

The family cottage and boarding house: By Jack Algie

At the end of the 19th century, **Alec & Mima** had 6 kids of their own all growing up or probably grown up, so they got her brother **William** and up he went with the help of **Will & Jack**, built the boarding house. I think it was his son **William** (known to our Pukekohe people as **Bill Deerness**, **Jack & Will's** cousin, not uncle). **William Spence Deerness** farmed at Pukekohe for 40 years. I had 1½ hours with **Ray Roose** (Dad's cousin of 85) and he talked about **Bill Deerness** (grandpa's cousin) around Pukekohe when he (**Ray**) was in his 20's. That's who would have built the boarding house.

It was built in 2 main stages and then add-ons and separate buildings and annexes, one that joined onto the cottage.



The annex that joined onto the cottage about 6 bedrooms and a bathroom was built in about 1915 to 1918 and a lot of the timber came from a scow that was wrecked on the end of Takatu. The winch of it was brought back and used to pull the Leisure hour boat out pretty much where the **Mera** was launched.

My son **Andrew** has it as a table in his garden up at Highfield.

Will & Jack bought a yacht 24 foot long with inside ballast for 5 Pounds (\$10), just about 1900. Before that they had a large pulling boat (always referred to as the keeler as it was a clinker built round bottom boat about 18 ft long).

The boats and their horses were their only form of transport, and of course used for loading the cream and eggs and stuff onto the steamer and getting their supplies ashore. All their goods and groceries came by sea and once a year the scow brought their manure, slag and then later on superphosphate.

Trips to Auckland were by the steamer which would come into Algies Bay. Sometimes they took the "**Leisure Hour**" and went into the launch steps at Auckland.

The boats were also used to entertain the boarders with fishing trips and picnics.



Boating in 1953 – with the boarding house in the background.

Grandpa told me one time that they had a picnic around the back of Kawau in Sandy Bay and he could see white caps out there so he and **Will** reefed the boat down and got the people on board and as they left the bay in the shelter of the land a bigger and faster boat went past them like they were anchored.

When they came round the point into the full force of the wind, the boat in front of them just lay down and kicked while their boat (also Leisure hour) stood up and just sailed past and left them wallowing behind. He said he never forgot that.

About 1913 or '14 they bought a launch also called Leisure hour. She was only 2 or 3 years old. **George Avery** found it for them and they had her till 1946 when she was sold to **Ray**

Stensil. I can remember Dad coming home in a rugby roadster and they took the motor out of it and put it in the launch which had been hauled out in front of the cowshed in 1942.

I can remember playing in it with some of the kids that came down to the first baches we had. She was 30 ft by 7ft 6.