



A Cattleman, a Rolls-Royce and the 1954 Commonwealth Royal Tour

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Allan Goldman, a Queensland and later Western Australian cattleman, purchased the 1950 Rolls-Royce Silver Dawn, chassis number SBA100, in June 1950. What is intriguing about this car is a 1955 newspaper claim, "It carried Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh through the streets of Townsville, Queensland." during the Royal Tour. Further, "During the Royal visit to Queensland, Townsville was cut off by flood and none of the Royal cars could cross the river. The Goldmans offered the car for the Royal couple's use."

A new Rolls-Royce suggests Goldman was a successful grazier. Indeed, he had Hughenden Station, located half-way between Townsville and Mount Isa on the Flinders Highway, North West Queensland. Goldman purchased the station in 1951 and according to *The Townsville Daily Bulletin* of 27 September 1951, Hughenden Station had an area of 35,000 acres 10,000 freehold and the balance a grazing selection. It carried 5,000 sheep and 420 cattle.

***Above:** The Goldman Rolls-Royce Silver Dawn with a trailer pictured here is about to make the 1762 miles journey from Perth to the Moola Bulla station in the East Kimberley, Western Australia. Allan junior is in front of the car with the dog. Monica and Allan Goldman are in the centre. The Silver Dawn's "mate" on the trip is the semi-trailer loaded with farm machinery and supplies. It was in the press article that accompanied this photo that the claim of a Royal connection with the Silver Dawn was made. [The Perth Daily News 4 June 1955]*



Above: *The Goldman Silver Dawn was one of 114 Silver Dawns that were sold new in Australia between 1949 and 1955. The total production run was 761 cars. The 1951 Rolls-Royce Silver Dawn, chassis SDB26, pictured here at the Melbourne Motor Show in April 1951 is now owned by Club members Tom and Fiona Clarke. [Clarke and Neely, Rolls-Royce and Bentley in the Sunburnt Country, page 372]*

“Mr and Mrs Goldman, Hughenden Station, are visiting Townsville, staying at Queen’s Hotel”, reported the Charters Towers *Northern Miner* on 19 February 1952. They travelled by car, no doubt in the Silver Dawn. On the surface this all appears fine but underneath there was a tangle of relationships, duplicitous financial transactions and even a spell in Townsville prison.

Below: *The Goldman Silver Dawn would have made a suitably grand arrival at the suitably grand entrance of Queen’s Hotel, Townsville in 1950. [Municipality of Townsville – History in Pictures, State Library of Queensland]*



Allan William Goldman (1895-1966) was born at Boggabri, New South Wales. When he joined the Australian Imperial Force on 4 January 1916 his occupation was listed as "shearer and bush hand". His time in the army was brief because at the AIF camp at Armidale in Northern NSW he was found to be "medically unfit". He was discharged a couple of months later on 3 March 1916. Goldman married Veronica Blanche Josephine O'Brien (1899-1963) in 1917 at Barraba, NSW. After they separated in 1938 Goldman became liable to pay maintenance for his wife and children.

The "Mrs Goldman" in 1950 is Goldman's de facto wife, Monica Winifred Ryan (1917-1979). Miss Ryan had been governess of two of his children around 1935. She was about 18 at the time. Goldman and Ryan colluded to disguise Goldman's assets to avoid his paying maintenance for his wife and children. There are newspaper accounts of the subterfuge.

"Pastoralist Now On Wages - General Hand On Station - Maintenance Arrears Complaint" was the heading in *The Cairns Post* on 26 March 1953, "A former pastoralist told Mr. A. V. C. Smith, SM, he was now getting £11.10.4d a week (\$484 in 2023 value according to the Reserve Bank calculator) as a general hand from the woman to whom he had lent £30,000. He said he had lent the woman the money interest-free for 20 years. He is Allan William Goldman, who denied in the Summons Court that he and the woman, a Miss Ryan, jointly owned Hughenden Station, Hughenden, which cost £68,400. Goldman, who denied that his assets last year had been shown as £88,000, appeared on a complaint alleging disobedience of a maintenance order, made against him in April last year. He said he could not pay his wife, from whom he is living apart, £1,250 maintenance arrears. He could not afford to pay orders totalling £30 a week - £20 for his wife, Veronica Blanche Goldman, and £5 for each of two children."

"He said that seven years ago after he and his wife had finally parted, in 1938, he had formed an association with Miss Ryan, who had been governess of two of his children 18 years ago. Goldman told the acting Clerk of Petty Sessions that Miss Ryan was known as Monica Goldman. She issued instructions to him as a general hand. Goldman told his counsel, Mr. J. Douglas, his assets as at last June were £15,980, apart from the £30,000 Miss Ryan owed him. Mr. Smith: What are your assets today: Goldman: I have no assets today only the £30,000 I have lent Monica Goldman. He said the loan was payable 19 years from now. He was aged 58 and Miss Ryan 35. Asked by Mr. Smith if Goldman would make an offer Mr. Douglas said he was prepared to try to borrow £400. Mr. Smith adjourned the hearing until April 22 to see if Goldman's wife was prepared to accept the offer. Mr. Douglas said that if Goldman was going to gaol for the balance of the arrears after paying £400 he might as well not borrow the £400 but go to gaol for the lot." The magistrate, seemingly unimpressed, said there was nothing to stop him from raising the balance, "in the meantime".

In June 1952 Goldman went to Stewart's Creek Gaol at Townsville and was released in October.



Above and below: Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip spent the day in Townsville on 12 March 1954. They were driven in the 1953 Humber Super Snipe Mk IV cabriolet during the welcome parade on Flinders Street. [Townsville Bulletin, Brisbane Courier Mail and Townsville City Libraries]





Above: Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip in Townsville in the 1953 Humber Super Snipe Mk IV cabriolet during the welcome parade on Flinders Street.

Below: One of the specially adapted Land Rovers carried the Royal couple through the assembly of children at the civic reception at the Sports Reserve in Townsville. [Townsville Bulletin, Brisbane Courier Mail and Townsville City Libraries]



Goldman was back in court later in 1953. The Brisbane *Courier Mail* on 23 December 1953 had this heading, "Could Not Pay Maintenance – Had Income Tax Bill of £10,700".

"A man who said his income tax was £10,700 (\$450,000 in 2023 value according to the Reserve Bank calculator), told Mr. Smith, SM, yesterday he went to jail (sic) because he could not pay his wife's and child's maintenance. He is Allan William Goldman, of Hughenden Station, Hughenden, who was ordered to pay £975 arrears, or go back to jail for another six months. He said in the Summons Court that his wife, Monica Goldman, owned him £27,000. He had lent her the money for 20 years, interest-free. She would now employ him as manager of the property."

"Goldman was charged with having disobeyed a New South Wales order to pay his wife, Veronica Blanche Goldman, £20 a week and £5 for one of the children. Mr. Smith ordered that the issue of a warrant for his committal to prison, pending payment of the arrears be suspended for 30 days. Goldman said he could not pay £25 a week, but that Monica Goldman would pay £10 a week for his wife's maintenance, and he would furnish a home for her."

"Goldman said that Monica Goldman now owned Hughenden Station. They both bought it in October 1951. It was freehold land valued at £25,051, and leasehold land valued at £10,500. Goldman bought the leasehold land and 5150 sheep, valued at £25,750, and Monica Goldman bought the freehold land, plant and 437 cattle, £6,118."

"When the contract was made, the only asset he and Monica Goldman had was £66,000 at face value in Commonwealth bonds. Monica Goldman's interest was £23,500, Goldman continued. They paid £33,000 deposit on the property between them. They had difficulty in finding the balance of the purchase price, and to protect Monica Goldman, and one son aged seven, he handed over all his assets to her, and she took over all liabilities. A condition was that she was to pay his £10,700 income tax out of the wool clip. Goldman said that when he was before the court earlier this year for disobedience of the maintenance order he was ordered to pay £1,200 or go to jail for six months. He was unable to raise the money, and went to jail." Goldman was again ordered to pay the maintenance arrears or if he defaulted go to gaol for six months.

It appears that Goldman did not serve a second prison sentence and he and Ryan went on to amass a string of properties. The tally in May 1955, according to *The Central Queensland Herald* was, "In Queensland, Mr Goldman owned Nandown station, Texas, Keree stations, Dirranbandi, and Moorandoorah, Abbeylex and Marabkin stations, at St. George. Mrs Goldman owned Fairview station, Warwick, and Hughenden station."



Above: The 1953 Humber Super Snipe Mk IV cabriolet attracted the most attention during the Royal Tour. It was one of some 115 vehicles, including Land Rovers, Holdens, Ford Customlines, Daimlers and various other Humpers. This Humber cabriolet was one of four made by Jones Brothers of Kilburn in London. Pictured here during the Royal Progress at Yallourn, Victoria, on 3 March 1954.

Below: Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip in a Humber landaulet during their visit to Brisbane. [State Library of Queensland]



It was time for a new start in Western Australia. *The Central Queensland Herald* on 19 May 1955 carried this story from Perth, "Spends £¼ Million On Cattle Station – Fifty seven-year old Queensland cattleman, Allan Goldman, intends spending £250,000 on Moola Bulla cattle station in the East Kimberleys within the next five years."

"The Government owned the 1,123,633 acres Moola Bulla station, which was sold to Goldman and his wife, Monica Winifred Goldman, last week for £100,000 (\$4 million in 2023 value according to the Reserve Bank calculator). Within five years they plan to be raising prime black poll beef for the export trade."

"First priority in the Goldman's development programme is being given to fencing the property and already 800 tons of wire and steel posts have been ordered. In all 50 miles of fences will be erected at a cost of £250 a mile and a total cost of £112,500. If materials are available they will spend £150,000 on Moola Bulla station in their first 12 months. Black poll blood stock would be imported from England and a stud would be established on the station, Mr Goldman said today. Within five years, he added, all the cattle on the station would be black poll strain to produce beef for the export market."

Goldman's Silver Dawn was taken to Western Australia where the claim of its royal connection was made in an article in the Perth *Daily News* on 4 June 1955 with the heading, "From Royal Occasion To Long, Long Trail".

It continued, "A Rolls-Royce Silver Wraith (sic) limousine in which Queen Elizabeth once travelled left Perth today in incongruous circumstances. It not only is towing a trailer packed high with camping gear, but has a travelling 'mate', a 25-ton semi-trailer carrying a grader, a tractor-bull-dozer and scoop. And pulling a ripper on a special chassis. The limousine is being driven by Mrs. Monica Goldman, wife of former Queensland cattleman Mr. Allan Goldman. Her husband is at the wheel of the semi-trailer."

"Three weeks ago the Goldmans bought the 1,123,633 acres Moola Bulla cattle station, in the East Kimberleys, from the State Government for £100,000. Now they are on the way to take over the station, taking with them the nucleus of the equipment with which they plan to transform Moola Bulla into one of the State's best stations."

"The Goldmans have worked out in advance every detail of the 1762-mile journey. They expect to cover the route in eight to 10 days. The trailer behind the Rolls-Royce carries a tent, beds and mattresses, cooking utensils and other equipment for roadside camping. The semi-trailer, besides the earth moving equipment, is carrying two tons of groceries, spares for the earth-moving plant, a new engine for a laid-up vehicle, all the Goldman's furniture from the Como home, and 2½ tons of petrol, oil and diesel fuel. This will be their daily routine. After breakfast Mr. Goldman will leave camp about 6 a.m. with the semi-trailer. Mrs. Goldman will pack the trailer and set out after her husband. During the morning she will pass him and then stop and prepare lunch. Then Mr. Goldman will be off again and the procedure repeated for the evening meal, after which they will set up camp for the night". The article concluded with the claim quoted earlier that the Rolls-Royce was used by the Royal couple in Townsville.



Above and below: Moola Bulla, a government cattle station and homestead near Halls Creek, Western Australia was bought by Goldman. [National Library of Australia, Australian Inland Mission collection]



Moola Bulla, meaning “meat plenty”, was established in 1910 as a government-run station in response to increasing bloody conflict between Aborigines and pastoralists. It was hoped that opening a ration station would reduce the need for Aborigines to kill livestock for food, and that they could be trained to work on other cattle stations. When Goldman bought Moola Bulla station, its 200 Aboriginal residents were sent to the United Aborigines Mission at Fitzroy Crossing. They were removed by two Native Welfare Department officers before the Goldmans had officially taken over. The Perth *Daily News* reported on 8 July 1955, “Mrs. Goldman said she tried to recruit native labour in Halls Creek but the Natives told her ‘the boss’ (ie a Native Welfare Department officer) was taking them to Fitzroy crossing.” She added, “It was a cruel thing to remove the people from the place when it had been their home for many years.”

Below: The arrival of Moola Bulla children at the Fitzroy Crossing Mission. They were transported by trucks, a journey of approximately 200 miles. [National Library of Australia, Australian Inland Mission collection]



Concerning the Silver Dawn and the claimed Royal connection, certainly North Queensland was in flood in the lead up to the Royal visit. Despite the conditions a reported 50,000 turned out in Townsville on 12 March 1954. People travelled on horse and in tractors along flooded roads and nearly 1,000 people used boats to cross flooded rivers. Giving them the benefit of the doubt, the Goldmans may have offered the use of their Silver Dawn. But it was not used. So did the Goldmans just spin a yarn to the journalist from the Perth Daily News? In the event, two of 115 Royal tour cars used for the Australian tour, the 1953 Humber Super Snipe Mk IV cabriolet and a Land Rover were used during the Townsville Royal Progress.

Allan Goldman sold Moola Bulla station after two years for £150,000. Goldman and Monica married in 1961. Very briefly as *The Canberra Times* carried this report from Perth on 11 September 1961, with the heading, "Rolls Closest to His Heart".

It continued, "Soon after their wedding on Thursday night, wealthy grazier Allan Goldman and his wife, Monica, split up. The colourful out-spoken Goldman, 60, was married in a simple ceremony at a registry office. Goldman said his new bride left him an hour after they arrived home. She left taking with her his sleek Rolls-Royce saloon and his 16-year-old son, Allan Jun. 'I do not care two hoots whether she comes back to me or not,' Goldman said at his 3,000-acre grazing property at Mt. Helena, 29 miles from Perth. 'All I want back is my Rolls-Royce and Allan. I spoke to her on the phone and told her what I wanted.'"

"When 44-year-old Monica Wilfred Goldman was asked if she had left her husband she refused to comment. Goldman has three sons and four daughters by a previous marriage. (on Veronica Goldman's grave is the inscription, "Loved Mother of Lindsay, Cedric, Bill, Maree, Anne, Beth and Theresa.") His present wife changed her name by deed poll to Goldman some time ago. She and Goldman had known each other for nearly 30 years and have been business partners."

The article concluded, exposing another relationship, "On August 8 this year, Goldman was in a local court over engagement and wedding rings he gave to his part-Italian housekeeper, Mrs. Pasque Polese, of Kalamunda (a suburb of Perth). The case was settled out of court when Mrs. Polese, a widow, agreed to return the rings and the case was struck out before any evidence was taken."

In 1964 Goldman bought Mt Brockman station 100 miles west of Wittenoom, Western Australia, and it was on this station that he was found shot dead in November 1966. *The Canberra Times* reported on 21 November 1966, "Police believed that Goldman was climbing through a fence with a rifle when it discharged accidentally shooting him through the head." With presumably no suspicious circumstances, was this a euphemistic description of suicide?

Monica Goldman by 1968 was living in Macksville, NSW, halfway between Sydney and Brisbane on the coast. It would seem she took the Silver Dawn to NSW as it was owned by Campbell Steele, NSW, in the 1970s then Douglas Doyle, NSW, in the 1980s and John Knight also in the 1980s. Steele joined the NSW Branch of the Rolls-Royce Owners' Club of Australia in 1973. Knight joined the NSW Branch in 1980. It next appears in Club records in 2015 with Val Zemlinsky, Victoria Branch, and the entry continues to 2024.



***Above:** The Humber cabriolet remained in Australia after the tour ended. It was purchased in 2007 by Denis Cunningham for the Isle of Man Motor Museum, where it is pictured here. The white-wall tyres are a later addition. [Isle of Man Motor Museum]*

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David Neely, Sydney, November 2024.