

Descriptions of equipment used in the development of irrigation layouts, provided by Tibby Kelly

	<p>Well that's a Single Furrow Plough – you can see my hand there on the right hand side holding the plough but you'd walk behind it and hold that plough with both hands and you'd have a team of horses in front pulling it, 5 or 6 and there'd be a man driving the team of horses. You'd plough a furrow if you were going to make a channel and then you'd come along with the next machine is a delver.</p>
	<p>A Delver. You'd hook your horses onto and you'd stand on the delver and hold that handle [to] make a bank and as you controlled the delver and the horses pulled it; there was a man driving the horses; One [man] would stand at the back and work where that pole is and when you got to the end you'd pull it down and tip it on its side, turn around and go back down the other side of the channel. Now these channels were made about 5 or 6 feet wide and you'd plough a furrow but you'd leave what they'd call a bone in the centre of the channel about 2 foot wide and that'd stop the delver from kicking away from the bank and when you put your banks up about 18 inches high. Those channels were left like that and then they eventually grew weeds in them because the centrepiece was left in the channel. Sometimes we'd use 8 or 10 horses in a delver, depending how big the channels were that you were making. If you were making an 18 or 20 inch bank you might want 8 – 10 horses in - they were hooked tandem.</p>
	<p>Then we came along with another machine called a Britstand Ditcher No 3, that's a Britstand I'm sitting on that. It had a wheel on the front of it and you'd hook your horses onto it and you'd drag that down a wet channel and with that you could drag these weeds out of the channel and throw them up onto the bank. That Britstand was also used for putting in border ditches which was another type of check bank that we used – you'd plough the furrow with the single furrow plough and then run along with that Britstand ditcher on and clean out and make a border ditch. Border ditch had two banks; a check bank was loose dirt crowded into one bank."</p>
	<p>That's what they called a Tumbling Tommy Scoop. You'd put five horses in that; that scoop could tip over and tip the man over onto the horses if you weren't careful when you were filling it because it just pulled and spun over. But to work it you pull the handles out and you tipped it on the bank where you wanted the dirt.</p> <p>You had to lift those handles up so that the scoop would fill; that scoop shows you a better view of the gudgeon; that's a gudgeon there where the scoop handles fit in and while they're in there you're controlling the scoop but if you tip the scoop too far forward and too much dirt gets in them you've got 5 horses they can pull about a ton each, you'd be looking at 5 or 6 tonne being pulled against you with those two handles and if it started to bite in or you hit a root of a tree or something it would just flip over and take you with it. People were killed with them – they were dangerous – there was no doubt about it."</p>

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This was another scoop that came out, where the handle went down, [there was a] lock piece that was put on the end of the handle and locked onto that bridle where you hooked the horses onto the end there and that goes back in – in between those two little lugs there – that's the handle and that's what locks it – that scoop you cannot tip over no matter what pressure you put on it – it goes up in the air and stands sort of on its nose and can't go any further. There's one of those on each end of it and it doesn't matter what you pull it with – it can't tip over."

Maclean I think was the inventor of that. The Scoop – J T Close made them. Those Scoops were made by J T Close in Finley but he copied that system from Maclean in the early 1930s.



That's a view of the full length of the scoop. That scoop was 8 foot wide – you'd want 8 horses to pull that. if you were putting a dam down you'd use 10 in it because you had to drag the dirt further. In channels you just went in and out, straight across tipped the dirt on the bank, turned around and came back the other side and tipped the dirt. You'd want about 27 feet – the team was 30 foot wide; horses had to have 3 foot to work in that was about the distance of each horse in the team. If you had a 10 horse team it'd be 30 foot wide. You'd go across the channel, fill the scoop as you went across, there was a man driving the horses and another man on the scoop handles and when you went in you'd pick the dirt up and tip it on the bank. Now these handles if you weren't quick enough you'd get caught and couldn't get your handles out so you'd tip the scoop – you'd have to pull up. But good scoopers never got their handles caught – there was a lot of people who were good at it and about three lengths of the scoop you'd have a circle to turn in and you'd come back across the other side – you wouldn't take all the dirt out going across you'd just fill the scoop and there'd be enough dirt in it ploughed there to fill it when you came back and what they call a ploughing – that would clean out that channel. You'd tip a load on that side then keep coming around; it'd work out about 8 or 9 scoop loads to the chain as you were going along; $(8 \times 3 \text{ feet} = 24)$. You'd plough a stretch of channel about half a mile long and then scoop it out and then plough it again and then scoop that out again. That'd be about three times you'd do that. That would make a channel big enough to take water down to the bottom of any of the farms.