



Vegetable Growers Victoria.



Notes

12-October-09

Remembering - L.A. (Joe) Souter



Former VGA President and Life Member **Mr. L. A. (Joe) Souter** passed away on Thursday 24 September 2009 at the age of 95 years.

Joe was born at Bentleigh on 21 July 1914, one of seven children, whose father Bill, took up market gardening at Dingley in 1929.

Joe led a long and rewarding life as a successful market gardener, legendary story teller and self-taught mechanical genius.

"We lived in a country where you had to improvise, particularly on farms. You had to! Either you took things to a blacksmith and waited for a week, or did it yourself. That's the way it was. You had to think for yourself."

The following photograph is of Joe's father's truck, a 1914 bullnose International, taken about 1929.

"This truck was formerly a petrol delivery truck belonging to the Neptune Oil Co., now Shell. It was known affectionately throughout the district as "Bluey", and on the bonnet painted in tar was the word 'beware'..."



"Of course, over the years the truck gradually wore out. One part of the truck's anatomy to receive the benefits of my engineering skill was the water pump gland, which I felt I could successfully pack with plenty of grease and part of the brim of the old man's hat. We gave it a quick test and sent a load of vegies off to market."

"As the truck came home the next day I very proudly asked my brother how she went, but to my surprise the resultant description of my engineering skills could not be repeated here.

I said, "But there's no water coming out!"
"there's no bl... water left in it", he yelled"

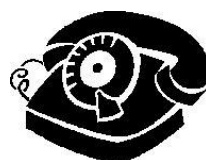
Joe's great sense of humour and yarns from times long gone, will be remembered by all who met him.

Farewell Joe

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Mail Box 111, Melbourne Markets
542 Footscray Road, West Melbourne, Vic, 3003

Website: www.vgavic.org.au



Editor: Tony Imeson,

(t): 03 9687 4707

(f): 03 9687 4723

(m): 0414 458 561

(e): contact@vgavic.org.au