

# QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 64

## BENDER & CO. PTY LTD COLLECTION

Businesses, Launceston  
Fruit Industry, Northern Tasmania

### INTRODUCTION

### THE RECORDS

- 1. Legal Records*
- 2. Minutes of Meetings*
- 3. Correspondence*
- 4. Financial Records*
- 5. Business Records*
- 6. Property Records*
- 7. Photographs*
- 8. Miscellaneous Items*

### OTHER SOURCES

## INTRODUCTION

Leonard Bender commenced business as a small goods manufacturer in Elizabeth Street, Launceston in 1889. By 1906 he was a pork butcher, ham and bacon curer, small goods manufacturer and dairy produce merchant at 110 Elizabeth Street, with a factory at the rear of the premises, and at 81 Brisbane Street. His products were sold beyond Launceston and shipped to the mainland. Mr Bender was the first person to establish an ice works in Launceston and special features of his business were the ice manufactory, freezing works and cool store for goods he made on the premises. Space in the cool store for perishable products was also available to the public.

The firm of Leonard Bender & Co. was registered in August 1911. In October 1911 Mr Bender entered into partnership with Albert Edward Webb, an accountant, who married Mr Bender's daughter. Bender & Co. was incorporated in 1923.

Born in the Huon, Leonard Bender had a keen interest in fruit growing and established an orchard on 30 acres at West Arm (in the vicinity of York Town) in the Tamar Valley, where he planted a number of apple varieties c1910. Before his death he controlled over 300 acres of fruit bearing trees, mainly on the West Tamar. Bender & Co. was one of the first to undertake direct overseas shipments of fruit from the Tamar in 1922, built the first fruit cool store in northern Tasmania and became one of the leading shipping agents in the north of the State. Bender & Co. Pty Ltd operated its apple and pear export business until 1974.

After the death of Leonard Bender in 1934 and Albert Webb in 1937, Leonard and George Webb, grandchildren of the firm's founder, maintained the family involvement in Bender & Co. Pty Ltd. The firm continued in the meat and small goods business until 1972 when it amalgamated with Blue Ribbon Meats, and as a subsidiary company, traded under the name of Bender Smallgoods. Members of the Webb family sold nos. 98 and 98a Elizabeth Street to the Launceston City Council in 1981. Webb Investments sold the plant and equipment at 98a Elizabeth and 119 York streets to Blue Ribbon Meat Products Pty Ltd in 1982.

Leonard Bender's name is remembered in Launceston by Bender's Lane.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in May 1995 with additional items donated in September 2001.

### ***1. Legal Records***

- |     |   |                    |
|-----|---|--------------------|
| 1/1 | Bender & Co. Pty Ltd (15 title deeds and conveyances re land owned by the firm in Elizabeth and York streets; lease agreement, 1939)  | 1877-1905,<br>1939 |
| 1/2 | Mr Leonard Bender and Mr A E Webb, agreement as to partnership  | 1911               |
| 1/3 | G C Druce to Bender & Co. Pty Ltd., agreement for lease (of land at Swan Point)   | 1928               |
| 1/4 | L Bender indenture re mortgage of properties in Launceston  | 1926, 1935         |
| 1/5 | L G Webb, H A Webb, N E Webb and M L Webb, agreement for sale of 98 and 98a Elizabeth Street to Launceston City Council (with associated correspondence 16 March 1977-28 June 1983) | 1977-1983          |

### ***2. Minutes of Meetings***

- |     |   |           |
|-----|---|-----------|
| 2/1 | Bender & Co. Proprietary Limited, minutes of meetings 23 February 1923-27 August 1951 (includes share register) | 1923-1951 |
|-----|---|-----------|

### ***3. Correspondence***

- |     |                              |           |
|-----|------------------------------|-----------|
| 3/1 | Miscellaneous correspondence | 1946-1984 |
|-----|------------------------------|-----------|

### ***4. Financial Records***

- |     |  |           |
|-----|--|-----------|
| 4/1 | Balance sheets, accounts, one price list and one cheque book | 1917-1985 |
|-----|--|-----------|

### ***5. Business Records***

- |     |  |                  |
|-----|--|------------------|
| 5/1 | Certificates of registration, coupon books, accounts, notices, certificates, newspaper clippings, price lists, correspondence, stationery and labels | 1906-1971        |
| 5/2 | Bender & Co. Pty Ltd (apple case labels, 'B, Selected Tasmanian Apples')   | nd               |
| 5/3 | Bender & Co Pty Ltd (pear case labels, 'B, Selected Tasmanian Pears')  | nd               |
| 5/4 | Bender & Co. Pty Ltd (stationery, various forms, invoice book, ice coupon book, 1911-1930)   | 1911-1930,<br>nd |

## **6. Property Records**

- 6/1 Plans of West Tamar properties owned by L Bender , later by L & G Webb (includes Devon 1A land grant map 1922; Ilfracombe; land at York Town and Deviot; subdivision "Lempriere" Estate, early 1930s (2 copies); Benders Est. survey by J Cohen, 1950, 1952; land in parish of Philips Norton, survey by J Cohen, 1957, 1966)
- 6/2 Webb family property at Anderson's Creek (correspondence, plans etc) 1967-1985

## **7. Photographs**

- 7/1 'First direct fruit shipment from Tamar Valley. The S S Telemon at Beauty Point, March 6, 1922' (2 photographs, one includes ship, the other of apple cases inside a shed) 1922
- 7/2 Leonard Bender, Frederick Webb, E S Floyd, N Brooker, W S Smith? with some of the first pine apple cases shipped from Beauty Point. Imported from Canada by Bender & Co. Pty Ltd 1928 1928
- 7/3 'Company apples being loaded for overseas, Inspection Head, 1966. Almost the last of the wooden boxes shipped by us' (2 copies) 1966

## **8. Miscellaneous Items**

- 8/1 *1924 calendar and diary with compliments from Bender & Co. Pty Ltd. manufacturers, general merchants, shipping agents, fruit exporters, Launceston* 1924
- 8/2 Bank of Australasia, letter of indication for Leonard Bender 1929
- 8/3 Bender & Co. Pty Ltd, 'B' brand rubber stamp; Bender's Delicatessen, 100 Elizabeth Street Launceston Telephone 31 3788 rubber stamp nd
- 8/4 A.B.C. Delicatessen, 137 Charles Street Launceston (price list) nd

## **OTHER SOURCES**

QVMAG, Community History, 1999.P.1564

QVMAG, Community History, 2001.P.0197

Leonard Bender's obituary in *Examiner*, 17 December 1934, p. 8 (includes photograph)

*Cyclopedia of Tasmania*, Hobart, 1900, vol.2, article on Leonard Bender (includes photograph)

*Cyclopedia of Tasmania*, Hobart, 1931, article on Bender & Co. Pty Ltd

Anne McConnell and Nathalie Servant, *The history and heritage of the Tasmanian apple industry: a profile*, Launceston, 1999

Miranda Morris- Nunn and C B Tassell, *Launceston's industrial heritage: a survey*, Launceston, 1982