

**That's Australia
ALL over**



★ LEFT: One calling point on trek was the hut of legendary cattleman Fred Fry in the Howqua hills.

HORSEBACK...

★ A TEAM of 15 film-makers on horseback have just completed the ride of a lifetime, 500 miles across the southern Alps in north-east Victoria.

The epic trip was probably the biggest over the distance this century. The object was to capture on film one of the last great adventures — seeing the country from the perspective of the early explorers and settlers. The film was made over 20 days for the Ministry of Tourism.

The trek was headed by Jack Lovick, 60, descendant of a family that has lived in the Merrig district outside Mansfield and grazed cattle on the high plains for more than 100 years. He was accompanied by his son Charlie, and Charlie's wife, Glenda, who did some of the cooking, and their son Wayne,

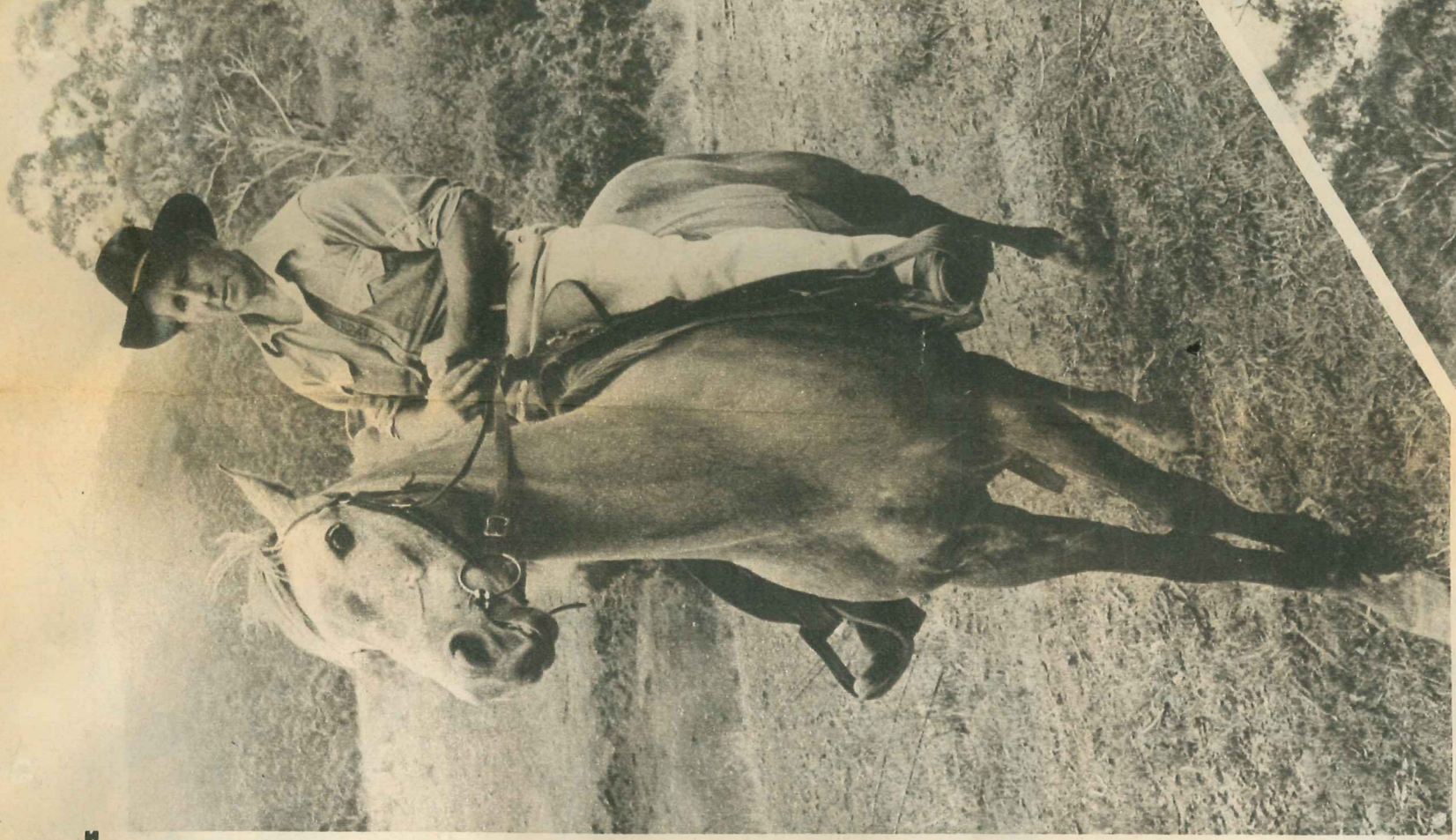
3. These days Jack Lovick, besides grazing cattle, has a big reputation as a mountain guide and safari leader.

The trekkers were backed up by four-wheel drive trucks carrying food, blacksmithing gear, first aid equipment, radios. Charlie Lovick went ahead with dumps of horse fodder, and Glenda stocked up two fridges with four sheep and one-and-a-half head of beef. Fresh fish from the streams provided a variation on the menu.

The journey began at Jack Lovick's farmhouse near the Hunt Club Hotel by the Delatite River and travelled via the Howqua River Valley, Bluff Range, Wonnangatta Valley, Dargo High Plains, Mt. Hotham, Mt. Locke West, Kiewa River Valley, Bogong High Plains, Mt Niggerhead and Tawonga.

So tortuous was the trail sometimes that they would cross the Howqua River 27 times in as many kilometres.

We'll be seeing the movie soon — appropriately, this is the Year of the Horse on the Chinese calendar.



★ ABOVE: Jack Lovick, who headed the trek, on his favorite horse, Musty.

★ LEFT: Glenda Lovick fits her horse Cheeky with "easy-boots" for the mountain climb.

★ RIGHT: Film equipment had to be carted for 500 miles on pack horses.

