

1992: 218). Milton became a JP on November 10th 1946 (WHPJ). In 1948 Milton, Frank Willmington and Harry McCullagh organised what Cec Watts (pers. comm.) thought were the first Negri Races, but races were held on the Negri from the 19th to 21st of August 1925 (WHPJ, 18-9-1925).

In 1947 there was trouble between Willick and the Aboriginal stockmen. Native Affairs Director F.H. Moy wrote to the Administrator of the Northern Territory to advise him that:

The manager informed me that earlier in the year four natives from their no. 2 Camp left and said they were just like white men and could leave the job when they felt like it. Then the natives of No. 3 Camp made application to him for an extra blanket and issue of towels, mirrors and razors. The extra blanket was issued but the other articles were unobtainable.

Later the manager was informed by his overseer that the natives were not going to work and their spokesman was interviewed by the manager who alleged that when their discussion was over a native named JERRY passed the remark "We are just as good as you whites". The manager turned and asked him to repeat it and the native struck him. A fight ensued and eventually the native gave up. Other natives came down from the camp with their spears and the white staff also gathered round. It is difficult to get a coherent story other than there was a lot of shouting and yelling on both sides but as far as I can ascertain the only people using physical violence were the manager and the native Jerry. The result is that all natives except seven have returned to work and these seven are just sitting around the camp (Moy, 10-9-1947).

Moy added that, 'The manager, Willock, is a man in his early 30's. He remains completely aloof from all his employees both white and natives.' Moy was also quite critical of Phyllis:

His wife is a young woman completely unsuited to outback conditions. She has no interest in the running of the property or the welfare of any of the employees. She is the type of girl who should never have left a southern suburb. She has control of the domestic staff and keeps them on the move all the time. The day starts at about 5.30 a.m. and they do not finish up until 9 p.m. or later. They are efficient but they perform their tasks with a bad grace.

Perhaps Phyllis was better than Moy believed or was a quick learner because four years later the *Pastoral Review* (15-12-1951) said that 'Mrs Willick is a good stockwoman and can kill and dress a bullock.'

By 1951 Willick and Damien Miller were the lessees of Argadargada station (*Hoofs & Horns*, April 1951: 43 and August 1951: 43) and by 1952 Willick had gone to Hamilton Downs (*Hoofs & Horns*, October 1952: 42). He was a part-owner of Hamilton Downs until the station was divided into three. He then became sole owner of the section which modestly he named Milton Park (pers. comm., Marie Mahood; Clark, 2001: 3). In 1962 he was a member of the party that opened a stock route across the Tanami Desert from Billiluna to Alice Springs (*Sunday Mail*, 14-4-1962: 3). In 1963 he became part-owner of Mongrel Downs with Bill Wilson and Joe Mahood (pers. comm., Marie Mahood).

Beth Beckett (1998: 91) says that Milton originally came from Sydney and began work with Vestey's as a bookkeeper. She says he worked hard and played hard, was quietly spoken and a true gentleman. His nickname was 'the Big Spaniard' (Gordon Buchanan,