

## Ronald Osborne Hamilton

Ronald Osborne Hamilton, the second child of William Hamilton and Mary née Murphy, was born in Milton on 31 July 1900. In 1903 the Hamilton family moved to Gore. Ronald began his formal education in the Gore Main School early in 1906, but by 17 July of that year was living with his maternal grandparents, the Murphys, in Milton and was enrolled in the Tokomairiro School, where he remained until the end of 1907. The reason for the departure from his family is not known but his return to Gore was probably precipitated by the death of his Murphy grandfather in October 1907. Ronald re-enrolled in Gore Main in 1908.

Ron married Lil(l)ian Denese (known as 'Den') Wilson in 1934. Den was born on 14 December 1900 to Lillie Margarethe and David Porter Wilson. She attended primary schools in Dunedin (Albany Street and Union Street) and in Clive, before enrolling in 'Dunedin Technical Classes' in February 1915.

Ron and Den's first child was stillborn in 1936; their other children were Jennifer and Barry.

A brief outline of Ron's biography was published in the *Otago Daily Times* on 29 June 1963 when he retired from his position as manager of the grain and seed department of Murray Roberts and Co., Dunedin.

### City Seed Expert Ends Long Service

Mr R.O. Hamilton, well known to many Otago farmers, retired yesterday after 43 years' service with Murray Roberts and Co., Ltd....

'I have no plans for the future but to live quietly and enjoy my bowls and gardening,' Mr Hamilton said yesterday.

He will be 63 next month.

After leaving school, Mr Hamilton joined the Post Office at Gore in 1915. After two years and a half he went to Flemings Mill.

Joining Murray Roberts's Gore branch as a junior in 1920, he was paid £2 a week—'enough to get by on.'

'One of the oldest seed merchants in New Zealand, Mr Hamilton is regarded as an authority in his field,' the manager of Murray Roberts, Mr G.E. Bichan, said yesterday.

His active support of the Grain and Seed Merchants' Association has included two terms as president.

A keen bowler, he is a past president of the Kaituna Bowling Club.

Ronald Osborn(e) Hamilton died in the Public Hospital, Dunedin, on 12 October 1968 at the age of 68. His body was cremated three days later and the ashes given to the family. At the time of his death he was living at 20 Cochrane Street, Mornington, the family home for many years.