

## Early Years 1887 to 1946.

**1887** – The Marburg, Kirchheim (Haigslea), Glamorgan Vale and Back Plains (Minden) Show Society held a magnificent Show. Over 3,000 people (according to that great authority - the "Q.T.") attended this Show and included Gov. Musgrave, the English Lord & Lady Brassey and a Mr. J.C. Heussler M.L.C. who (I presume) had been the Qld. Govt. agent in Europe, where he had encouraged many German agricultural workers to migrate to Queensland. The Farmers Association assisted with this event and subsequent Shows were held annually, at least until 1891, when the fifth was held. From then to 1910 information is not available. College and arranged the Annual Stallion Parade.

**1912** - When the first Show was held, I believe it was on this site where several lots of land were later bought in 1914. A hall, horse stables, pig sty's and poultry sheds were soon built to cater for exhibitors. Special rail services were arranged for the Marburg line (just newly opened) not only for show patrons but also for sideshows and exhibitors which were railed in. This service continued for many years.

The Show Society (meetings were held on Tuesday night before full moon) was also something of a militant force in community affairs. e.g. it led a move for a new Post Office, improved railway facilities such as weighbridge and station platform, council affairs to do with dingo scalps, tree removal and weed eradication. It also co-operated with the Dept. of Agriculture and Stock (now D.P.I.) in promoting the betterment of the pig and dairy industries,' sponsored trips to Gatton.

**1916** - When the first approaches were made by the Marburg Cricket Club to put down a cricket pitch in the ring centre. On some occasions Sports Days were held on Easter Monday when a great variety of events were held. This association with the Cricket Club continues to this day (80 years later) with the present Marburg Cricket Club having three wickets on the grounds and contributing greatly to the maintenance and improvement of the whole showgrounds for which the Society is extremely grateful.

**1918** - Financial hard ship is not new to any Show Society and so there were complaints of high printing costs. During this time the Society was always working on bank overdraft.

**1920** - When the Dept. of Public Instruction (Education Dept.) hired the Show Hall as temporary school premises while the Rural School was being built. There were fine displays by the Rural School at the Show in this period. During this time members of the Society participated in District displays at the Brisbane and Sydney Royal and this continues to this present day. During this early period, several flower shows were held. Some interesting facts of this period are - (1) That cars had to be parked 20 yards back from the ring. (2) Bookies (fee £2.0.0) could work the events on Show day.



June 20 1920.

**1924** - To overcome this problem, a move was made to convert the 10 1/2 acres Freehold to Crown Reserve for which it was hoped to receive £240.0.0. 1924 was also most notable when the Governor of Qld. opened the Show.

**1930** - The move was eventually successful to have been a deal of division in the Society, shown by close votes, newspaper reports of public meetings and arguments. Consequently, support dwindled and low attendance at meetings occurred.

Mid 1930's electricity was installed. This was a great improvement on the gaslights installed in 1926 after considering them for a few years. In this period, several operators used the hall to show movies for which a projection room was built on the eastern end.

**1936** - There was no Annual Meeting because of a lack of a quorum. Later that year the Society disbanded and a new Society of the same name elected a Management Committee of Trustees and Society members to manage affairs.

**1937** - The Reserve was mortgaged to enable the Silver Jubilee Show to be staged. However, more difficulties faced the committee to disband on 24-2-38. The Trustees were requested and agreed to take over the debt which they eventually liquidated in the difficult years of World War two.

**1941** - The Trustees maintained hall and land but were forced to sell, in 1941, pig and poultry pens to raise funds. The hall was used by many organizations in this period.

**1944** - The Trustees sponsored a public meeting to form the "Hall Improvement Committee". The purpose of the committee was to raise funds for extension to the hall. Because of the war effort this was a very difficult period to raise funds and build extensions. Their efforts were rewarded by receiving a good response from the public and local patriotic organizations. After three years, enough funds were available to increase floor space about 75%.

**1946** - Moves were made to reform the Show Society. People were reluctant to take Office, it being five months to obtain a President and Secretary and then, by the time eighteen months were past, due to personal and tragic circumstances there was another President and Secretary.

After these initial troubles the Committee settled down and put on successful Shows in the following years', enlarging the schedule to cater for exhibitors as the Showground began to grow in size and strength.

**On to next area 1950 to 1995:**