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December 17, 1984.

The Editor  
The Age  
Spencer Street  
MELBOURNE, VIC. 3000.

Dear Sir,

It is now several weeks since an interesting article appeared in "The Age" (Nov. 19) that related to the early history and settlement of land now contained in the State of Victoria.

Writers quite frequently produce articles about the early settlement around Port Phillip Bay or Portland, but it is a rare thing to see reference to the pioneer cattlemen that were quietly and unobtrusively exploring and settling in the Eastern highlands of the region, at the same time as pioneers like Messrs. Paton, Fawcner and the Hentys were establishing themselves on the mainland.

Several explorers are reported to have been in the Omeo district in 1834 and cattle were brought there early in 1835.

It must be a serious oversight in historical recording when men like the Buckleys, McFarlane, Livingstone and Pendergasts and others whose early pioneering efforts all predate the famous exploration of Major Thomas Mitchell in 1835, are not given more prominence.

Since the State of Victoria and Mountain Cattlemen are both commencing a 150 year anniversary, it would be appropriate if the exploits of these 'founding fathers' and their associates, were made better known for posterity sake.

Please find enclosed extract of an unpublished Thesis by Peter Cabena which substantiates the subject-matter of my letter.

Yours faithfully,

JAMES A. COMMINS.  
President.

Encl.

copy to The Secretary, Victoria's 150th Anniversary