

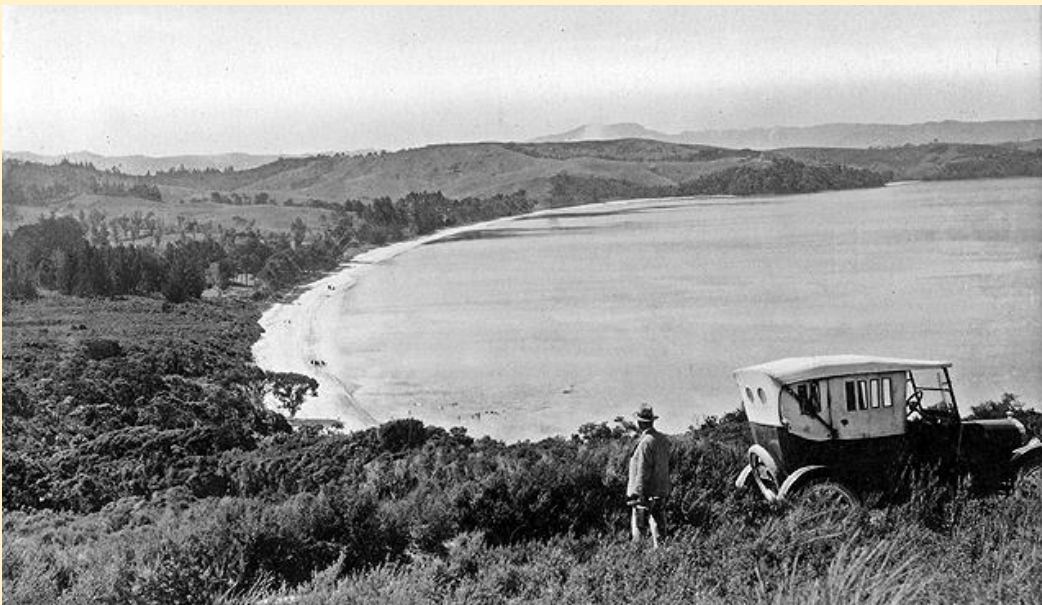
The Gum Diggers: By Jack Algie

1920's early depression and a bit before there were gum diggers working Algies Bay & Snells Beach.



The Gum diggers

The Snells beach ones were mostly Dalmatians and worked the flats at low and half tides, 2 times a day.



Snells Beach 1927

Grandma (May) was friendly with a **Mrs Nissich** (not correct spelling) who used to come round to visit.

Our bay had several Maori families working up by where Athol's house was later built and opposite what was the store.

The **Walker** family had a little camp about where the Telecom place is across from Alexander Rd. **Kia**, (known in Warkworth as **Ron Hepana**) lived there with them. He was in **Steve's** class.

Then just below Amberlea about opposite Athol's cow shed were the **Panui's**. **Peter Panui** I think was about Dad or **Athol's** age.

Then down below Athol's woolshed was **Suzie Rippakoi** and I think he lived on his own. They used to all come down for milk. I often heard **Merve & Steve** talk about them. I guess they were very poor and their living conditions fairly primitive.

There was a family of **Browns** living in the Brickyard bay, now known as Brick bay.

Sandspit was known as lower Matakana until about 1950 ish.