70 YEARS SERVING KENILWORTH COMMUNITY

The Kenilworth Hotel was officially opened on November 18 1939, but the hotel was in use for at least one week prior to that date because Edwin Thomas Sims and his bride Audrey Hillier spent their wedding night of November 11 1939 in the "honeymoon suite" on the premises.

The Courier Mail report on November 17, 1939:
Dreams of a man from the city to return to the country life he loves will be fulfilled on Saturday night, when his modern two-story hotel will be officially opened at Kenilworth on the Gympie main road, 35 miles from Landsborough. He is Mr M.J. Lane who is well suited to conduct this North Coast rendez-vous, which carries the modernity of the metropolis to a charming rural district, nestling in a valley behind the Blackall Ranges.

In January, 1940 Thelma Rogers and Arch Purdon held the first of many wedding receptions at the hotel. Many brides living out of town dressed at the hotel and were photographed on the timber staircase, providing a wonderful history of wedding fashions through the years.

The Hotel was used by visiting optometrist Mr C.T. Hall who began visiting the township in April 1940, along with visits to Kin Kin, Pomona, Cooran and Cooroy.

September 13 1940 Nambour Chronicle article reported Miss M. Beattie and Mr O.A. Zelmer as winning the fifth series of the Hotel Euchre Tournament.

The November 1940 wedding of Glenna Pearce and Don Paulger at St Matthews Church was followed by a reception in the lounge of the Kenilworth Hotel. December 1940 saw hotel as the venue for the wedding breakfast of Olive Sproxton and Jack Cole.

1942 Optometrist Hall changed his visiting day to Sunday which affords residents an opportunity of having their eyes correctly tested. Wartime shortages of men and materials possibly the reason.

April 1942 W.L. Watson and Sons announced extension of passenger services from Maleny to Kenilworth, leaving Kenilworth Hotel 6 am Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Mr N.G. Bunnett, Kenilworth Newsagent was the booking agent (Phone 41)

In March 1954 the hotel freehold was sold and Mick Lane (pictured on the right) and his sister Ellen were farewelled by the citizens of Kenilworth and District when they were presented with an engraved standard light, crystal whisky decanter, glasses and tray as well as sum of money which Mr Lane insisted be donated to the Courier Mail Flood Victims appeal. So ended an era.

Happy 70th Birthday Kenilworth Hotel.

Lenore Meldrum
President Kenilworth & District Historical Assn. Inc.

KENILWORTH HOTEL'S 70TH WAS A CLASSIC!

Kenilworth Hotel celebrated its 70th birthday in style on Saturday 14 November, with great attractions and brilliant entertainment.

We had 25 cars on show from Vintage to Classic thanks to Blackall Range Horseless carriage and Sunshine Coast Antique Car Club. Many thanks for their support.

There were plenty of pony rides for the kids and a woodchop demonstration.

Every body partied well into the night as the "House" band kept everyone up and dancing till midnight.

Photos Birgit Kehr

John Gratton and Steve from Kenilworth Hotel