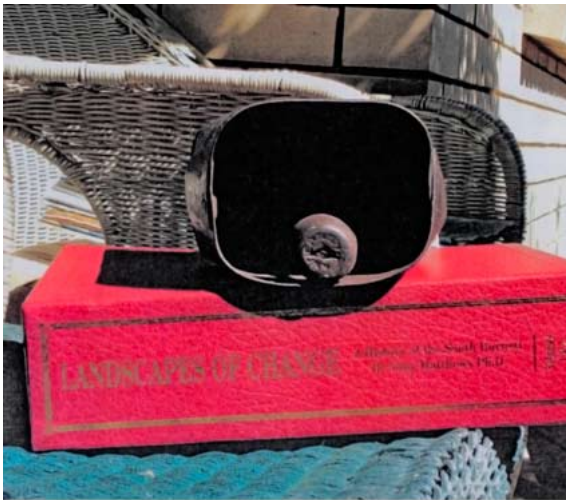


# Andersen Condamine Bullock Bell from the Nanango District



Andersen Condamine Bullock Bell from the Nanango district as told by the owner (name withheld).

In 1958 our family moved to Nanango in the south Burnett. In 1960 I engaged for help with the house and children the services of a Mrs Madeleine Fleming, who was married to a forestry worker in the East Nanango Forestry, named Mr Claude Fleming.

Mr Fleming, in the course of his work, found lying in the bush in the Forestry area, a large Bullock Bell, which he brought home to Mrs Fleming. That lovely lady, my helper for fifteen years, brought it down and gave it to me, saying; "Mrs ....., I know you like old things."



My grazier father had a collection of about a dozen small Condamine Bells, some of which he had used on his horses, so this was a welcome surprise. The bell has had a place of honour on my bookshelves for nearly 50 years, along with my father's riding spur and a horseshoe.

On beginning to research the history of my Bell, I was lucky to be able to speak by telephone to Mr Reginald McCallum, ex-chairman of the Nanango Shire Council and long-time Mayor of Nanango, who advised that the first pine was planted in the East Nanango Forestry in 1926, the year of his birth. He can recall as a tiny boy hearing bullock bells at night. He also recalled that a Lars Andersen had had a bullock team in the area. Mr Lars Andersen, a builder, had established and managed a number of timber mills in the region.



However, my bell bears clearly on the donger the name of Christy Andersen, the noted bell maker, who commenced making bells in 1890 at Miles, in the Condamine area. It has to be assumed that my Bullock Bell was lost from the neck of one of a bullock team working in clearing preparatory to the planting of the pine plantation. This need not necessarily have been a team owned by Lars Andersen. On enquiring it is clear that Christian and Lars were not closely related, or possibly related at all, as their parents were differently named.

