding programme, Mr. Basham stresses the importance of good foundation stock and intelligent breeding.

The stud's breeding is based on the Yarraview strain, which goes back to the famous Sequi strain of Guerneys.

A team of 18 will go to this year's Royal Show.

Pleasant Banks Monica deserves special mention. In the last five years she has averaged 619 lb. of fat in 273 days.

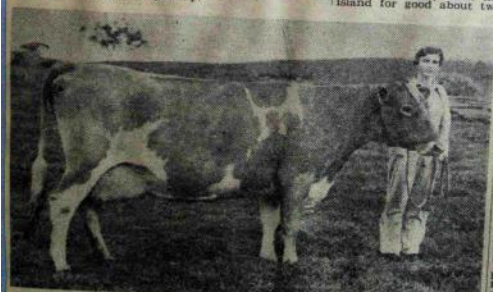
In July this year, she completed a 300-day lactation with 711 lb. fat (672 lb. in 272 days).

She has been twice champion in Adelaide, and in 1949 and '50 she won the "Garden and Field" 48-hour butterfat trophy against all breeds.

Mr. Basham judges the Guerneys at Sidney Royal Show this year and will be judging at Melbourne in October.

These figures, from a herd with a 400-lb. butterfat average, have been produced in a 19-inch rainfall without irrigation.

They stand as proof that for successful dairying, good stock and management matter most of all.



A Tauwitherie Island heifer grows up. Janet Basham shows Pleasant Banks Dot, who was champion dairy cow at six Southern country shows last year.

September 1954

Adelaide Top Guernsey Honors

Mr. B. H. Basham, of Pleasant Banks Stud, Port Elliot, was easily the most successful exhibitor of Guernsey cattle at the 1956 Adelaide Royal show. He showed the champion cow, bred the champion bull, and supplied 11 class winners, four seconds and five thirds.

Judge was Mr. G. McGillivray, Chief of the Dairying Division of the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture, who said quality was sound, even though the season had been difficult.

Champion cow for Mr. B. H. Basham was Pleasant Banks Dot, a 10-year-old by Yarraview Syrian from Pleasant Banks Daisy. It was the first time this cow had been shown in milk. Mr. McGillivray said she had plenty of size and scope and although showing her age, was a good breed and dairy type. She had given 450 lb butterfat in her last lactation and is the dam of the champion bull, Pleasant Banks Don, exhibited by Mr. D. H. Wiese, of Mundalla. By Pleasant Banks Warspite, this bull showed good breed quality, nice topline and head, and capacious body. He had been twice champion and once reserve for Mr. A. L. Jones, of Gawler.

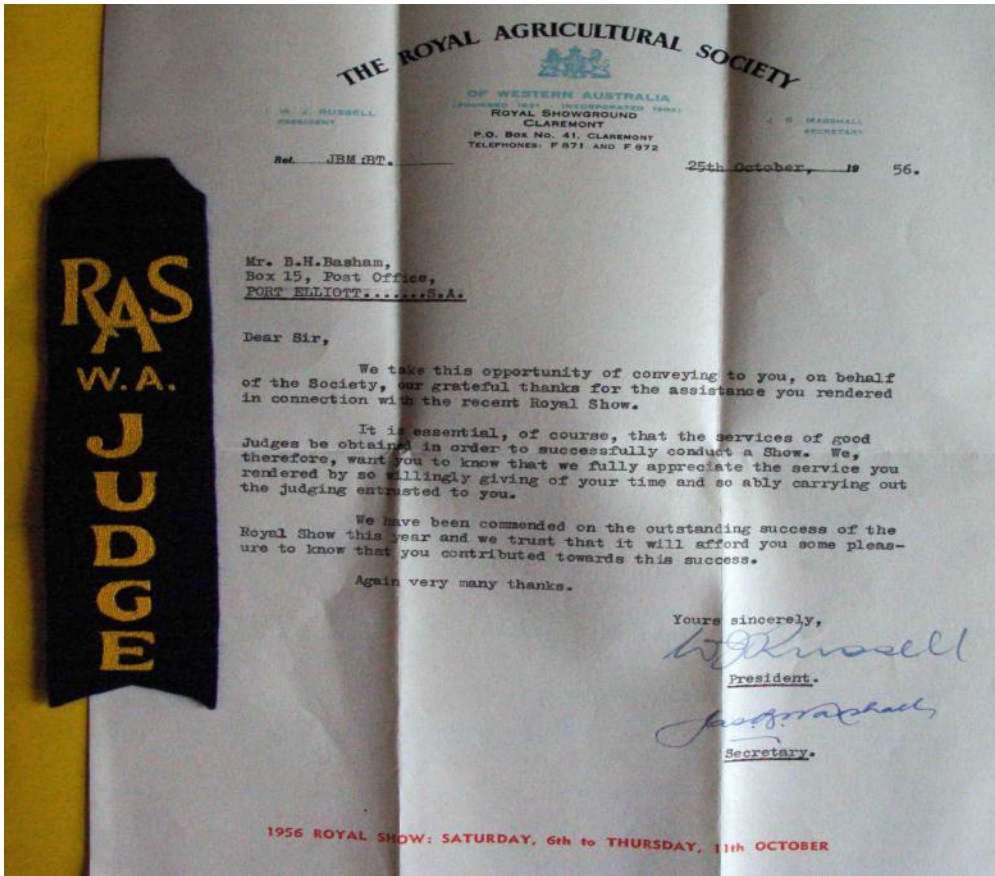


Runaway Upsets Parade

B.H. BASHAM
← CAUGHT
HEIFER

B.H. Basham

A prize-winning Aberdeen Angus heifer caused a minor sensation during the parade at the Royal Show yesterday. Breaking away from its keeper it eluded pursuit (above) and dashed through the files of cattle near the inner fence. Here its lead rope was twisted round a fence post, but it broke down 30 ft. of fencing and dragged Mr. J. W. Rice, of Nairne (right) on to the muddy oval. Mr. Rice sustained injuries to the face and arms as well as being covered with mud, but got the animal under control, and continued in the parade.



**Don't miss this opportunity to
buy Top Quality Cattle!**

GUERNSEY SALE 1956

Owing to flood conditions
these 25 head of—

**PLEASANT BANKS
GUERNSEYS**

Are being offered for sale at
**PORT ELLIOT, SOUTH AUSTRALIA
ON SEPTEMBER 26th**

These cattle are from an accredited T.B. free herd. All females inoculated with Strain 19.

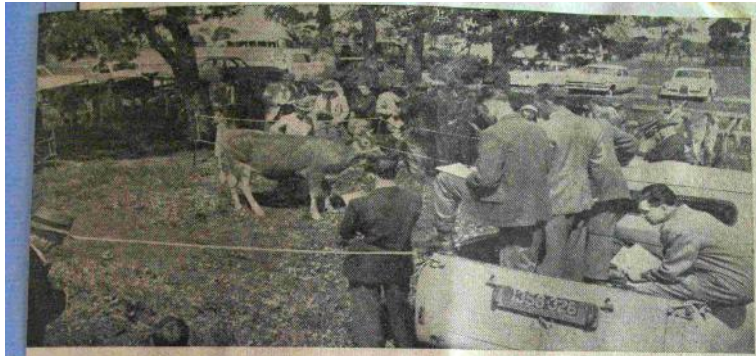
The cows include Pleasant Banks Faith, champion Guernsey cow and best milked cow at Adelaide Royal Show, 1955. Faith is by Yarraview Syrian, champion Adelaide Royal, 1948-50-51. First prize bull and progeny, 1950-51-53.

The males include Pleasant Banks Warspite 2nd, out of P. B. Monica, a daughter of Pleasant Banks Monica, who was top Guernsey in 1953-54 with 13,050 lb. milk, 5.4 p.c. av. test, 711 lb. butterfat in 300 days.

Monica was champion cow at Adelaide Royal, 1949-51, and won type and production in 1950-51-53-54-55.

Catalogues, with full details of sale, available from the auctioneers,
Elder, Smith & Co., Ltd., Adelaide, or the owner,

B. H. BASHAM
BOX 15, PORT ELLIOT - PHONE PORT ELLIOT 131



The Port Elliot Showgrounds made a pleasant setting for the first reduction sale of the Pleasant Banks Guernsey stud owned by B. H. Basham, Port Elliot.

Pleasant Banks Guernseys Sell To 150 Gns.

Stud Guernsey cattle sold to 150 guineas at the first reduction sale of B. H. Basham's Pleasant Banks stud

Pleasant Banks Star, a two-year-old heifer sired by Pleasant Banks Merit from Pleasant Banks Della, was bought for 150 guineas by D. H. and S. Wisse, Bordertown.

This was equal top price with Pleasant Banks War-spite 2nd, a yearling bull by Pleasant Banks War-spite from Pleasant Banks Merina, bought by R. F. Linke, Moolalla.

Twenty cows and heifers were offered and 18 were sold for an average of £102 19/. Five bulls were offered and two sold for an average of £144 7/6.

Pleasant Banks Faith, born September, 1946, was the top price cow being bought by V. Wilson, Kingscote, Kangaroo Is-land, for 145 guineas. This winner in the Adelaide Show ring and has an out-standing production record. She was considered by

many to be the outstanding animal in the offering. Buyers came from Eyre Peninsula, Kangaroo Is-land, Adelaide and South-ern Hills and the South-East.

Competition was steady but rarely buoyant.

By Hal Bannister

More than half of the 70 people who attended the sale came with the intention of buying if the prices suited them and this formed a solid basis to bidding.

This first reduction sale was forced on Mr. Basham by the flooding of his island country in the Lake Alex-andrina area where he usually keeps his dry stock.

Unable to keep all his stock on the Port Elliot property, he decided to offer all his surplus stock in the one sale.

Seasonal conditions were reflected in some of the

entries, but overall the standard of quality was extremely high.

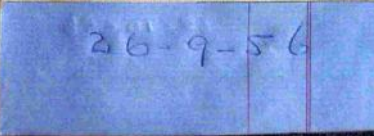
Selling agents were Elder, Smith and Co. Ltd.


Details were:—

FEMALES—Pleasant Banks Popsy to L. J. Dobnt, Borrika; 110. Pleasant Banks Faith to V. Wilson, Kingscote, £1. 145; Cleveville Murry to J. McEv, Karoonda, 95; Pleasant Banks Meria to W. L. and D. J. May, Waid Yorktown, 150; Pleasant Banks Clara to J. Mack, 87; Pleasant Banks Amy to L. C. Post, Wharfedale, 80; Pleasant Banks Della to L. and L. J. Mayfield, 118; Pleasant Banks Clarice to L. W. and D. G. McCallum, Arno Bay, 85; Pleasant

Banks Lee to L. G. Post, 66; Pleasant Banks Maud to F. D. Mun-tern, Auburn, 80; Pleasant Banks Star to D. H. and S. Wisse, Bordertown, 150 gns.; Pleasant Banks Wincome to G. H. Lambert, Auburn, 100; Pleasant Banks Marcia to H. J. and L. E. May, Yorktown, 80; Pleasant Banks Lella to L. W. and D. J. McCallum, 80; Pleasant Banks Moira to P. D. Min-terth, 80; Pleasant Banks Merie to V. Wilson, 82; Pleasant Banks Vicki to G. H. Lambert, 85; Pleasant Banks Mavin to Smith Bros., Schunke, 65 gns.

BULLS—Pleasant Banks War-spite 2nd to R. F. Linke, 138; Pleasant Banks Mavis to D. G. and S. Wilson, Callum, Arno Bay, 85; Pleasant





**THE GUERNSEY CATTLE SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALIA**
(Victorian Branch)

Telephone: **DEK 2200**
MON 10 MON 1000
Secretary.

H. T. C. WOODFULL

ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
SHOWGROUNDS
ASCOT VALE, W.
Telephone: **FF 1871**

11th June, 1957.

GT:EW.

B. H. Basham, Esq.,
P.O. Box 15,
PORT ELLIOTT, S.A.

Dear Sir,

At a recent meeting of the Committee of this Branch, your election as Federal President of this Society was noted and in addition to wishing you every success during your term of office my Committee also extend to you their hearty congratulations on your election.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

H. T. C. WOODFULL, Secretary.

pe.....



The Mayor of Launceston
requests the honour of the company of
Mr B. H. Basham.

at the Town Hall
on *Wednesday 8th October 1958* at *5 pm*
when a CIVIC WELCOME will be tendered to
Visiting Show Judges 1958

R.S.V.P.
Town Clerk before
7th Oct

Address communications thus:
 Department of Agriculture
 Box 901 E,
 G.P.O., Adelaide,
 and refer to
 No.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 Agriculture Building,
 133-137 Gawler Place,
 Adelaide 11th August, 1959.

Mr. B.H. Basham,
PORT ELLIOTT.

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in advising that your cow "PLEASANT BANKS MADGE", which completed her lactation in June, has set up a new state record for a Guernsey four year old cow with a butterfat production of 599 lbs.

The previous record of 545 lbs. butterfat was held by your cow "PLEASANT BANKS MERNA".

The adverse seasonal conditions, with its many associated problems, particularly that of feeding, during the lactating period of your cow, emphasises the conduct of good dairy husbandry practices in your herd management.

Please accept my personal congratulations for setting up a new record under such conditions.

Yours faithfully,
A. G. Skirrahland
DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE.

Royal Agricultural Society of N.S.W.
 Endeavour House, 33 Macquarie Place,
 Sydney, 27 FEB 1959

Box 4317 G.P.O.
 TELEPHONE BU 4061-6
 ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR SECRETARY

B.H. Basham Esq.,
 P.O. Box 15,
 PORT ELLIOT, S.A.

Sir,

As you have accepted the position of JUDGE in Section CATTLE (Guernseys) your attendance will be required on Monday and Tuesday, 23rd and 24th March, 1959 at 8.45 a.m. at the Office on the Showground.

N.B.—The Judge's Award Cards, before being passed as correct, must be checked by the Steward acting with each Judge by comparing the awards as shown on the cards with their marked section catalogues and re-signed as correct. It is essential that this request be complied with.

Enclosed you will find Official Badge, and Luncheon Tickets, duplicates of which cannot be issued. Please acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,
 F. H. BERRYMAN, Director.
 per *F. H. Berryman*

Royal Agricultural Society of N.S.W.
 ROYAL EASTER SHOW, 1959
 165 Official Luncheon
 OFFICIAL DINING ROOM
 NOT BEHIND STAND
 Admit
 Dining Room opens at 11 a.m. each day.
 F. H. BERRYMAN
 Director
 11/6

Honorary
 to the 1959
 ROYAL EASTER SHOW

pre-
rgest
mp's
cows
Of
one

Group of 3 Females
over 2 years

R. H. Basham

H. J. & L. E. A. E. & P.
May
Rothe

GUERNSEY STANDARD

"A SURPRISE"

With the grand and reserve champion cow and seven firsts, B. H. Basham, Pleasant Banks, Port Elliot, was the outstanding exhibitor in a strong Guernsey section.

A total of 102 entries were paraded compared with 79 last year.

The judge, Mr. C. C. Drury, of Vanwalla, Kolodong, Taree, NSW, said he had been surprised by the very excellent standard.

"The nine cows that lined up for the championship ribbon were exceptional and the most uniform class I have seen," he added.

Champion cow was B. H. Basham's Pleasant Banks Lola. His Pleasant Banks Lexie was reserve champion.

Mr. Basham won the type and production class with Pleasant Banks Madge, which was champion cow last year and recently broke the breed record for production with 599 lb. of butterfat.

Several animals bred by Mr. Basham and shown by other exhibitors won placings.

Pleasant Banks Don owned by Mr. D. H. Wiese, of Mundalla last year's champion bull, was reserve champion.

Mr. Wiese took three first places.

Champion bull was Overport Prospero, exhibited by Mrs. M. S. Saint and Sons, of Coombe, who gained three firsts.

The judge commented that this even, robust bull which came from the junior classes was "very, very hard to fault. If you wanted to

paint the ideal Guernsey bull you would have to see him first," he said.

Other breeders to score well were A. E. and P. D. Rothe, of Echunga, and H. J. and L. E. May, of Yorketown.

ADELAIDE ROYAL SHOW
SEPTEMBER 1959.

"PLEASANT BANKS" GUERNSEYS ARE TYPICAL

ROBUST, gentle and handsome, Guernseys recently inspected made a picture on "Pleasant Banks", Mr. B. H. Basham's stud on the south coast at Port Elliot.

By Staff Writer, JASON HOPTON, after a recent visit to the Port Elliot property.

This visit was made on the eve of the New Year to see the stock of Mr. Basham, who is S.A. Branch President and

heifers developed into good producers.

At "Pleasant Banks," calving goes on all the year. Some special calvings are arranged for show time in September.

Mr. Basham is a great believer in feeding, which is es-

meadow hay in the autumn and winter in addition to concentrates in the ball.

The original Guernsey was a combination of the large

In the 1959 Adelaide Royal, Mr. Basham saw his females take the champion and reserve titles. Pleasant Banks Lola, by Yarraview Syrian from P. B. Lily, and P. B. Lexie by P. B. Warspite from P. B. Lilax were these winners. He won the group trophy and the J. G. Dawkins Memorial prize.

In the more recent show, Mr. Basham took seven ribbons and again the group trophy.

In the commercial field, he remarked on the progress of Guernseys on the large property, "Bodalla," in N.S.W., managed by Mr. J. Brown.

Guernseys had been introduced into ten dairy herds run on Bodalla Estate.

Star herd had been graded from red and white Friesians over 15 years by the share-farmer, Mr. W. J. Lamont, "Long Point."

On this farm, 88 cows in the past year produced the record of 324 lbs. butterfat per head.

On "Heffernan Hill" farm, 65 first cross Guernsey/A.I.S. cows averaged 304 lbs., while on "Trunketabella," 145 Guernsey grade cows averaged 298 lbs.

Mr. Brown had said that the figures represented the average number of cows on the farm all the year, milking, dry and heifers within three months of calving. Butterfat figures came from amounts paid by the factory.

Mr. Brown said, "I do not pretend that the record figures for the year's production were

In front is Pleasant Banks Virginia, a good producing daughter of the dam, Vera, who does not show her 14 years, beside the younger cow.

due entirely to the Guernsey blood. Pasture improvement is having increased effect and the efficiency of the share-farmers cannot be ignored."

In this Jubilee year, it is of interest to mention that the first import of Guernseys was made by the Department of Agriculture in N.S.W. in 1898.

In 1910, some cows were brought in for Victoria and S.A. Mr. Anthony Hordern, of Bowral, imported ten cows and two bulls.

At the meeting in Sydney in April, 1911, when the Society came into being, were Messrs. J. W. Gillespie, H. R. Denison, A. Hordern, Dixon Cooke, J. J. Kinross, M. A. O'Callaghan and H. O'Brien Wilson.

The S.A. branch, formed in 1833, had on the first committee Messrs. P. L. Basham, J. M. Burns, S. W. Burns, J. G. Dawkins, V. A. Harding, H. Lewis, E. T. Vinal and H. D. Barlow. The Federal President then was Dr. R. M. Kinross.

The S.A. branch has more than 100 members. In this Jubilee year, they will conduct their first field day at Echunga on January 24.



• Mr. B. H. Basham

President of the Guernsey Cattle Society of Australia, which is celebrating its Jubilee.

"If I am away from the farm for a few days, others can step in and milk the herd. Guernseys are very quiet," he said.

In addition to this characteristic docility, these fawn-coloured milkers are noted for their ability to stand up to cold weather.

Mr. Basham spoke of the good returns for old cows which were eagerly sought by butchers. He had topped the local market with such stock.

In a paddock of dry barrel and burr clover pasture, we found Pleasant Banks Vera, a wonderful old breeder of more than 14 years. There was Virginia, one of her quality daughters, nearby — all Vera's



Son of Mr. B. H. (Bunny) Basham, Roger, is standing beside the silage mounds at "Pleasant Banks". The cows receive silage and meadow hay at this time of the year and onwards until the feed comes away again.

sential if the milk returns are to be maintained.

The whole milk is sent to Victor Harbour and finds its way to the city homes. The breeders are proud of the milk, rich in flavour, rich in butterfat and of an attractive golden colour. Quantity is another attribute.

In the "Pleasant Banks" programme, silage plays an important role. This year, crops of oats were cut, not too green, and heaped with the Ferguson buckrake into two mounds.

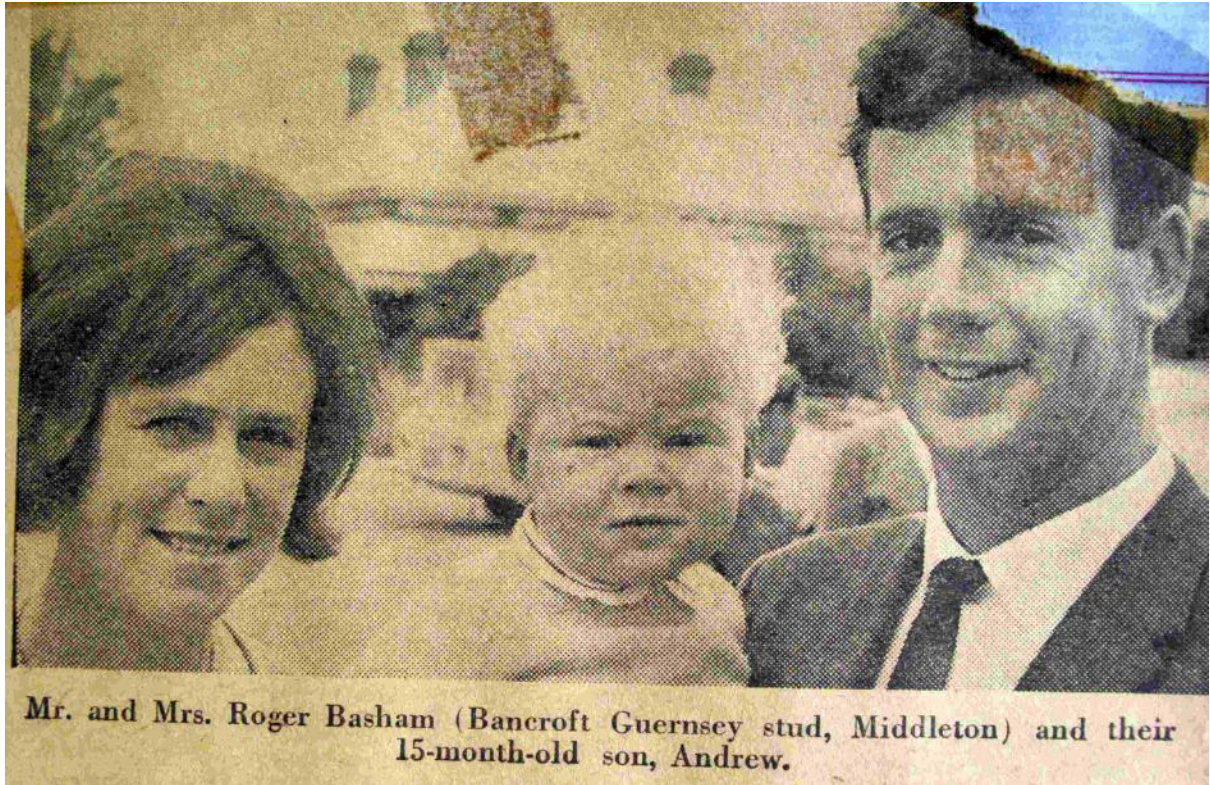
The cattle receive silage and

brindle cow of the Continent, known as the Isigne, and smaller red of Brittany, known as the Froment de Lion.

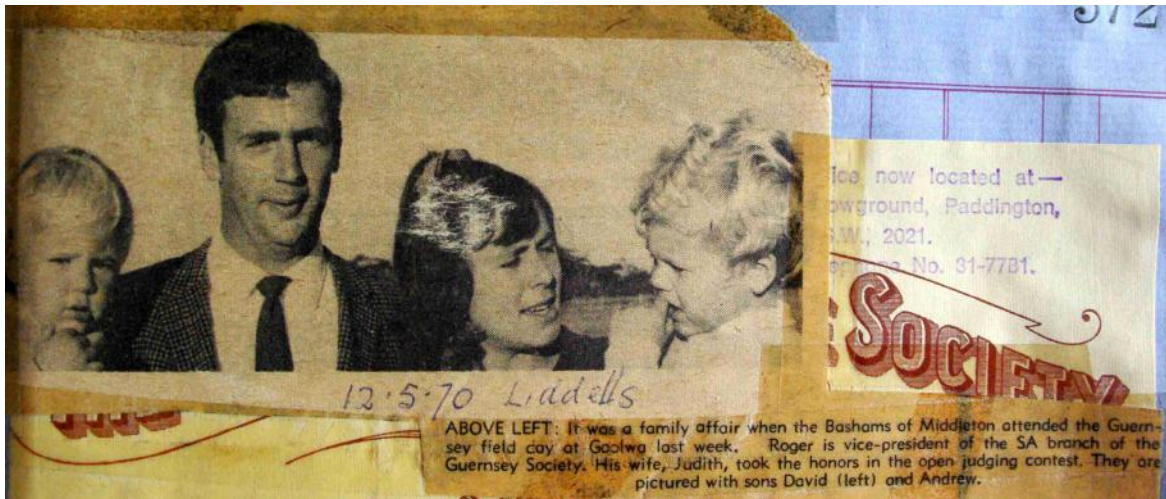
As early as 1789, the importation of cattle to the Island of Guernsey was restricted and in 1819, live cattle imports were prohibited.

The Basham family have had Guernseys for 33 years.

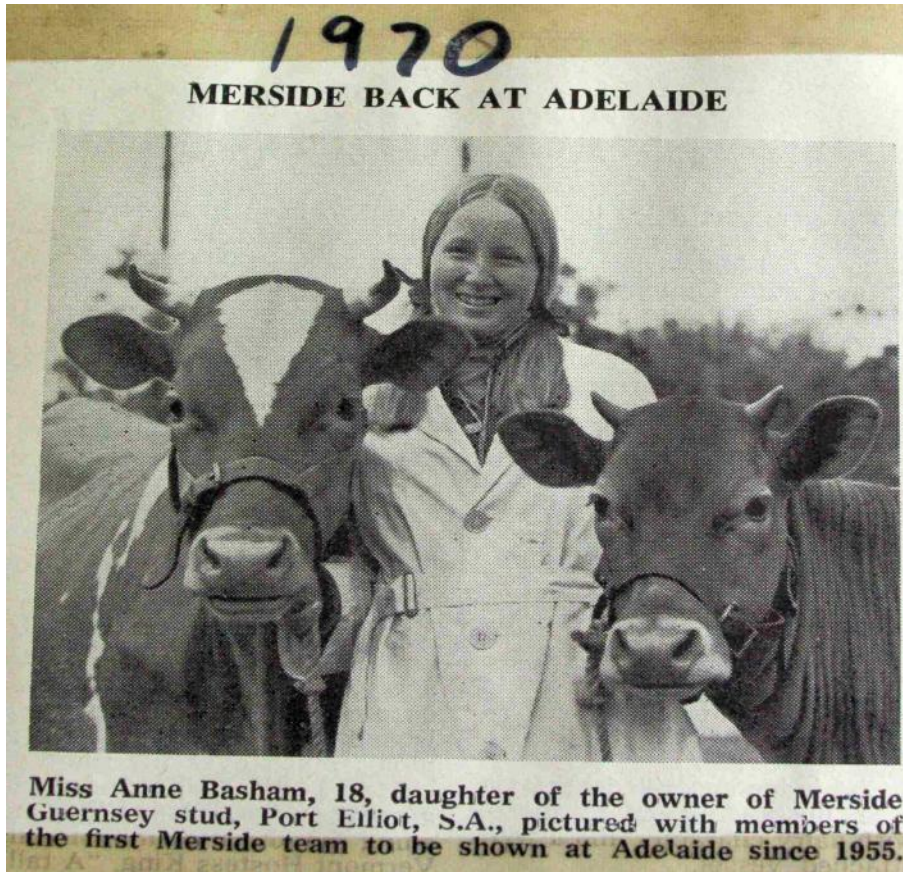
Mr. B. H. Basham said that his late father, C. W. H. Basham, who died in recent years, had been born in the district a century ago.



1961



1970



H.J., Phillip & Bernard Basham



Annual Guernsey field day at Pt. Elliot



The 1972 field day of the SA branch of the Guernsey Cattle Society of Australia was held on Tuesday at the Pleasant Banks property of Merside studmaster, Mr. Phil Basham, Pt. Elliot.

ABOVE: One of the most enjoyable facets of the field day was the lunch interlude when more than 200 people consumed barbecued chops, sausages and hamburgers, along with salads and cheese provided by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Pt. Elliot Life Saving Club.

ABOVE LEFT: Four attractive "Golden Guernsey believers" admiring the rising three-year-old cow, Merside Adrienne, are Mrs. Kerry Mooney, Merside Adrienne, Shannon Pfeiffer, Nachara, Anne Basham, daughter of Mr. Phil Basham, and Sue Bartholomaeus, Cockburn.

CENTRE LEFT: The guest speaker at the field day, Mr. Brian Hammarford, chairman of the Metropolitan Milk Board, with Mr. George Lambert, SA branch president, talking with the Basham brothers, Hubert, Phil and Bernard (Bunny).

BOTTOM LEFT: Victorian visitors at the field day were Mr. & Mrs. Graham Binn, Connara Guernsey stud, Rochester, and Mr. & Mrs. Hottag Troutbeck, Bala-Wai Guernsey stud, Mickleham.

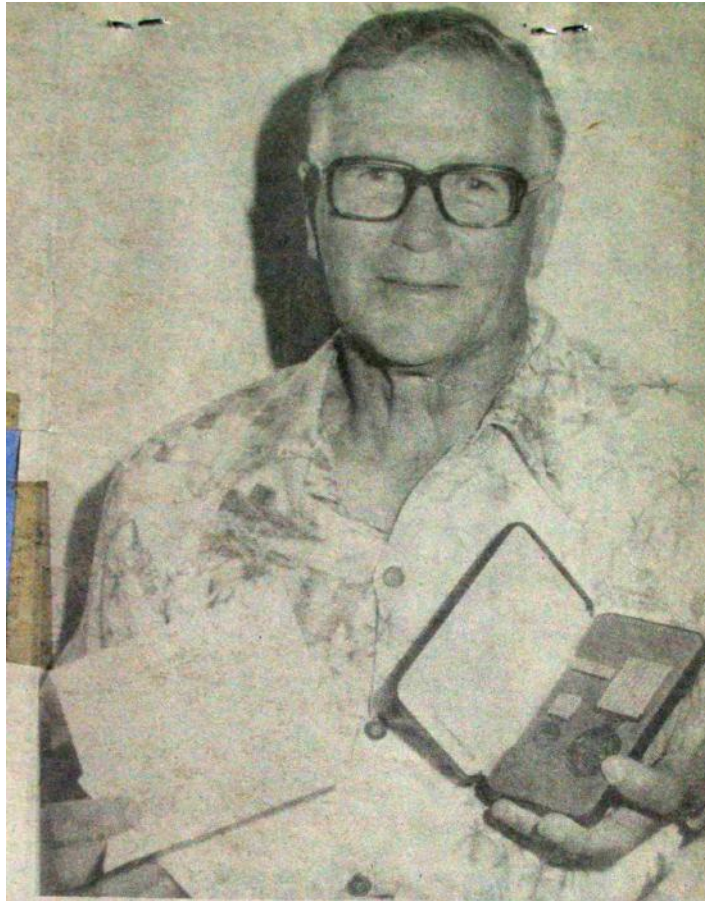
BUNN MAY 9th TROUTBECK 1972

**TRIBUTE TO 1976
PHILLIP BASHAM**

Well known SA Guernsey breeder, Mr Phillip Lancelot Basham died on Monday, March 1st. Mr Basham who was 73 had been in hospital for three months. He and his brother, Mr Bernard (Bunny) Basham formed the Pleasant Banks Guernsey Stud at Port Elliott in 1920.

In 1952 the partnership was dissolved and the Pleasant Banks prefix transferred to Barnard. Phillip retained the property name of Pleasant Banks and formed the Merside Stud. This herd was dispersed on January 31, 1973.

The late Mr Basham is survived by a widow and a daughter, Anne.



Pictured with the National Medal is Mr. B.H. Basham of Port Elliot who was given the award for his service to the CFS.

Mr. B.H. Basham of Port Elliot has been awarded Australia's National Medal for his work in the Country Fire Service.

It is the first time the Governor-General has awarded the medal which is for Long Service and Good Conduct in the uniform services.

Under the Australian Honors System this medal replaces the Long Service and Good Conduct medal previously awarded.

The National Medal was presented this month to Mr. Basham for "diligent and continuous service to the CFS for not less than 15 years."

He was among 65 CFS members in SA who were presented with the medal.

Mr. Basham, who has served in the CFS for 24 years, has actually been fighting fires since about 1940.

According to Mr. Basham it was then that a group of about 10 landowners in the Middleton area grouped

together to buy a fire-fighting pump. This was probably the first fire-fighting organization started in the South.

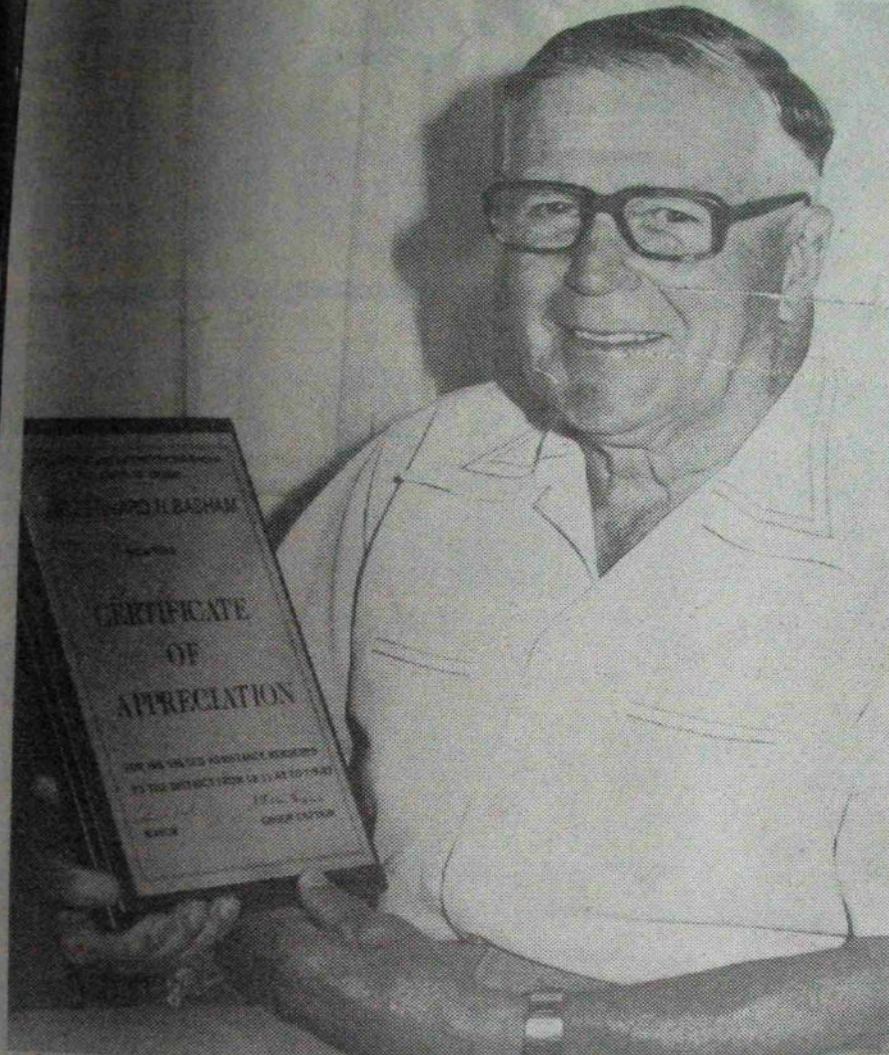
This group did not join the CFS until 13 years later in 1953.

The bronze coloured medal with blue and gold ribbon was also presented to the Director of the CFS, Mr. F.L. Kerr, who has served 42 years with the service.

To be eligible for the medal, it is necessary to attend at least 12 service parades each year.

Mr. Basham, who was the only person on the South Coast to win the award, is also a member of the SES, president of the Guernsey Cattle Society of Australia (twice) and the SA branch of the society for about 16 years.

Port Elliot and Goolwa Citizen of the Year



Mr. Bun Basham with his Certificate of Appreciation presented to him last year by the C.F.S. of Goolwa and Districts.

Mr Bernard H. "Bun" Basham was nominated by the local C.F.S. crew to receive the Citizen of the Year Award.

Mr Basham of Pt Elliot was brought up on a family property, "Pleasant Banks", just a few minutes away from where he now resides.

Being a farmer he was always concerned with fire control and in 1954 was appointed Fire Control Officer of the Middleton C.F.S. and had been a member for some years prior to that.

In January 1958 he was promoted to Deputy Supervisor and from the end of 1962 until September 1987 served as a C.F.S. Supervisor.

Last year he received a Certificate of Appreciation for his services to C.F.S. from the Goolwa & Districts C.F.S. group.

In his farming days, Mr Basham ran "Pleasant Banks" as a Guernsey stud winning many prizes at the show with his fine herd.

He has judged cattle all over Australia at Royal Shows and is a Life Member of the S.A. Branch of the Guernsey Cattle Society.

Mr Basham has two children, Janet Renk of Mt Jaggard and son Roger

who runs "Pleasant Banks" at Mt Compass.

While Mr Basham does not claim to help Roger with the farm he admits to visiting regularly.

Life Memberships have also been awarded Mr Basham for his many years service to the Southern Country Shows and Southern Agricultural Society where he has been a member since World War 2 in various capacities.

For his many years of service to the district Mr Basham was presented with the Citizen of the Year Award by Mayor Harding of the District Council of Pt Elliot & Goolwa.

The afternoon presentation ceremony held in the Pt Elliot Institute was concluded with afternoon tea.

Award praises Bun's service

Bun Basham was rewarded for almost 40 years of service to the CFS and local community last week, when he was named citizen of the year and presented with the Australia Day award.

In a ceremony at Port Elliot, Mayor of Port Elliot and Goolwa District Council, Mr Colin Harding, said the Australia Day Award was a symbol of Bun Basham's dedication to his community.

Mr Basham has lived in the district all his life with his service to the community covering many areas, from the Country Fire Service to the Southern Agricultural Show Society and Dairy Breeders Association.

His commitment to the Country Fire Service spans almost 40 years, starting as a volunteer and being appointed to higher positions, such as fire control officer in 1954, deputy supervisor in 1958 and becoming district supervisor in 1962, a position Bun held until September last year.

Bun was also a member of the SES and the Southern Agricultural Show Society.

His experience with the show society included judging at Royal shows in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth and Launceston between 1948 and 1974.

Bun also held various offices in the Dairy Breeders Association in both State and Federal branches.

Mr Harding, said Bun had never approached any community project in a half-hearted way.

"What ever job he has undertaken, he has always given it his full commitment," he said.



● Victor Harbor Mayor, Mr Cliff Thorpe, at the presentation of Australia Day citizen awards at Petticoat Lane on Monday.



● Gerald Virgin accepts the Australia Day citizen award for his son, Victor Harbor cricketer Shane Virgin who could not be at Petticoat Lane to receive the award.

but our phrase



● Australia Day citizen award winner Bun Basham, right, accepts his award from Mayor of Port Elliot and Goolwa Council, Mr Colin Harding. Mr Basham received his award for more than 40 years service to the Goolwa-Port Elliot community.

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PORT ELLIOT AND GOOLWA

Invitation

His Worship the Mayor

Kym McHugh

invites

Mr B.H. Basham

to the opening of the

BASHAM'S BEACH REGIONAL PARK

by the Premier of South Australia
the Honourable Dean Brown, M.P.

Sunday 31st March, 1996

at

11:00 a.m.

Morning tea will be served at the park adjoining
Freeman's Nob Lookout, The Strand, Port Elliot
followed by a B.Y.O. family picnic at Basham's Beach
commencing at 12 noon where the
Premier will unveil a plaque followed by
community bike ride and kite display.

RSVP to
Vanessa Harvey
(085) 55 2202 by 25.3.96

Various photographic magix performed by G.W. (Frodo) Krochmal