

## FOX SKIN RUG.

John and Lena Burridge were farming in the Broomehill Shire c1935 and at that time made the FOX SKIN Rug. This rug with matching skins is an outstanding example of a bushmen's craft. The skins were selected from 200 foxes that were poised on the property. The bait was laid in a Parrot that had been shot for the purpose.

John Burridge worked as a professional Kangaroo shooter and was an expert at his trade and knew how to select the best skins that were available. The Rifle that he used was a Savage 32/20 sometimes the animals were snared with steel wire. The traps were set on the fence line on the pads that were coming into the crop.

The tanning method was to place the green skin that had been trimmed, a Jam Tree Bark mixture. This was Jam Tree bark soaked in water and boiled in a copper. The tree bark was also collected on the property.

The skin stayed in the mixture for up to three weeks after that time it was pegged out to dry. These skins were sent to Perth for professional sewing. The process of making a rug could take up to 12 months.

Rug one is -----and has no backing.

Rug two has been backed with a maroon felt and finished with an attractive gold fringe. The Burridge family used this rug on their bed for many years. All skins were selected for their matching quality and this completes an outstanding example of the craft. Although many people made these rugs in this period many were not done with this amount of care in the matching of the patterns.

Their son Royce Burridge donates these to the Katanning Historical Society in 2000.