**Essays on Mount Crosby - Mount Crosby Post Office**

A post office is a good sign for a little town. Evidently, our settlers felt the same way, that is to say they wanted one, but it took longer than expected to get it. For early post, Mount Crosby managed to get itself included on a mail run, illustrated by advertisements in the local paper along the lines of:

*CONVEYANCE OF MAILS. TENDERS FOR THE SERVICES, 1884-85-86. SEPARATE TENDERS are invited and will be received until Noon of MONDAY, the 1st day of October, 1883, for the conveyance of Post Office mails, as hereinafter mentioned, from the 1st day of January, 1881 ...*

*Ipswich and Crosby (Lower Kholo), via Tivoli School (Skinner's), and Maltman's (Kholo), by horse, daily to Tivoli School, once a week to Crosby, for one, two, or three years.*

These are some of the earliest writings in which you can see the word "Crosby" so we were making a good start - and especially notable was the opening of our postal receiving station in the new provisional school in 1882 (the first school teacher, Arthur Leigh, also became the first receiving office keeper).

Trouble was, it took a long time for the next thing to happen, mainly because nearby Kholo already had the next thing (and authorities weren't handing out many of them). Kholo's post office showed just how civilised they were, whereas even after we had built our pumping station and school in 1893 (i.e. we were a proper little town) our post office was - well - missing.

QUESTION: Did that cause any problems?

ANSWER: Joseph Stewart (Chief Engineer) to the Board - Mount Crosby, 1894:

"W*e are not treated in a civil manner by the teacher and it could all be avoided if we had our own [mail] bag".*

The station did get its own mail bag, and thirty long years later (1924) the Postmaster General (PMG) bestowed "Allowance Post Office" status on Mount Crosby's postal service, which I understand means Pop Kerr received an allowance to handle post in his new shop. Between 1924 and the late 1940s Kerr Bros operated the Post Office among diverse other services (e.g. shop, buses, telegraph, goods transport and kiosks), and then an interesting thing happened.

Mrs Mitchell (at the corner of today's Brady Court) applied to the PMG to operate a post office from underneath her house; and naturally the shop owners applied as well, wasting no time in engaging local carpenter Ab Swenson to modify the shop's storeroom to meet post office requirements. The result was interesting; the Post Office was located under Mrs Mitchell's house for a short time before it returned to the shop in 1949. As evidence I share with you this cheerful photograph of the Feather family girls arriving to collect their mail at Mitchell's in the late 1940s.

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