

Foreword



Take a look at the picture above; it is dated from circa 1930. The Norhead Dairy's head roundsman is holding the horse; my father, John Stone, is the lower left figure and surrounded by his siblings. This transport was the reality of that time.

During one man's lifetime the horse has effectively disappeared and all around us has changed.

The farm was worked by people who laboured in all weathers and were helped by the horse and other animals; for example goats for grazing orchards, dogs controlling pests and livestock.

The tractor (see chapter 9) was in its infancy and some looked like a Leonardo da Vinci mechanical nightmare. Now you see machines such as the Lamborghini and others, that can plough circa sixty acres per day with one man, while the horses in pairs and three or more men could average one acre per day.

Hence, over a few decades, farming has changed forever.

This beautifully constructed biography was written by my father over several years, and polished from hours of work by Lizzy Stroud, my second cousin. Lizzy spent many days over the last two years in interviews and discussions with my father to make sure everything was included. From this we we get a detailed picture of his life, its trials and tribulations, moments of prowess and satisfactory achievements.

The farm, early life and the war were clearly formative for the character of my father.

The farm was a close knit community and despite harsh conditions was driven by kindness and awareness of individual needs within the community.

These values over time have largely disappeared, like the horse, but clearly remain as formative forces in my father's character.

I take this opportunity to thank him for his example.

I also express my thanks to all who have contributed to this work.

William Ivor Stone - November 2022.