

Interview with Jack Kidman Saturday 15 July 1991

It Doesn't Snow Like it Used to

You used to get 12 and 14 feet of snow down at the old hotel at Kosci. Now you can be lucky if you get a foot down there.

You're never going to get much snow in the mountains till it swings to the south. If you get a Sou Wester you can bet you're going to get a fairly good fall of snow.

I remember up there in the mountains in years gone by, when the famous Hedger's cattle started to move, it was time we started moving. They knew, those old cows of 12 and 14 years old, they didn't get caught in the snow. They knew it was coming. You'd hear them bellarin' and you'd see them here today, and back tomorrow they wasn't there but they'd be down lower. And you knew it was time to be out of the mountains. It mightn't come that day but it'd come the next.

Every time you'd hear fella's say "We won't get caught this year with the snow, we'll be out before the snow comes", and later they'd say, "Oh, I think we can stay another week, oh, we'll leave it for another week."

A lot of years now the snow wouldn't be deep enough for horses to get snowed in.

Pretty Plain and Pugilistic Hut:

Thelma Horsley's father was Bill Pendergast and that was known as Pender's Hut on the creek above Pretty Plain Hut.

As far as the fight goes, one bloke came from Adaminaby and one bloke from Corryong. They met at Pugilistic. It was a Shannon and some other fella. They reckon neither of them could hold the reins, both had beaten up their hands at that stage. They couldn't hold the reins to steer the horses. The story I heard was that it lasted over two and a half hours, the fight. She was non stop. There was no rounds.