

Fisher Family of 62 Westlake as recalled by daughter Lorraine

Following is a brief history of Jack and Maria Fisher who moved into 62 Westlake in August, 1939. They stayed for about six months whilst a cottage was being prepared for them at Fyshwick (Pialligo). Jack was the eldest son of Jack and Isabella (nee Gambell). His father was from Tharwa and mother from Sutton.

Jack was born around 1898. He married Maria Ware of Collington. They had four children - Undine Mary Lorraine (known as *Lorraine*, 1924), Isabella (1926), Pauline Florence (1927) and John Patrick (1930). Following their marriage Jack and Maria lived for a time at Whites Flat on a property which Jack nicknamed - *Linger-n-die*. The family lost the property and moved to Tuggeranong Homestead where Jack was employed. From here the family moved to the town of Queanbeyan where the children attended St Gregory's Convent School. The next move was to *Tralee*, John Morrison's property. The children then moved to Tuggeranong Primary School. The next move was to Williamsdale where Jack took up a position of ranger with the Department.

Whilst waiting for a house to be made ready at Fyshwick (now called Pialligo) the family moved into 62 Westlake for a short stay of six months.

Jack died at Fyshwick in 1961 or 1962. His widow, Marie moved to Torrens Street Braddon where she remained until her death.

Three weeks after the family settled into No 62 on 3 September war was declared. Lorraine left Westlake and her family to join the AMWAS. Thus her memories of Westlake are limited. Lorraine, however, remembered her Aunt Sally (Sarah Jane Corey/Petty) who had lived at Westlake from 1924 until the 1950s when she moved into cottage in Elimatta Street Reid.

Sally was Jack's sister. Around 1922 she married Ernie Corey who was one of the most highly decorated men in World War I. Later she divorced Ernie and married Sid de Saxe (Petty). He was killed in Singapore during the early years of the war.

Ernie and Sally remained friends. He kept a cottage at Westlake but at times stayed in accommodation near his place of work which included Capital Hill Mess, Causeway Mess, Charlie Russell's Narrabundah property and the incinerator at Yarralumla.

During the time Ernie lived near the incinerator he minded racing dogs that belonged to Phillip Dixon and Dr Ware. Phillip Dixon often stayed with him and told the story about Ernie's glass eye. Ernie lost an eye when a tin of jam exploded in the incinerator. When his grandchildren visited Ernie would take out the eye, put it on the table and tell the children before going out that he was leaving his eye to *keep and eye* on them. Not sure if it worked!