**Essays on Mount Crosby - Truck Transport by Kerr Bros**

Although only eight miles from Ipswich, early Mount Crosby was considered to be "a long way out" and while many remarked that there was "quite a little town here", it was indeed quite a little town - and in the minds of many divisional councillors not easily deserving of suburban services. Also, because it was a township built largely by the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board for the purpose of water supply, local councils had over the years developed an expectation that the Board would make its own arrangements for its residents.

This was certainly true about transport arrangements between Mount Crosby and Ipswich, which until the late 1940s remained generally woeful . The degree of woefulness was illustrated in June 1942 when a goods truck operated by local storekeepers (the Kerr Brothers), while doubling as the bus service, crashed heavily near Colledges Crossing injuring thirteen people, seven of whom were admitted to hospital.

Later in that decade things had hardly improved, prompting a stinging letter to the editor by a visitor to our town. Through the eyes of an outsider, not trained in these privations, it looked like this:

*Sir.-I have been spending a holiday in your district and visited Mt. Crosby. I will never forget it. The district is lovely, but the transport-Oh! I began to wonder if this was the year 1946 or 1900, for the transport is awful. It is a truck with canvas covered sides that flap, flap, flap. From the front a gale blows through a space of about 2ft. No matter how or where you sit, it gets your face, back, and chest, with what results you can imagine. Then the passengers sit on wooden seats with no cushions. Bread is there with-no covering. If you return in the evening, you get in another contraption. Certainly you have not the draft, this time, but you cannot stand up or go out properly or you bump your head, so you go at the double; but still there are the hard seats. You are lucky to have passengers only on this, but on the other services I hear that empty milk bottles, bags of chaff, or anything else keep you company. I paid the visit with the idea of living in the district, but after seeing the mode of travel, I'm dubious. It's time the residents of Mt. Crosby woke up and made an effort to secure a good transport service from Ipswich or Brisbane.*

In response, a local letter arrived, and its last line summed up the locals' hardiness and appreciation of what little they had grown used to:

*"I think we are most fortunate under the circumstances."*

Col Hester