**Essays on Mount Crosby - Mr Sinnamon's Architect**

“Architect” was a fine horse, reputedly one of the best in the district. He belonged to old man Sinnamon who hailed from River Hills, and at the setting of this story no one knows why Architect and his buggy were down by Hawkesbury Road. Perhaps old Sinnamon had a parcel of land nearby, or they were simply passing through. It doesn’t matter to the story and for that reason the answer has been lost in time, except to say that at some time when (thankfully) no one was in the buggy, Architect had cause to take fright. He panicked and wheeled and tore off in the direction of the Moggill ferry, which in those pre First World War days took the form of a short floating bridge, open at both ends.

Down toward the ferry ran Architect, the empty buggy glancing the ground behind him, so fast that a relay of witnesses were needed to piece the story together. He met the ferry moored at the northern bank and ran madly through it into the waters of the Brisbane River where, still imagining his own cutty sark, he swam for the opposite bank. A short time later he emerged victorious, cart still attached, only to be defeated by a barbed-wire fence. There his pursuers and admirers found him, frothy, bloody, and broken in more than one place.

Sinnamon knew the value of his horse and he had heard the reputation for treating injured horses of Edward Powell from Kholo. Edward Powell was a skilful horseman and a farrier-sergeant in the Australian Light Horse regiment, whose drills he regularly attended at Queen’s Park in Ipswich.

An agreement on treating Architect was struck between the two men and Edward eventually nursed the horse back to condition as a useful sire. A short time later one of Edward's mares was in foal to Architect as agreed. The foal grew into a feisty ink-black horse that Edward proudly rode to drills. He was, said Edward's son, “a begger of a horse”, headstrong, full of stamina and perfectly cantankerous. He was also the type of horse one calls a Waler, whose build was obtained by crossing horses of fine lines with heavier horses to develop a strong stock horse. These outstandingly durable horses were living examples of Darwin’s theory, being borne of the stock that survived the arduous sea voyage to Australia and the rigors of an untamed country. All of which made them ideal war-horses and so sought after by the military that nearly half a million were exported as remounts between 1860 and 1930.

They were sent to a wide variety of places, including India, the Middle East and the European theatres of war, where they were hardly ever called upon to swim.

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