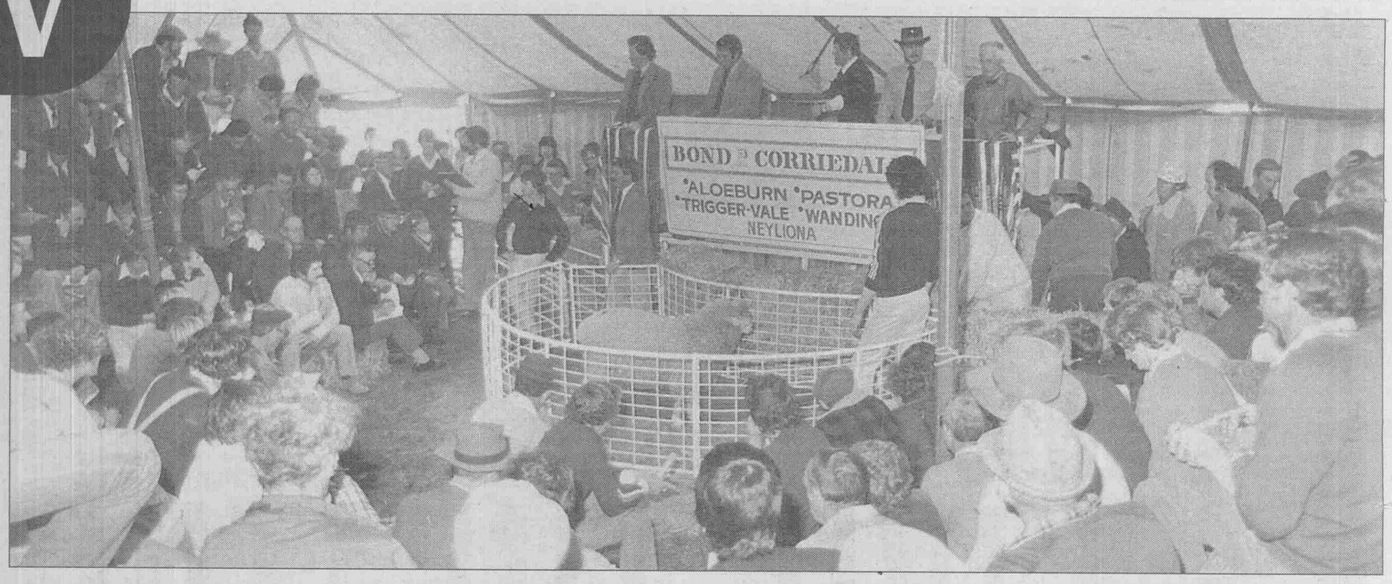


A sale of Bond Corriedale sheep in 1982 (photographer was George Batten).

A lifetime's work

at the archives
Wayne Doubleday

Clarence James "Jim" Daley, born on October 7, 1903, became a renowned sheep and wool expert in the Wagga and Riverina district and actively contributed to the community for over 80 years, until his passing on May 2, 2007, at the ripe old age of 103.

After attending Cowra and Auburn Public Schools, followed by Parramatta High School, Jim was accepted into the Trangie Experimental Farm as a special sheep and wool student in 1923 and qualified in sheep and wool at Sydney Technical College the following year.

For the next two years Jim gained practical experience working in shearing sheds as a wool classer for Messrs Haughton & Co, Pyrmont, NSW.

A government career

JIM'S career with the Department of Agriculture began in June 1926 when he was appointed junior assistant sheep and wool officer, stationed at Temora Experimental Farm.

His duties included overseeing sheep trials and the Department's Border Leicester stud flock. During the next two years Jim was stationed at Trangie and Yanco Experimental Farms and trained as a lecturer in sheep and wool practices.

In December 1928 the Yanco Dorset Horn stud flock and lamb trials were amalgamated with the flock at Wagga Experimental Farm. Jim transferred to Wagga to continue his work with these flocks and experiments for prime lamb development.

This move provided an incentive and opportunity for the competitive showing of livestock, an interest which did not diminish over time.

Over the years Jim judged many sheep classes at major shows including Sydney, Melbourne and Albury.

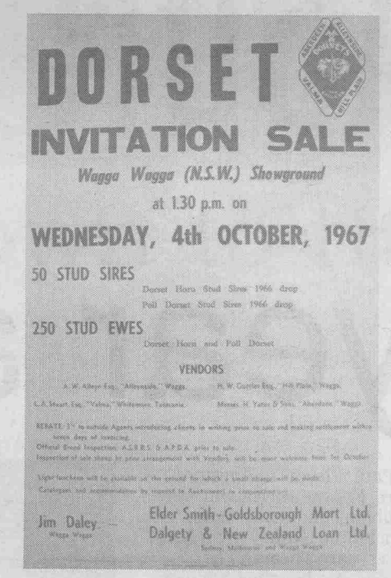
During the World War II, Jim was seconded to Rural Manpower (NSW) to organise labour resources for the wool and meat industries under Wartime Emergency Regulations.

He continued in this capacity, co-ordinating the labour requirements for shearing and slaughtering, until after the cessation of hostilities.

After the war, Jim was appointed to an inter-departmental committee which investigated the feasibility of decentralising the slaughtering industry in NSW and to suggest, if recommended, suitable locations for country slaughtering facilities.

Recommendations were made to the federal and state authorities that slaughter houses be located in Wagga, Goulburn, Dubbo and Gunnedah and operated by local government authorities.

As a result of his involvement on this committee, Jim was appointed abattoir officer for the Department of Agriculture NSW and was instrumental in the construction and establishment of abattoirs at Goulburn and Wagga, then facilitated the commencement of abattoir construction in Dubbo and Gunnedah before his retirement on December 7, 1951, the day that the Wagga abattoir was officially opened.


DORSET
INVITATION SALE
Wagga Wagga (N.S.W.) Showground
at 1.30 p.m. on
WEDNESDAY, 4th OCTOBER, 1967
50 STUD SIRES
Dorset Horn Stud Sires 1966 drop
Poll Dorset Stud Sires 1966 drop
250 STUD EWES
Dorset Horn and Poll Dorset
VENDORS
A. W. Alleyn Esq., "Alleynside," Wagga. H. W. Guttler Esq., "Hill Plain," Wagga.
L. A. Stuart, Esq., "Valma," Whitemore, Tasmania. Messrs. H. Yates & Sons, "Aberdeen," Wagga.
REBATE 2½ to outside Agents introducing clients in writing prior to sale and making settlement within seven days of invoicing.
Official Breed Inspection A.S.B.D.L.S.A.P.D.A. prior to sale.
Inspection of sale sheep by prior arrangement with Vendors, will be most welcome, from 1st October.
Light luncheon will be available on the ground for which a small charge will be made.
Catalogue and accommodation by request to Auctioneers as announced.
Jim Daley — Wagga Wagga
Elder Smith-Goldsborough Mort Ltd.
Dalgety & New Zealand Loan Ltd.
Sydney, Melbourne and Wagga Wagga

A poster advertising a Dorset Invitation Sale at the Wagga Showground in 1967. Vendors from Wagga included AW Alleyn of "Alleynside," HW Guttler of "Hillside," and H Yates and Sons of "Aberdeen".

Private business

AFTER 25 years of service, Jim retired from the NSW Department of Agriculture in the position of livestock and abattoir officer to set himself up in private business as an auctioneer, stock and station agent, specialising in stud stock work, sheep classing and stud stock sales.

In his private capacity Jim was able to expand his repertoire of breed specialties to include Merinos and expand his services beyond the Riverina. In 1952, the Wagga region had the greatest concentration of registered sheep and cattle studs in all of Australia.

Jim, in conjunction with the Australian Society of Breeders of British Sheep, introduced annual spring auction sales of classed, purebred flock rams and was instrumental in popularising "ring selling" in the region. Annual stud livestock sales became a prominent feature of Wagga and the Riverina, and of Jim's career.

His services included travelling to New Zealand in the late 1950s to purchase stud rams on behalf of his local clients. Similar trips to Tasmania were undertaken in the early 1960s. Jim became renowned in Australia and New Zealand as a sheep and wool instructor, judge, classer and buyer of Australasian and British sheep breeds.

Sheep classing according to breed standards was a service Jim provided to many sheep studs around the Riverina. This work involved handling and close inspection of many hundreds of sheep each year.

To assist with this task, Jim invented and manufactured the Daley Sheep Classing Race, which he patented in June 1956.

The original model was modified and occasional patent infringements occurred, however Jim happily provided patent licences to those who acknowledged him as the patent owner. Eventually manufacturing costs became prohibitive and Jim allowed the patent to lapse in June 1971. After an inquiry from Mr Murray Elliot, sheep and wool officer at the Department of Agriculture in Bairnsdale, Jim replied on December 31, 1973 that the Daley Sheep Classing Race had been out of production for about three years as the company fabricating the items had gone out of business.

Jim had sold off the stockpile of a dozen or so races but still had one partially completed race which required assembly. Assembly, he assured Mr Elliot, would take no more than half a day in any half-decent farm workshop and offered this race, as is, for $150.

Spare time

JIM was a regular contributor to industry publications and local newspapers, including *The Daily Advertiser*, voicing his opinions on the need for breed development, diversity, prime lamb production and pasture improvement.

He was instrumental in the development of the bond or commercial corriedale, poll dorset and south Suffolk breeds, assisting wool growers to meet the changing prime lamb and fine wool markets with dual purpose breeds.

Jim also found time for active involvement in the Wagga Apex Club and the Riverina Branch of the Australian Society of Animal Production. He was a founding member of both and a committee member of the latter, as well as serving on the Wagga College of Technical and Further Education committee for almost 20 years.

The sheep and wool industry of NSW, and particularly Wagga and the Riverina, would not have evolved and adjusted to the changing market demands as it has done over the past 70-80 years without the commitment and dedication shown by Jim Daley throughout his lifetime.

References: Clarence James 'Jim' Daley collection, [RW290], CSURA; Sheep Classing Races - Orders & Correspondence [RW290/182], CSURA; Country Life Stock & Station Journal, February 8, 1952; Obituary for Jim Daley by Alan Harris, *http://www.obituary.com.au/?p=37283*; "Jim was Farming Legend," The Daily Advertiser, May 4, 2007, p. 6.

Compiled by Debra Leigo

what you need to know

The CSU Regional Archives are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Located in the Blakemore Building on South Campus of the university, access can be gained via College Avenue or Hely Avenue. Members of the public are welcome to visit the search room, where professional archival staff can assist with inquiries. For those people unable to visit the archives in person, staff can provide a research service for straight-forward inquiries for a fee of $55 per hour including copying and postage. For further information, phone 02 6925 3666, email *archive@csu.edu.au*, or visit our website at *www.csu.edu.au/research/archives* for a full listing of holdings and more detailed information.