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HIGHWAY SURVEYOR DIES AGED 80

Jerry Whitlock, long time Alice Springs resident responsible for the survey location of a large part of the north Stuart Highway, died last week aged 80.

Mr. Whitlock, who was then with the Department of Works and Housing, surveyed the road between Tennant Creek and Birdum in the early years of the war.

Mr. Whitlock is also remembered for his crossing of the Tanami Desert.

Using tractors and fireploughs Mr. Whitlock and his crew forged a road from Tennant Creek to the West Australian border.

The last 240 km of the grading was done using only compass bearings and with the tractor in reverse — the machine

having lost its low forward gear.

After the war, Mr Whitlock left the public service and with his wife set up a roadhouse out of an old army camp at Erewena, 110km east of Tennant Creek.

About 1950 he moved to Alice Springs where he worked as a general contractor and set up a scrap yard at the back of his home in Priest Street.

He quickly earned a reputation for honesty and reliability and for being able to supply people with almost any odd part or piece of equipment they were looking for.

Mr Whitlock left no family in Australia.

A large number of people attended the funeral on Monday morning at the United Church.

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IN MEMORIAM

WHITLOCK Wilfred H.
(Gerry) In loving memory
of our dear friend Gerry
passed away 25-5-78 R.I.P.
Roma and Dick.

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