

A CELEBRATION OF A LIFE WELL LIVED

A tribute to Ron Cochrane
from his family







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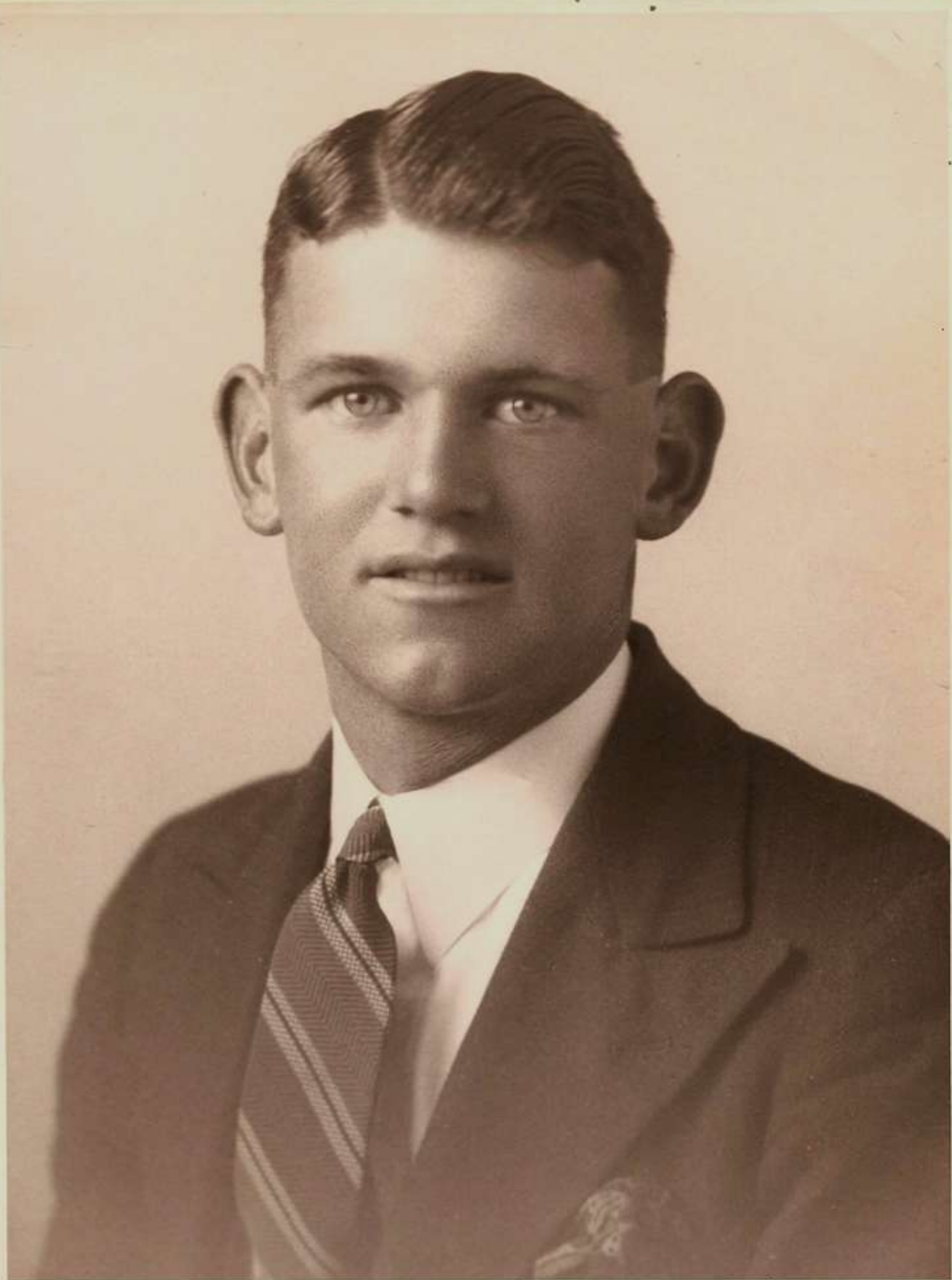
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Early Forestry and Sawmilling in Mid Canterbury

RON COCHRANE



FROM BALLANTRAE TO ASHBURTON

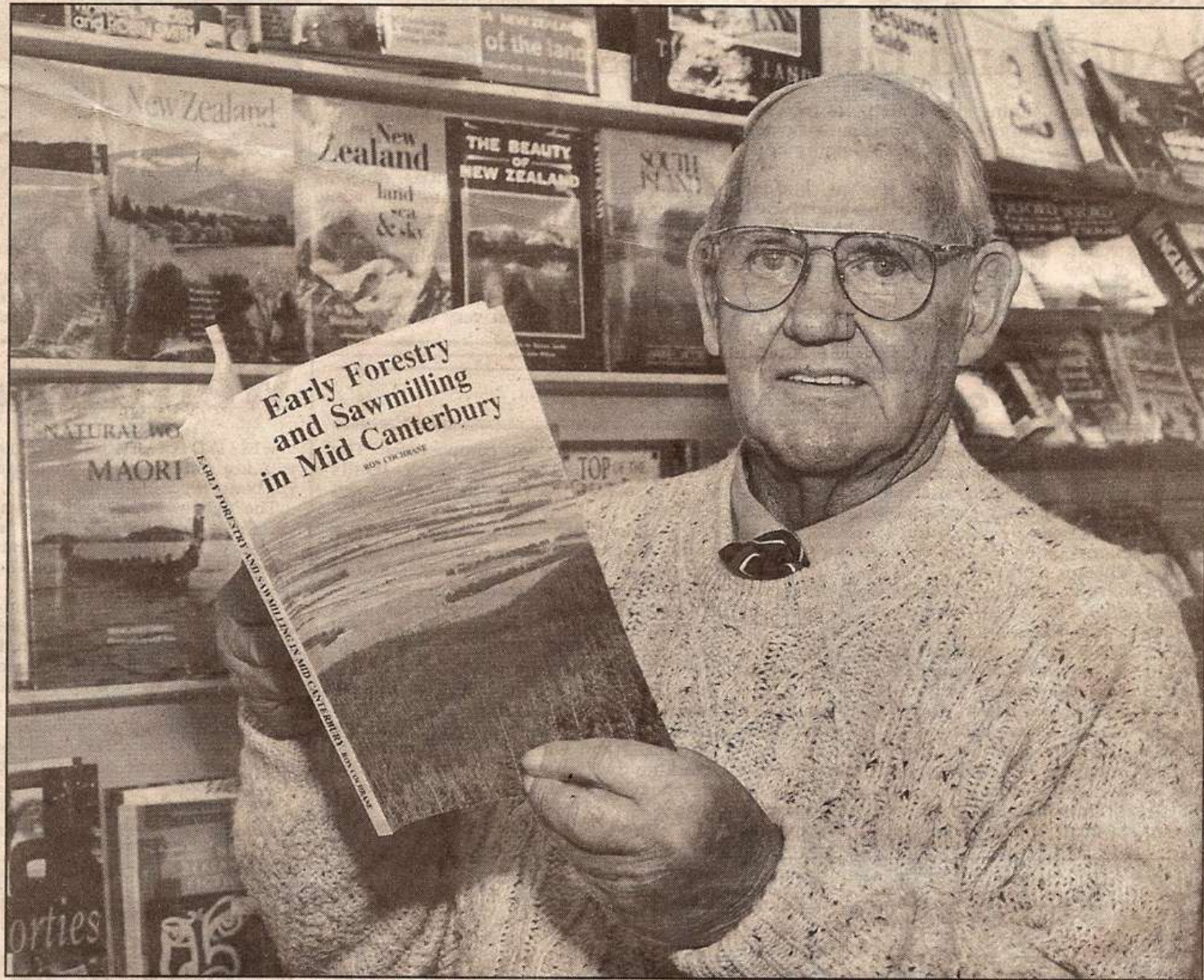
A History of the Cochrane Family



RON COCHRANE



Sawmiller document's industry history



Retired Methven sawmiller Ron Cochrane has written a book on the history of forestry and sawmilling in Mid Canterbury.

Methven author Ron Cochrane with his newly-published book, Early Forestry and Sawmilling in Mid Canterbury.

Photo Peter Hight









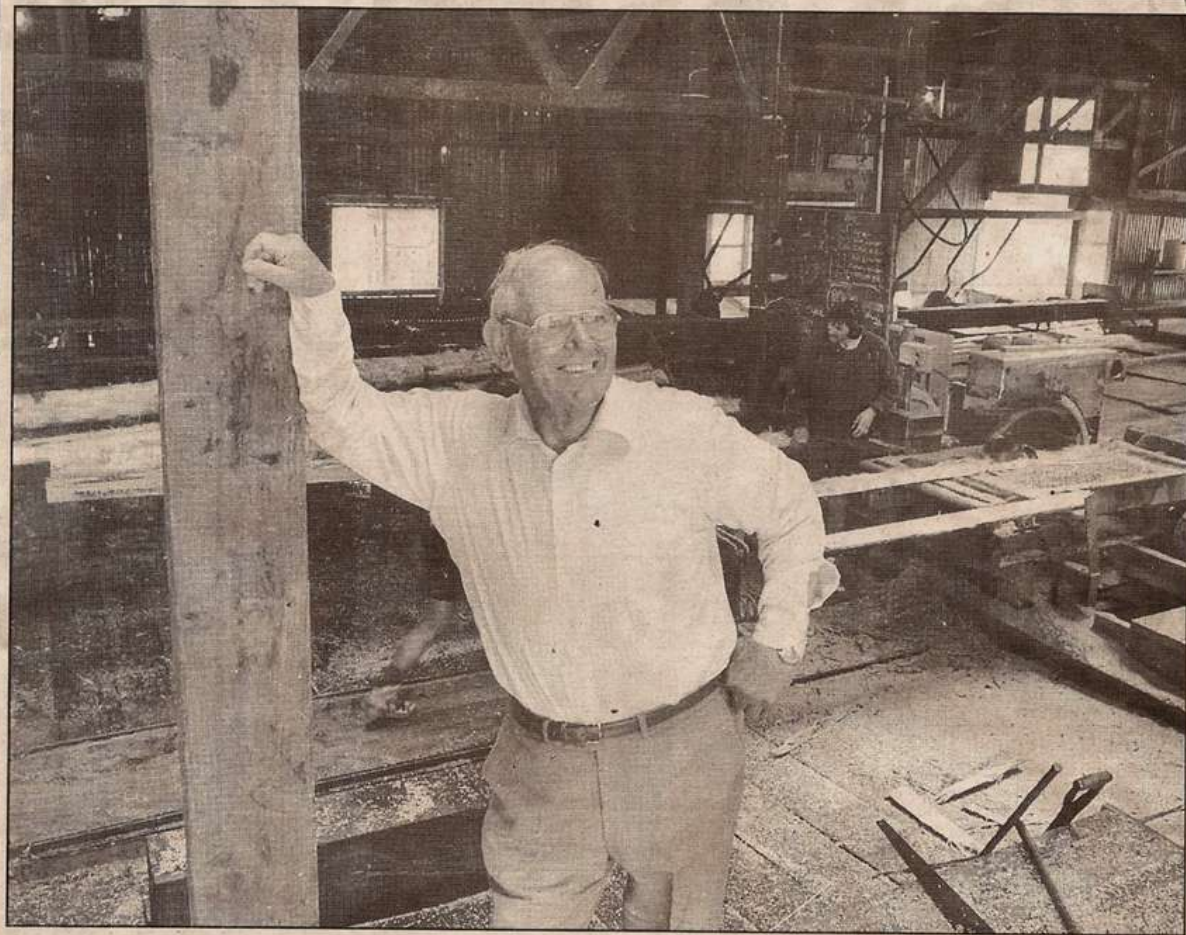




A gathering of the Cochrane family about 1950. My father is holding his newest grand child.







Ron Cochrane at the Methven sawmill which he founded more than 55 years ago.

Photo Rachel Simpson

Ron's vision led to milling empire















Honour finds humble response

by *Annette Scott*

"I was fortunate. A lot of people have done so many things and their services have gone unrecognised. I feel I am a privileged one."

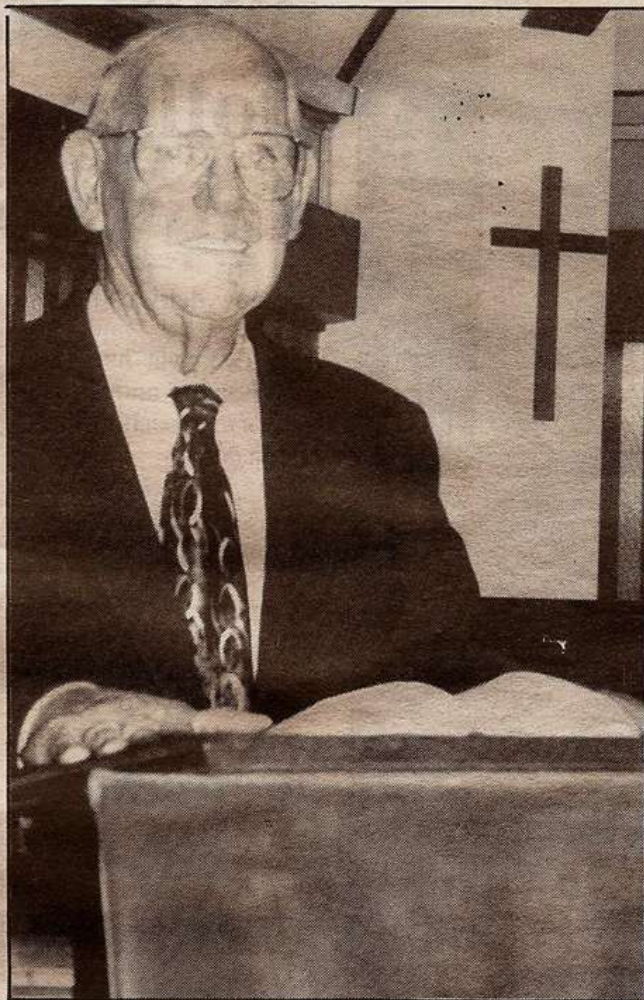
That was Ron Cochrane's initial thought after being made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his services to the community in the Queen's Birthday honours.

"I feel very, very humble in respect that some persons saw fit to allow my name to go forward. It really is still sinking in. It's not completely reality yet."

Mr Cochrane's honour was for his services to the community and in particular his voluntary services with the Presbyterian church.

A resident of Methven Mr Cochrane moved to the district in 1940.

"It was only to be for six months. It's been a long



Bon Cochrane's many years as a lay-preacher









God's message is the same 60 years later, says Ron

Methven lay preacher Ron Cochrane loves to write sermons and touch people's hearts.

St John's Presbyterian Church recognised the 78-year-old's 60 years as a lay preacher at a service on Sunday.

As a young man Mr Cochrane attended biblical college in Auckland and planned to enter the ministry full-time. But on his return to his hometown of Ashburton during World War Two he decided to join the sawmilling profession which needed workers.

He was turned down when he tried to enlist in the army because sawmilling was seen as an essential industry.

"I then determined if I am going to work on the home front I am going to make the best of it."

He ended up remaining in the sawmilling industry and took over management of a new mill set up in Methven. He later bought the business which is today run by his two

sons Malvern and Donald.

During the war there was also a shortage of ministers and lay preachers, and Mr Cochrane's religious experience was in high demand.

He conducted services at Methven and surrounding parishes.

The work, together with sawmilling, meant he hardly had a spare moment.

One Sunday saw him conduct four services. He delivered an 11am service in Methven, a 2pm service at Ashburton Forks, a 3.30pm one at Lyndhurst, and another back in Methven at 7pm.

It is just as well Mr Cochrane enjoys researching and writing sermons because he would have to create two different ones on such days, as sometimes parishioners would attend more than one service.

"I love preparing a sermon and I love telling it," he said.

He found lay preaching rewarding because it touched people's hearts.

He has received many a telephone

call and letter from people, some during a crisis, who had enjoyed his sermons.

He said over the 60 years he has seen many changes.

"But the important thing is that the message I preached 60 years ago is still relevant today. Things have changed but God hasn't; what he could do for people then he can do today, the message of the cross is still the same."

Mr Cochrane has preached in every place in Mid Canterbury where it is possible to hold a Presbyterian service. There are 31 places which include churches, halls and other buildings.

Mr Cochrane paid tribute to his wife Edna and five children, who have supported him in his time-consuming work over the years.

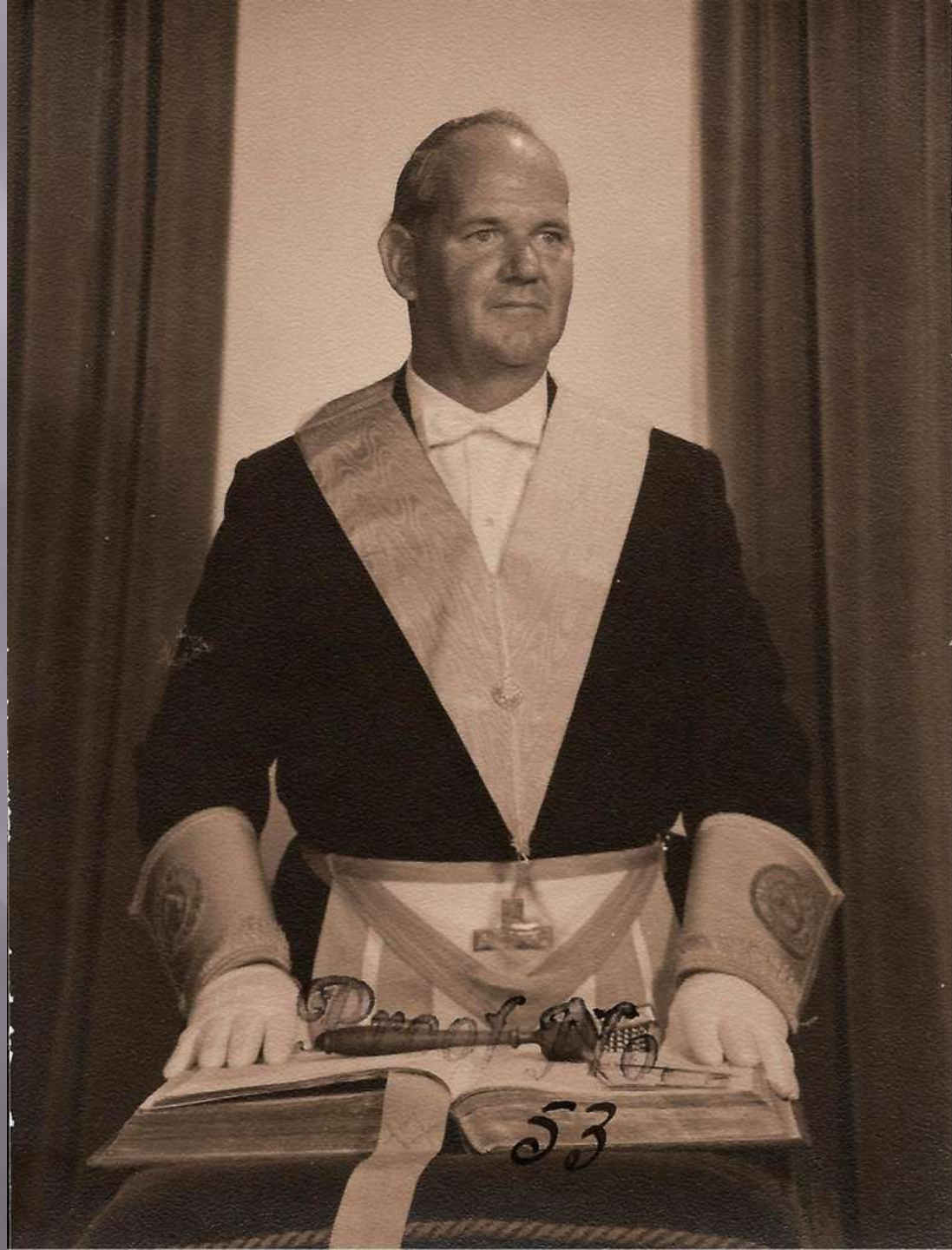
Mr Cochrane was ordained as an elder of St John's church 50 years ago on the same day as former Methven resident George Lochhead, now of Timaru.

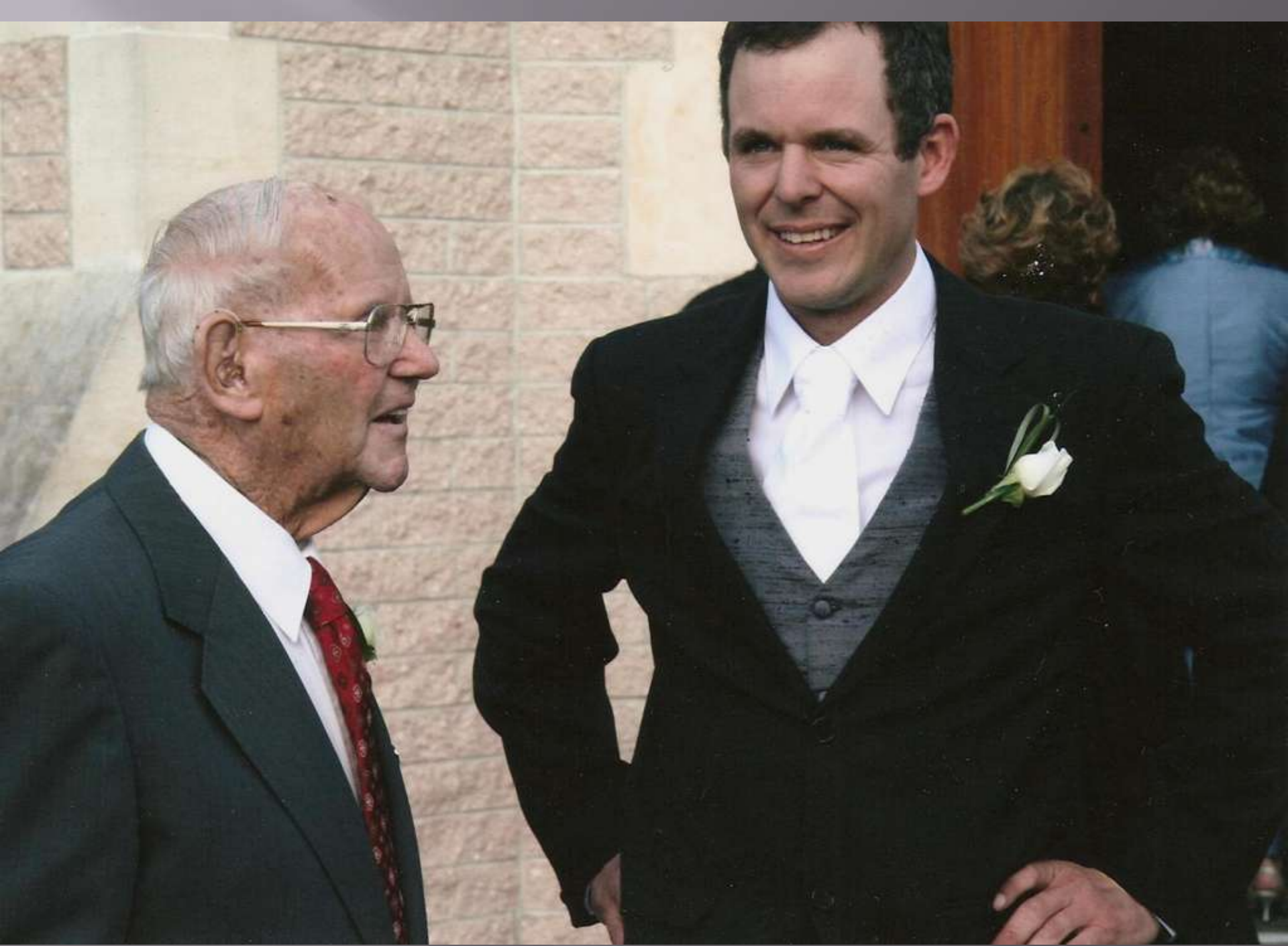
LEFT: Methven Presbyterian Ron Cochrane has been a lay preacher for 60 years.

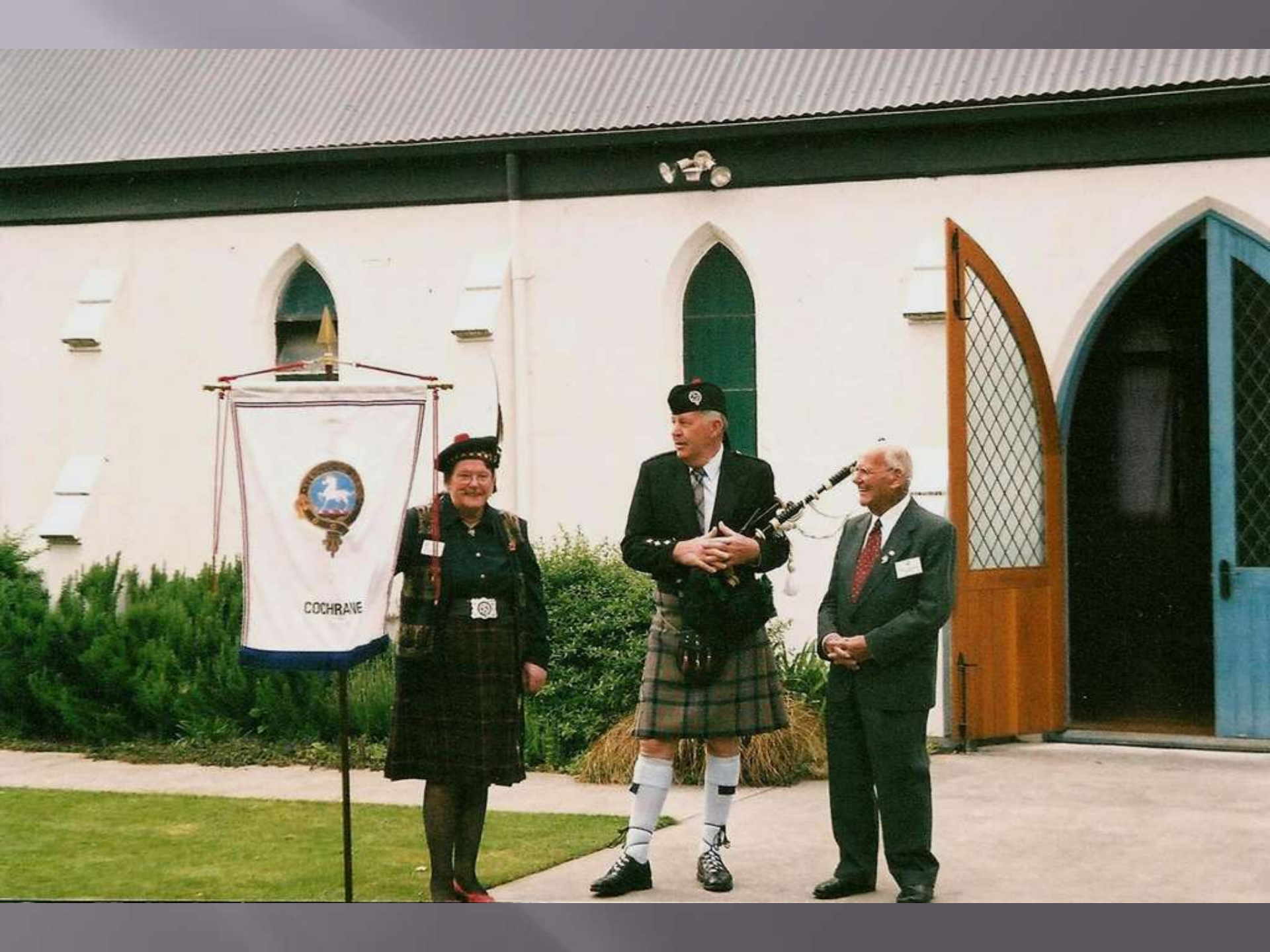
Photo Susan Sanderson



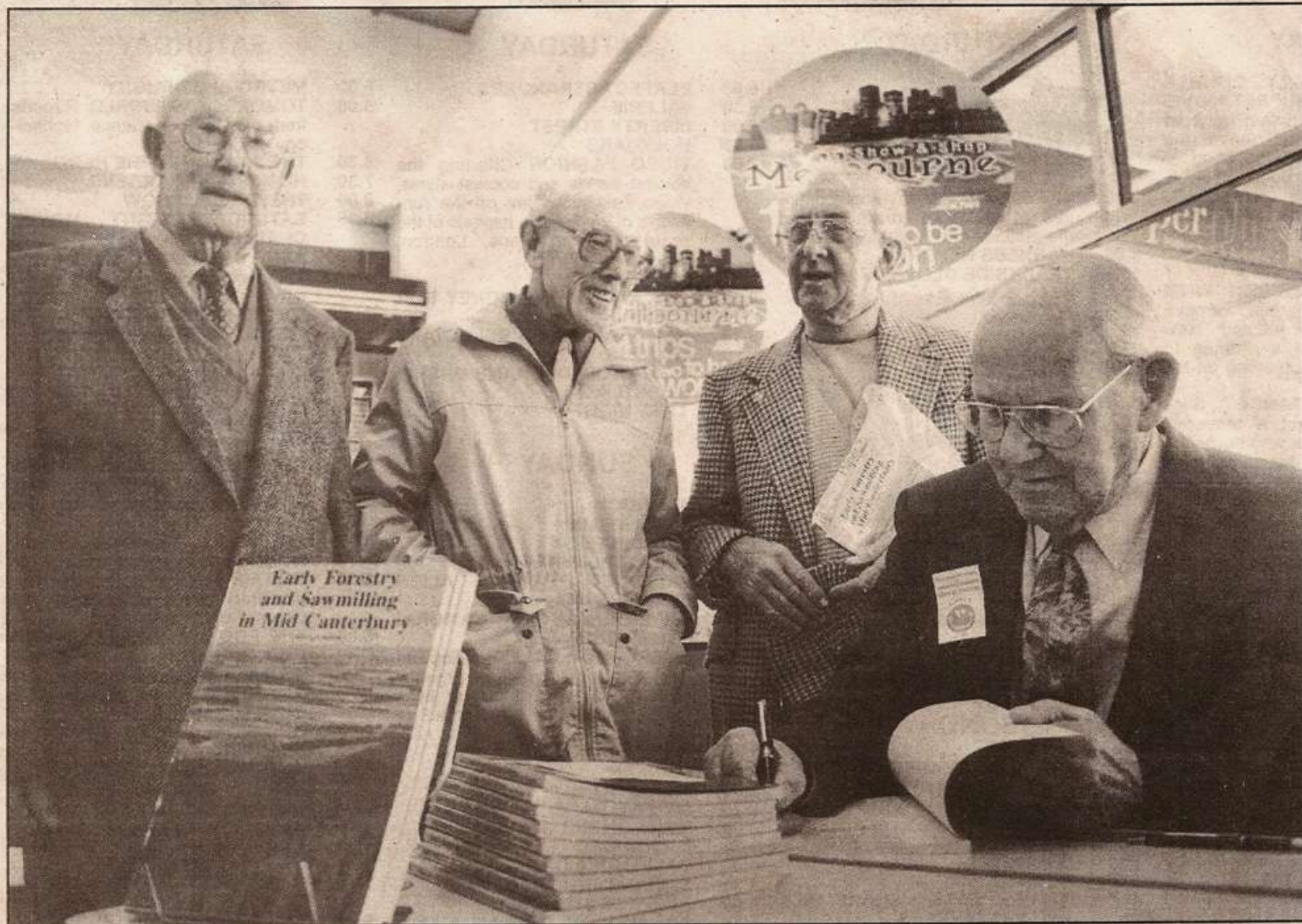












Four "old-timers" from the timber industry got together recently for the launch of sawmiller Ron Cochrane's new book, *Early Forestry and Sawmilling in Mid Canterbury*. They were (from left) Bob Lindsay, a former Ashburton County Council engineer who was actively involved in the council's early forestry enterprises; Bob Lynn who ran a timber and joinery business in Ashburton for many years; Jos Tucker, grandson of one of Ashburton's earliest timber merchants, Joshua Tucker; and Mr Cochrane who founded Cochranes Sawmills in Methven in 1940.

Photo Anna Riley
















LYNDHURST













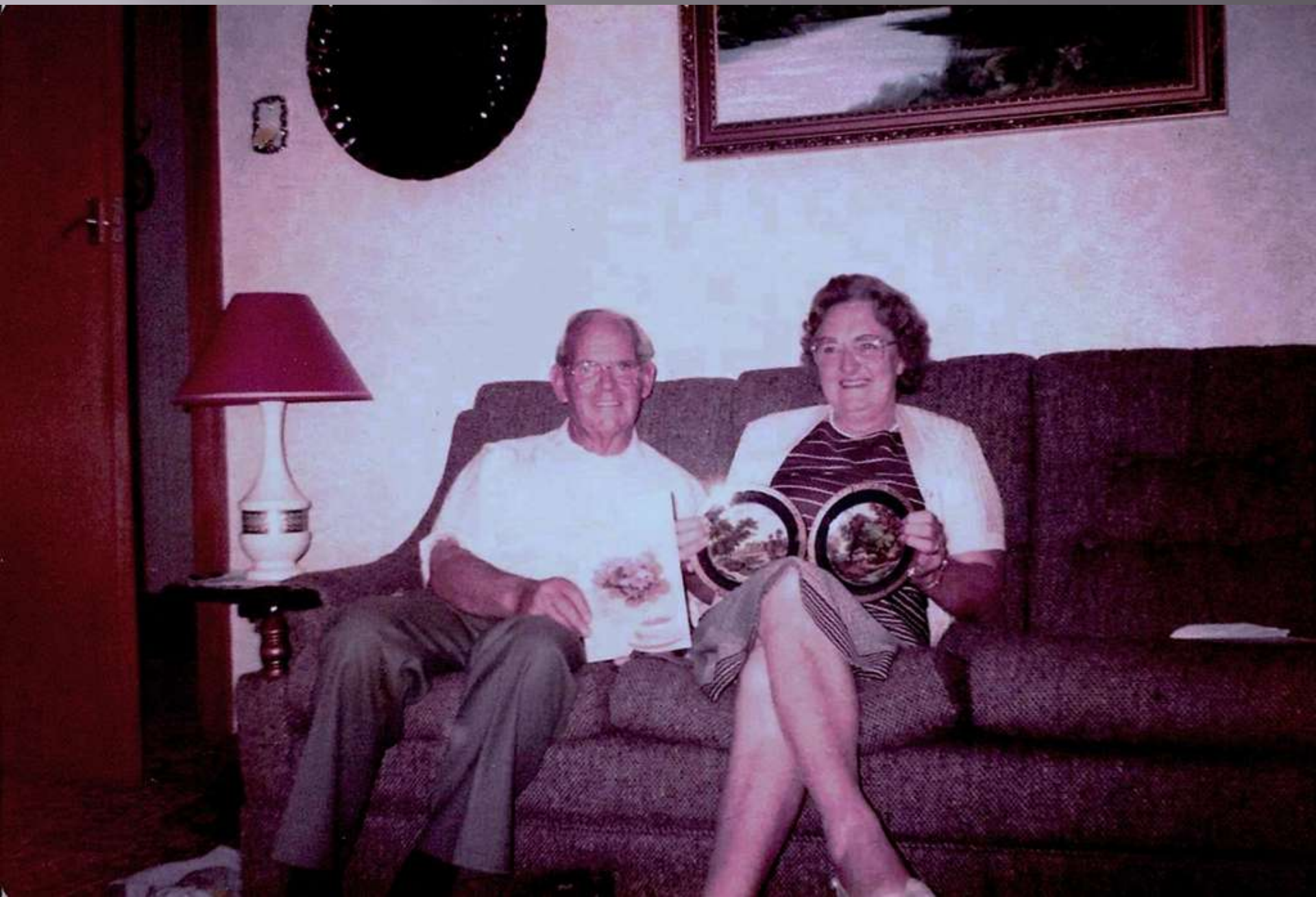
COCHRANE













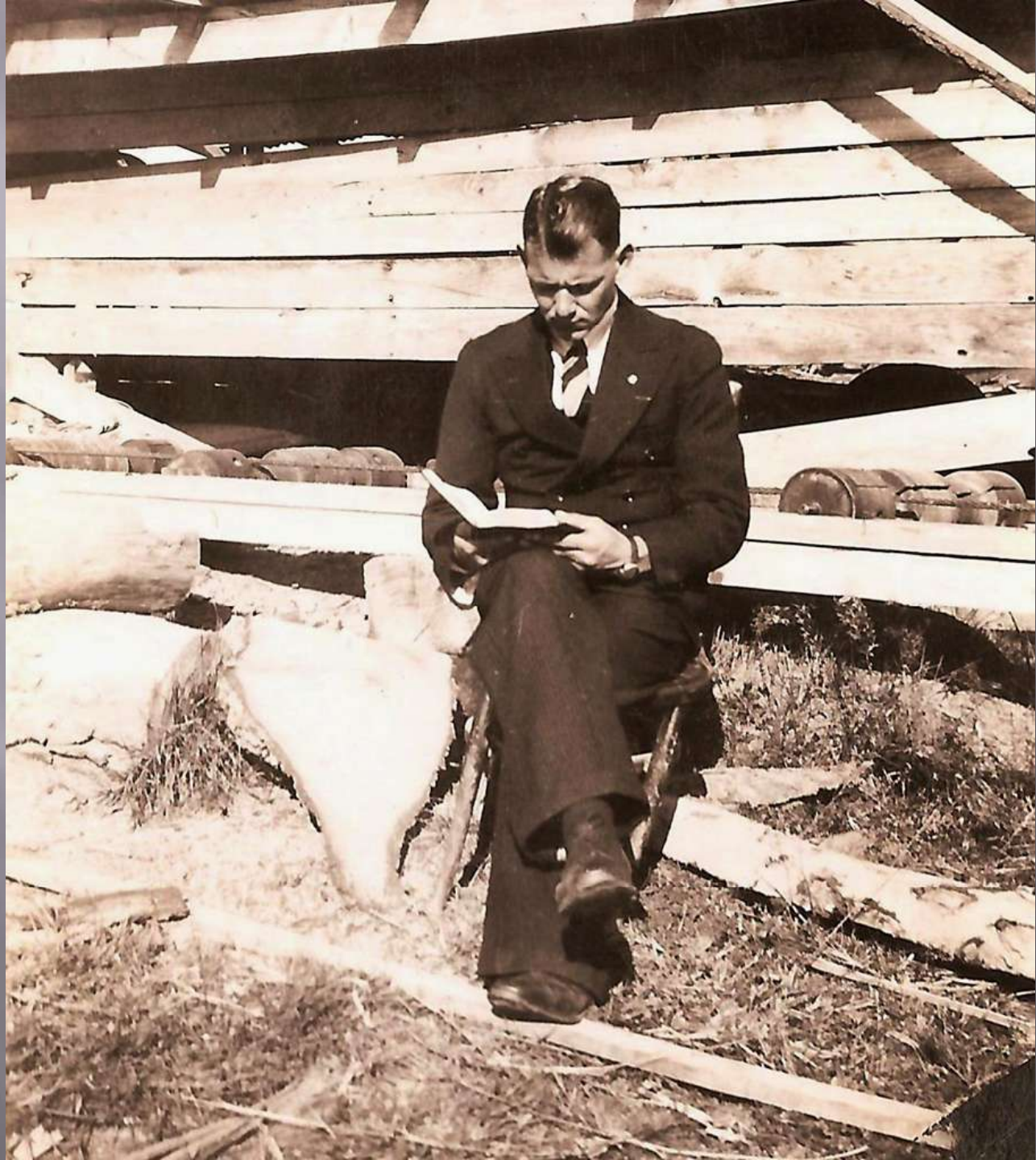
















Three Mid Cantabrians honoured

Dedicated to serving Methven

By Alison Driscoll

Humble and grateful was the reaction from Methven's Ron Cochrane, who has been made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

Mr Cochrane said he was humbled people had faith in him and had put his name forward, and was grateful for their interest.

Completely surprised by the honour, Mr Cochrane said it had been a delight to receive a letter of congratulations from Prime Minister Jenny Shipley.

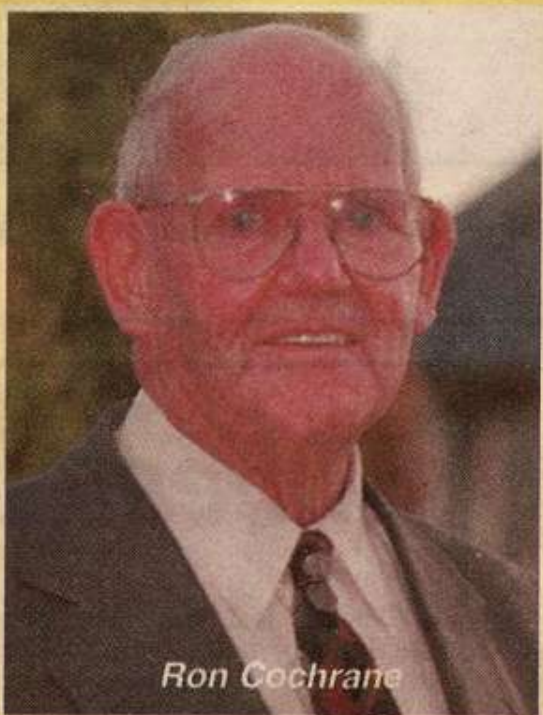
After settling in Methven in 1940, he began lay-preaching in St John's Presbyterian Church, an interest which had started in 1936, and continues to this day. His 62

years of service to the Presbytery of Ashburton, which has seen him preach at 37 locations in the greater Ashburton district, was marked by the church earlier this year.

Within the Methven church he has held many positions including superintendent of the Sunday School, Bible class leader and session clerk.

The church has not been his only interest. He was also involved in the construction of the Mount Hutt Memorial Hall, and served for more than 20 years on Methven High School's Board of Governors.

Mr Cochrane's professional career has been in the timber industry. Two years ago he wrote a history of the industry in the district, "Early Forestry and Sawmilling in Mid Canterbury".



Ron Cochrane















