

**WILLIAM RONALD PECHEY****IN MEMORIAM**

William Ronald Pechey died on November 18, 1986. As an active member of the Tropical Grassland Society of Australia and 1981 President, he will be sadly missed by those who were fortunate to have known him.

Ron was a leader in the field of practical pasture development, and the kikuyu/clover based pastures at 'Listening Ridge' bear testimony to his success. His achievements in this area inspired him to start the Crows Nest Show Society Pasture Competition (an event, which is still very actively supported in his local district).

In paying tribute to Ron, his successor as Pasture Steward for the local Agricultural Society said this:

'So far as pastures are concerned, Ron was in many ways, ahead of his time and as a person, he was genuinely interested in everything and everyone'.

Having completed an Arts Degree at the University of Queensland, he then embarked on a Law Degree which he had nearly completed when World War II broke out and he enlisted. This was the end of his academic career and after the war, he returned to the family property at Crows Nest.

As well as developing his own property's potential Ron was also very involved in the community. He was Chairman of the Crows Nest Hospital Board for thirty years; foundation President and active member of the Toowoomba University Society; he also had strong affiliations with the University of Queensland and the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education; as well as being involved with local school committees and industry organisations.

He believed that:

'Education brought with it the obligation of community service and that farmers hold their land in trust for future generations'.

He put both of these principles into practice and the land *he* held in trust certainly is in better condition now than when he took over as guardian!

An extremely talented and witty man, he regularly kept people entertained and interested by his depth and breadth of knowledge, his jokes, anecdotes and quotes.

One of these quotes was:

'To be born a gentleman is an accident—to die one is an achievement'.

Maybe this was Ron's greatest achievement, as no one who knew him could say that he was anything other than a perfect gentleman.

With his wife Shirley, they have been great hosts over the years to many guests. For that in particular, we should like to express our thanks and to also offer Shirley and her four daughters our sincerest condolences.

P. J. M. THOMPSON



William Ronald Pechey