

# "The store that keeps shopping at home"



VIEW TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1935

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## A trusted friend for 53 years



Jill Burke started work at Len Mutton & Co in 1959. Len and Isobelle Mutton wrote to Jill's mum while she was travelling overseas and asked to come back to work in the store and she remains a trusted employee and friend of the business.

Jill has always done the accounts and still uses the same leather filing system and handwritten ledger to keep track of the myriad purchases and sales over the counters.

Although Jill officially retired in 1999, after two days she was back. "She's part of the Mutton's family" Fiona said. "We're so lucky to have someone with so much corporate history. Jill is an immensely valued employee."

• Jill Burke and Fiona at the roll top desk in the back office.

## A life in retail

Gordon Shorrock was one of the friendly faces at Mutton's for 39 years.

Gordon had grown up in Braidwood and his family had run several businesses including D & S Motors, a milk bar and a fruit and veggie shop.

Starting his employment in 1963, Gordon was an off-sider to Len Mutton in the Mercery section on the right hand side of the premises, while Isobelle Mutton ran the women's wear and haberdashery on left hand side.

Other locals to work in the store include Zelma McKie and Gwynn Parker who were Mrs Mutton's girls. Some can still

remember the above-door bell ringing and Mrs Mutton's command, "forward girls", as the customers were attended to. There was strictly no chatting.

After Isobelle retired, the ladies section was closed and the mercery was extended across the floor along with gift-ware.

Gordon remembers for some time it was just Len, Mrs Parker and me. When Len died and Brian and Jan inherited the shop, Gordon was the manager. Then Wendy Hart was here for 10 years.

Gordon retired in 2002, but is still a familiar face in the shop.



• Former Mutton's Manager Gordon Shorrock.

## The Braidwood Times

Congratulates Len Mutton & Co for the award of Oldest Family Business in the ACT Region, and thanks them for many decades of support.

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