

Kelly Family

“Ossie” Kelly was born in Victoria in 1885. He came to Western Australia where he met and married Nita Lawrence at Greenbushes. They had thirteen children: - Vic, Roy, Connie, Ossie, Hughie, Phyllis, Nita Rex, Ray, Mona, Yvonne, and Glenis. The family first lived at Deanmill and then Jardee before moving to Pemberton in 1924. Ossie drove horses in the bush for twelve months then got a job running guard on the Mill’s train, later to be promoted to Foreman in charge of locomotives. Unfortunately, he was killed in a railway accident, aged 45 years. His son Roy also worked for the mill on the trains, taking men to and from work as well as carting logs.

Roy Kelly tells many interesting stories of his childhood in Pemberton, which can be found in ‘Locomotive Man’ in *Pemberton Family Stories*, Alison Daubney (ed) 2001. One story he tells is of a robbery that occurred around 1926/27.

The mill pay was always brought in on a motorised trike and the mill accountant, Frank Leeman, driver Jigga McGregor and the bank manager were coming through a cutting at Barronhurst Hill when they had to stop because of bushes across the line. As soon as they stopped a voice came from the scrub at the top of the cutting ordering them to hand over the money, The robber didn’t show himself, but they could see a gun pointing at them. The bank manager drew his own gun and the robber fired shooting the manager’s thumb off. The robber then made them walk down the line away from the trike while he collected the money.....A black tracker was brought in and he followed the tracks to the single men’s huts at the back of the mill. The money was found but the robber was never caught. The whole event became known as the Barronhurst Robbery. (Daubney, 2001 p. 63-64)

Roy married Mavis McLeod in 1934, and they had five children: - Maureen, Royce, John, Kay and Wayne. When he retired from the mill in 1983, he was the longest serving employee on record.

