

THE DOG ON THE TUCKER BOX

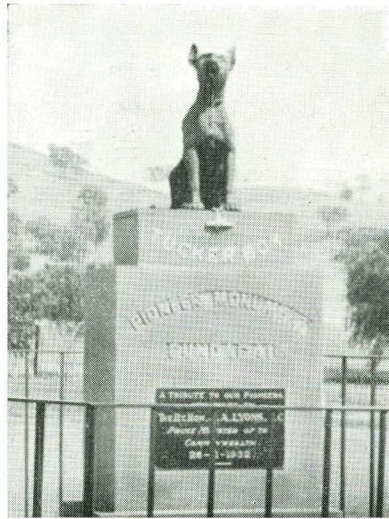
Without a doubt one of the best known monuments in Australia is the "Dog on the Tucker Box," on the Hume Highway, five miles from Gundagai, N.S.W.

Every year thousands of travellers stop to have a look at the memorial, and though there is an inscription telling that the monument is merely a tribute to the pioneers, many people move on wondering whose dog and whose tucker box are commemorated.

Then again there are those who believe that it is a memorial to the late Jack Moses, who wrote the verses, "Nine Miles from Gundagai," and that, of course, raises the argument as to why the monument was erected five miles from Gundagai instead of nine!

The site argument is one which this writer will fight shy of, but there is no doubt that the monument was inspired by the Australian bush poet's verses, which run as follows :

I've done my share of shearing sheep,
Of droving and all that,
And bogged a bullock-team as well
On a Murrumbidgee flat.
I've seen the bullock stretch and strain,
And blink his bleary eye,
And the dog sit on the tucker box,
Nine miles from Gundagai.



I've been jilted, jarred and crossed in love,
And sand-bagged in the dark,
Till if a mountain fell on me,
I'd treat it as a lark.
It's when you've got your bullocks bogged
That's the time you flog and cry,
And the dog sits on the tucker box,
Nine miles from Gundagai.

We've all got our little troubles,
In life's hard, thorny way,
Some strike them in a motor car
And others in a dray.
But when your dog and bullocks strike,
It ain't no apple pie,
And the dog sat on the tucker box,
Nine miles from Gundagai.

But that's all past and dead and gone,
And I've sold the team for meat,
And perhaps some day where I was
bogged,
There'll be an asphalt street.
The dog, ah! well he got a bait,
And thought he'd like to die,
So I buried him in the tucker box,
Nine miles from Gundagai.