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"How the idea of a Portable Sheep Yard Began"

In 1964 at the conclusion of Talling - Mulesing 2750 lambs the Cahill brothers (Kevin Brian & Dennis) were reloading the trucks of panels - gates and steel posts used to make holding pens for lamb marking just like thousands of property owners were doing ^{with} ~~were~~ sheep could not be handled in permanent facilities.

Kevin remarked to his brother this is the last time we are going to do this. Lets design and build something more suitable for the future.

They retired to the workshop and commenced to draw on the concrete floor their pooled ideas of ^{what} they could do.

First a race way was drawn and then an axle was added and finally hinged panels completed the basic centre section similar to thousands of ^{permanent} yards across the country.

The next day ^{where} do we start - how? For instance how wide is a sheep race ^{how} high and how long, what do we make the panels of. Answers were ^{sought} ~~and~~ and races measured :- We decided on 17 inches width of race and thinking of manufacturing a standard length of pipe became race length with double opening 30 inch gates for drafting, this meant the lead up ^{14 ft} race to the gates would allow 3 or ⁴ sheep in ^{the} race to assist flow through. The double folding panels against the race determined that the other end double folding panels would have to be offset from ^{the} race about 6 inches to fold back the other way. This presented us with the compact section that could be raised one end to have a axle placed underneath. The key to completing yards was to use a coil or (two if necessary due to large mob of 365 Archmesh) to hold sheep. In practice we found it was easier to cut a 100ft coil of 365 into 3 separate



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lengths approx 33 ft long put chains on either end to either ^{tie} together or roll up and place on top of race for transport.

The first time used ^{it} was a complete success.

In 1965 we approached A.R.C Engineering of Welskpool about manufacturing as 356 arch mesh was the basis of their ^{yards} success. Their engineer Mr. Fred Frankhs saw the potential and challenged us to Patent the idea and then see them about possibly manufacturing them.

Brian set about providing drawings and after some amendments a patent NO 280,290 was granted in 1967

We went back to A.R.C and drew up a licensing agreement for ~~them~~ A.R.C to build and sell the "PORTA YARD" as it was to be known from their Capital City plants in Australia. The life of a patent is 17 years so for us it was a good arrangement and placed this valuable piece of equipment before all property owners in Australia.

We had a provisional patent in New Zealand but did not find a suitable manufacture so eventually let it lapse.

During the life of the patent A.R.C took several parties to court for infringing the patent but a year or so before its expiry date in 1984 several firms started to manufacture to be in on the ground floor.

"Take the yards to the sheep" was a phrase coined in 1965 and still applies today.

This original set or display have done an incredible amount of work probably drafted ^{hundreds thousands of sheep} & weighed at least 500,000 pigs over a 17 year period in a fixed location. We have a A.R.C manufactured set used for sheep work. The ~~set~~ having of panels is the only design departure from the original and now adopted by all manufacturers.



1st time set up in H 6 1965