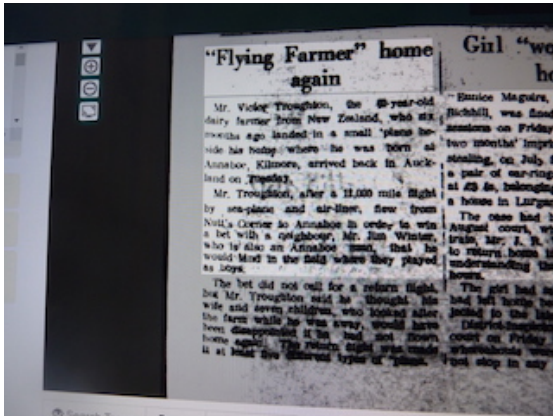


Flying Kiwi Farmer lands plane on Portadown home farm

In the inter war years several farming families, including the Troughtons and the Winters, from around Portadown successfully started a new life in distant New Zealand. A country that gave them great opportunities to build up their own businesses and enjoy a much better lifestyle than Northern Ireland in the hungry thirties.

Fast forward to 1951 and one of those migrants, Victor Troughton, landed a light plane back in the 40 acre field outside Portadown where he had played as a child. As these newspaper cuttings reveal this spectacular return came about after a friendly bet with former playmate Trevor Winter, also from Kilmore and also settled in New Zealand.



Note in the newspaper reports from 1951 how travel to and from New Zealand, even by air, was a long, eventful trip involving multiple flights and landings on land and water. Making today's 36 hours 'hop' from London seem a doddle! Clearly Victor Troughton had developed that Kiwi love of travel and adventure at a time when most folks here rarely ventured beyond Newcastle or Portrush!

This story came to light when UNZT volunteers welcomed Barbara Morrison and family to The Ballance House this past summer. Barbara recalling how her Great Uncle Victor had caused quite a stir arriving and leaving Co Armagh by air long before she was born.

Thanks to Paul Callaghan for advice on locating cuttings from the Portadown Times, 21 Sept 1951.

SELLING SHEEP TO NZ OR SNOW TO ESKIMOS? 8100GNS NI SHEEP NZ BOUND

Richard Beattie, pictured, of Omagh recently held a production sale of his family's 'Beatties' Valais Blacknose sheep, which saw all previous records smashed as prices peaked at 8100 guineas. Securing the top price was this four year old stock ram of Swiss parentage originally bought from Raymond Irvine in Scotland.



This proven stock ram was purchased online by a new buyer from New Zealand. Clearly the cute Valais Blacknose Sheep, once only found in a remote Swiss valley, is becoming popular worldwide. The **Valais Blacknose, German: Walliser Schwarznasenschaf**, is called the world's cutest sheep.

Photo credit: Ruth Rodgers, editor Farming Life