

## **BROCKMAN Julius Vernon**

This is an article titled "Horses are my life - my devotion", published in the Busselton-Margaret Times, in the Senior Lifestyles section on Thursday, October 1, 1992. The article was written by Allan Miller.

Horses came naturally to Julius Brockman from his boyhood, when he began learning how to break them in. His father an avid horseman, like generations of Brockman's before him, showed him the principles and he quickly caught on.

Now Julius Brockman is 81, and his active involvement with horses has finished. He still attends the races in Bunbury on occasions, but gone are the days when he and wife Joan would float horses up to Perth for trackwork and racing at Ascot and Belmont courses. He handed in his training licence in during the 1980's - training winners to the end.

"Horses are my life - my devotion, and have been since I was nine", he said. He now lives in semi-retirement in the house in Ford Road, Busselton, which was built at the turn of the century by his grandmother Capel Brockman- - formerly Capel Bussell - for her retirement. She had married one of a large family of pioneering Brockman's synonymous with this district, Edward Reveley Brockman and they had 10 children, the youngest of whom was Julius's father.

Julius Brockman was born in Westfield nursing home, on West Street, Busselton, in April 1911. The building in which he entered the world still stands, and has been recently been acquired by the Silver Chain organisation which hopes to move its operations there next year.

Julius was brought up at the Brockman property Mayjenup, near Nannup, and has spent most of his life living there and at Mount Folly, also on the outskirts of Nannup. From the age of nine he accompanied his father on the family's various coast runs to Augusta and Pemberton, mustering cattle on horseback which he remembers was "hellishly hard" through the uncleared karri forest.

He was sent to Hale School in Perth in the late 1920s. One of his contemporaries at Hale, the late Lang Hancock, went on to become the king of the Pilbara mining industry. Julius married his wife Joan in 1940, and although they describe themselves as "very different people" - she enjoys delving into history and has written on the early people of the South-West - she too derived much pleasure from the involvement with horses over the years.

Julius Brockman's achievements with horses are legendary. To begin with he was a well-known A-class trainer in WA for many years. Some of the winners he trained at Ascot and Belmont were Sands of Windee, Roaring Forties, Subsidize (who won a Sheraton Stakes in 1973) and Junction Girl.

Other big successes he trained included Rantu (horse of the year in Bunbury in 1974), Dark Martini and Northern Queen. One of his greatest achievements was winning the WA Derby in 1970 with Chez Felix. Julius Brockman was also well known in the field of show jumping in which he actively competed. One of his horses, Bombadier, was a great favourite with crowds at various functions in the South-West during the 1940s.<sup>1</sup>

In 1954 the Brockmans sold their hillside property at Nannup, Mount Folly (from the top of which, on a clear day, it was possible to sight the Boranup Sand patch some 80km away). They moved to Newtown House at Vasse, where they ran a riding school for 25 years before moving to their present house "Beachgrove", a Brockman family heirloom.

Their only son Vernon Brockman, inherited the fascination with horses and he runs a property at Forrestdale, near Byford. He is also a trainer and showjumper of some repute. However Vernon Brockman's sons are into motorbikes, so the days of involvement with horses for this family are numbered.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Busselton-Margaret Times, October 1, 1992

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