

## **CROMWELL RAILWAY HOUSES - HISTORY**

The following information was assembled following a meeting held mid 2002 with Ivan Hughes (IH), Snow Turner (ST), Helen Scoles and TE at the Cromwell Information Centre. The meeting discussed the new Cromwell railway model and any corrections / amendments that may be required.

The houses are listed from North to South - the model being based on a 1972 aerial photograph.

\*\* The following notes are from IH, who arrived 1921.

The Hughes house arrived 1917 - it was the first house in the area. IH lived in small house in middle of section - and there was probably a blacksmiths house there also. Bill Highly was born in the Skinner house. The cottage and sleepout was on the Station Masters section and had a blue roof. There were 9 children in the Hughes family.

1921 was the start of the development when all houses were shifted from Clyde. Waggoners used the paddock as Hughes cottage was the only one on site. It was a "Government" house. All houses were allocated to 'jobs' and were numbered.

Names remembered....

Jack Dennison - was a wheel tapper - tapped wheels for defects.

Vic Sloper - Forwarding Agent. Had house in Alpha Street - a remittance man.

Ted Jelley.

Shell Depot - Adam Scott - first manager depot.

Ross Skinner, Mayor. Had small galvanised iron house with silver roof. It was different from all others.

Stan Padman (Bus driver) - lived there 1954.

Freddy Longman.

\*\* The following notes are from ST who arrived 1954.

### **House 1**

Arthur Berry - Serviceman (track). Leading hand.

### **House 2**

Earl Preston. Guard.

### **House 3**

Station Master's house. Nick Muirhead. IH notes it was the only house with a clean roof. Ted Lynch lived in a hut on the property.

### **House 4**

Frank McNichol, Fireman. Charlie Hunt lived here then moved next door to Station Masters house.

### **House 5**

Jack Gallagher. Guard.

### **House 6**

Brian Cox, Driver.

**House 7**

Ian Smith, Fireman on steam. Previously Ted Durry.

**House 8**

Tom McKay. Engine driver. Les Tait 1940. Jack Chittleborough 1930's.

**House 9**

Turners 1954. Fireman. Jimmy Anderson (came 1932) had porch on front filled in because 'twins' arrived.

**House 10**

Empty section on 1972 photo. House same as on 11. Vic Butcher - 'surfer' who worked on tracks.

**House 11**

H Twaites - Traffic Assistant. Peg Brown in 1960's.

**\*\* Model**

Huts next door to toilets - there were two with Matt Middleditch in one. He had a bucket of water outside each day so he could wash his face. Pete McLennan (Section Officer) was in other hut until he got married and shifted over road. The huts were used for crews in the 1950's. There were more huts located by loco shed - used by relieving loco crews in first instance; then they stayed at the Hotel Cromwell.

Eric Scott worked with Doss Hayes as Forwarding Agent.

ST. Model requires a small diesel shunter. There was a water tower and pit located between turntable and diesel tank close to the track. Pit was used to drop fire into. To service a loco - clean out fire into pit; water.

Locos were 'DJ' or 'DG' locos compared to that on model. Or 'AB' steam engine earlier.

Skinner house - located by truck on model. See house on pic in Cromwellian.

Rock at end of track - needs to be bigger. Also missing rock at turntable (could be off model?).

Crane missing to north of models 'crane rig'.

Tunnels all along riverbanks at back of houses. Some slumping.