

Joseph Downey Archive

Joseph (Joe) Downey was born in the Mingela – Ravenswood area in 1911 and died in Townsville in 1986. A renowned horseman and a long term employee of Swift Australian Company (PTY) Limited, it is believed he began buying stock for them in 1941 and developed a terrific eye for estimating the dressed weight of a mob of cattle. He travelled thousands of miles throughout his career, mostly around the Charters Towers district but also as far as Mareeba to the north and Rockhampton to the south.

This archive contains a significant record of his working life within a 20 year span primarily through his diaries which date from 1941 to 1961.

Archive Location: 136R

Detailed Listing

Series 1 - Diaries

- JD/1/1 Woods Australian Diary for 1941
- JD/1/2 Woods Australian Diary for 1942
- JD/1/3 Woods Australian Diary for 1943
- JD/1/4 Woods Australian Diary for 1944
- JD/1/5 Collins' Australian Diary 1945
- JD/1/6 Woods Australian Diary for 1946
- JD/1/7 Woods Australian Diary for 1947
- JD/1/8 Woods Australian Diary for 1948
- JD/1/9 Woods Australian Diary for 1949
- JD/1/10 Woods Australian Diary for 1950
- JD/1/11 Woods Australian Diary for 1951
- JD/1/12 Woods Australian Diary for 1952
- JD/1/13 Woods Australian Diary for 1953

JD/1/14 Woods Australian Diary for 1954

JD/1/15 Woods Australian Diary for 1955

JD/1/16 Woods Australian Diary for 1956

JD/1/17 Woods Australian Diary for 1957

JD/1/18 Woods Australian Diary for 1957

JD/1/19 Woods Australian Diary for 1958

JD/1/20 Woods Australian Diary for 1959, diary contains one pay slip for Joseph Downey issued on June 26th 1959; and one Swift Australian letter to Joe Downey dated December 22 1958 (top section only, includes letterhead).

JD/1/21 Woods Australian Diary for 1960

JD/1/22 Woods Australian Diary for 1961

Series Two – Personal Records

JD/2/1 One page hand written letter in pencil from J.W.D to The Manager, Bowen Freezing Works dated October 21st 1957.

JD/2/2 One page typed letter from N.F. (N. Flyn) to Mr J. Downey regarding credit placed with the Bank of New South Wales dated November 25th 1947.

JD/2/3 One page “Assay Report” to Mr Downey from R Medley dated December 6th 1949.

JD/2/4 Commonwealth of Australia – Notice of Assessment – Queensland 1950-51. Income Tax and Social Services Contribution for Mr Joesph Downey dated 30th June 1950.

JD/2/5 Account of Mr. J. Downey from P.W. Husband & Co. (Motor Engines and Electricians) for services rendered, dated 31st January 1953.

JD/2/6 Application Form for Drover’s Free Ticket (completed, coded D 1294) from Queensland Railways for bearer R Jones, dated November 16th 1956.

JD/2/7 Application Form for Drover’s Free Ticket (completed, coded D 1295) from Queensland Railways for bearer R Jones, dated November 16th 1956.

JD/2/8 Note document telephone conversation between Mr J Downey and AL:GE dated October 20th 1953

JD/2/9 Employee’s Record (triplicate copy of form) from Swift Australian Company (PTY) Limited for Joseph Downey dated July 5th 1952.

JD/2/10 Employee’s Record (triplicate copy of form) from Swift Australian Company (PTY) Limited for Joseph Downey dated July 8th 1953.

JD/2/11 Employee’s Record (triplicate copy of form) from Swift Australian Company (PTY) Limited for Joseph Downey dated July 2nd 1954.

- JD/2/12 Employee's Record (triplicate copy of form) from Swift Australian Company (PTY) Limited for Joseph Downey dated July 6th 1955.
- JD/2/13 Employee's Record (triplicate copy of form) from Swift Australian Company (PTY) Limited for Joseph Downey dated July 2nd 1957.
- JD/2/14 Statement from Swift Australian Company (Pty) Limited to Mr J. Downey reporting his record of Cattle Buying 1956, dated December 13 1956.
- JD/2/15 Two foolscap pages with handwritten notes in ink titled "Cattle for 1941. Season" believed to be written by Joe Downey.
- JD/2/16 One page of notes in pen of Stations and locations with a corresponding record of miles, believed to be written by Joe Downey.
- JD/2/17 One folded card featuring printed text "Amity Lodge, No.101, U.G.L.Q. Installation of Bro. W.B. Sloan and Investiture of Officers. Masonic Hall, Charters Towers, Thursday, 2nd April 1936 at 6.45p.m.
- JD/2/18 Two coloured page printed on both side. Newsletter title "Blackthorn News" and dated in pencil 1956.
- JD/2/19 One coloured Photograph of Joe Downey printed on Canon photographic paper possibly taken in the early 1980s.
- JD/2/20/1-5 Five small Christmas gift tags (folded), coloured printed images on the front of each with hand written inscriptions.