

Obituary *Alan Wallace*

Allan "Bunny" Wallace was born in Wallsend, Newcastle in 1914, one of 10 children.

After moving to the Camden Haven as a young lad he spent most of his life time in or on the river, and was a popular character in the area.

He started courting Adeline Eames from across the river and with no bridges in those days, love blossomed via row boat. They were married in St. Johns Taree in 1930.

After a couple of years working a farm at Pappinbarra, the pull of the coast and the love of the sea drew Bunny back to his beloved North Haven where he commenced work as a professional fisherman - hard work which he loved.

In 1948, he and his brother Sid built the "Jo-Ellen" and they became a familiar site in the Camden Haven for the next 40 years, leaving in the early morning and returning most times, laden with fish.

This was the life Bunny loved, and apart from 3 to 4 years as licensee at the Laurieton Hotel, he fished until his retirement.

His favourite watering hole, in fact the only place he enjoyed a drink was the Laurieton Hotel where he enjoyed socialising, playing

billiards and swapping fishing yarns with his mates. In fact, he had his own stool located in "Bunny's corner" at the hotel which others also named the sharp corner at North Haven where he would often sit during his retirement.

John Hillier who conducted the graveside service at Laurieton cemetery last week commented on an old saying "that lucky is a man who spends his life doing what he likes - but especially fortunate is a man who can also gets paid doing what he likes."

He said that Bunny had been especially fortunate - he enjoyed living here and his family, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He was at home getting out in the Jo-Ellen, crossing the bar and out on the ocean in the fresh air with the smell of the salt, running out the nets and hauling in his catch. He felt great satisfaction coming home with a load of fish after a good day's work.

Following his death on May 3, aged 80 Bunny has crossed his last bar and sailed off to a distant shore - and his friends now pray he has landed in a safe haven, where the weather's always fine and the fishing's good.

He is survived by his son Mervyn and daughter Evafyn.