

TAMING AN OUTLAW

HOW JACK COOK MADE HISTORY.

When I was at Glenroek (reminisces Richard Hinton in Wingham "Chronicle") Mr. Alec Campbell bought an outlaw horse at Muswellbrook. He brought him over to Glenroek Station, and wanted some of his men to ride the outlaw. None of them showed any burning desire to mount the animal. Jack Cook, who was in the employ of Mr. Augustus Hooke at Curricubakh, was at Glenroek Station at the time. Cook was helping them to muster at Glenroek. Mr. Campbell said to Cook: "What about you having a seat on him, Jack?" Cook replied: "No, Boss. I'll buy him from you." So Campbell finished up by selling the outlaw to Cook for the same money he had paid for him at Muswellbrook.

Cook took the outlaw over to the blacksmith's shop, and shod him. I helped to hold him whilst this was being done. After he had been shod, Jack saddled the outlaw, and mounted him. He took him over into a little paddock near the homestead before he got on him. He was a very hard horse to get on. He used to rear straight in the air as soon as Jack put his foot into the stirrup. Jack managed to get into the saddle, anyhow. The outlaw wheeled round, and bucked clean over the fence without touching it. From there he bucked down over a steep bank into the creek. He then bucked down the bed of the creek, in the water. He struck a rock while bucking in the creek, and the result was that the girths broke. There was quite a number of station hands watching the exhibition of horsemanship. We sang out to Cook that his girths were broken. Cook jumped off. As soon as he did so, the saddle slipped round on the outlaw, and he gave it one kick and sent it flying yards up along the bank of the creek. Cook still held the bridle, and stuck to the outlaw. He brought him up into the same paddock again, and saddled him once more. He then hopped on to him. This time the outlaw bucked over the fence on the opposite side to that he had cleared in the first instance. It was a two rail fence, and the outlaw never touched it.

Cook had the best of the outlaw shortly after, and rode him to a standstill. He was the only man who ever did so.

Cook had this outlaw for years. He could ride him all right, but no one else ever succeeded in sticking him. Cook sold the horse at various times to different people—on trial—but every time he got him back—none of them could "sit" him.