

G. May we start from the very early times in the caves? You mentioned Mr John Bowman in 1841. Do you know if his discovery has been documented? Any place where this has been recorded, any documents where this has been mentioned?

AB. It has been mentioned, but I could not say in what form.

G. But you knew him very well? Was he a local landowner and stockman?

AB. Yes. He lived 19 miles from Tumut, near the foot on Talbingo Mountain. He was a farmer, and he was looking for stray cattle in the locality. We knew his family very well.

G. But very little has been written about the early history of the caves. Do you believe that John Bowman did find the caves in about 1841?

AB. Yes, I do. In fact, I haven't heard of any other claim.

G. The story is that the stock sheltered in the Glory Arch during rain. Do you think that this is just a story?

AB. Yes. I've never heard that myself. The circumstances are not as accurately known as that.

G. Mr. Trickett mentions this in his book.

AB. Well, I think what Mr. Trickett got would only have been a matter of hearsay. We were there for many years before Mr. Trickett came along.

G. Murray - he would have been a relative on your father's, would he?

AB. No, I don't think so. (He was his father-in-law; see A.N.M.B 15 Oct 60)

G. Was James Murray just a private individual who took people down and showed them through the caves?

AB. That is so. He established a sawmill out at the Eight Mile, that's 8 miles out from Kiandra, and he got the idea when somebody invited him to go for a trip one Sunday down to the caves. Later he got a supply of horses, saddles and all that sort of thing, and he conducted tourist parties down there each Sunday. And then after some years the Government appointed him caretaker, 1886 or 7. As far as I know he was the only person showing people through the caves at that time.

G. In Mr Trickett's report it says the caves were taken over by the Mines Department in 1879? Ref?

AB. That would be about it. The caves were originally administered from the Mines Dept. E.F. Pitman was the Government Geologist at that period. Oliver Trickett came out later and I had a long association with him. Helped him complete his guide books and assisted him in taking photographs. I was born in 1882. My old dad was an uneducated man. Never had an opportunity, the same as thousands of others in the bush, and I had very little education myself.

G. Were you born in Kiandra?

AB. No, I was born in Grahamstown, that's down below Tumut. We went to Yarrangobilly early in 1892, just following the visit of Governor Jersey. There wasn't a road cut into Yarrangobilly even when we got there. We were there two years before we got our cart down to the valley. We had to walk about half a mile. You know where the Zig zag is? Well, the road finished at the end of the top turn, and when the Governor came they had no road to turn the vehicles on. They had to manhandle them.

G. Your father was a mining expert?

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AB. Yes, in the alluvial gold mines at Burrangong. They had to sink about 60 feet down in the creek, and when the creek rose the mine was flooded. He was known as "Ballarat Harry". He served his apprenticeship in the mines at Ballarat.

AB. Charles Kerry and party visited the Jersey Cave in 1891 and claimed to have discovered the inner part of the cave. Their story was written up in the "Illustrated News".

AB. Oh, they had been known for some years before then, at least by 1887, because we were at Burrangong. Grandfather contacted my father while he was still working in the mines and they went to Yarrangobilly to open up the Jersey Cave.

G. There's a story about the Marshall brothers from Rankin Springs discovering the Jersey Cave in 1861.

AB. Well, I don't think anybody exactly knows when the Jersey was definitely discovered. My father went there and opened the cave for the Governor's visit. They installed an iron ladder over the big drop. They used ropes earlier.

G. It was this drop that had stopped people going further into the cave, was it?

AB. Yes. It was lucky, too, otherwise they would have destroyed it.

G. Your father was appointed in 1895. When did you start working at the caves?

AB. I started when I was about 10 years of age. I was guiding people through the Jersey Cave in 1892. I had 52 years long service leave when I retired in 1947, although I had nearly 4 years away out of the service. In 1911 I had two children, and couldn't get any education for them. I knew what I missed through lack of education.

G. You were the first person into the Castle Cave?

AB. Yes. The opening wasn't big enough for my father to follow me, but it wasn't long before it was made large enough. When we got inside there were two or three possums romping about. I was scared stiff. It's not generally known, but there's a second storey in the Castle Cave running parallel with the main floor as it now is for quite a distance into the cave. I think it eventually falls into the bottom part. There's no further extension of the cave on the top storey. It wasn't discovered until about 1896.

G. When did you leave Yarrangobilly?

AB. I contacted the Department and they wouldn't give me any assistance whatever with the children's education. I was only getting two guineas a week at that period. My old Dad had a hotel a few miles from the caves along towards Tumut, about two miles on the caves side of the Yarrangobilly village. The hotel burnt down later. Anyhow, I went to take over the hotel from him, but it didn't suit me at all. I wasn't cut out to be a hotelkeeper, so I only kept it about a year and a half. I had left the caves to try to get education for my children. I sold the hotel. Somebody started a rumour about a colossal nickel mine just across the gully. The experts came along from Ardlethan when it was in full swing. Anyhow, one of them gave me 1000 pounds, and I got out. I went to Kiandra, and I stopped there for a little more than a year. I built a couple of cottages in Kiandra, one opposite the chalet for a Solicitor from Gundagai named Fraser, and another one for a squatter who had a property out at Kelly's.

A. BRADLEY

G. This would have been about 1913, would it?

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AB. It was early 1914.

G. When you say opposite the Chalet, do you mean the existing building, or was there another Chalet there then?

AB. Oh, The Courthouse, that's the Chalet. That was built about - oh, before I went to Yarrangobilly - about 1890. They burnt the lime for the mortar at Yarrangobilly.

G. Do you know where it was burnt - are there any kilns still?

AB. Yes, do you have any idea where the old stable used to be? From the office, going out, it's about 150 yards along the road in the back of the hill. They excavated a hole and built the kilns. The big stable was alongside. It's about 150 yards from your office, on the left hand side as you're coming in. I built my own house there, before I was married. From Kiandra I went to Sydney. I used to do a bit of line repair work on the telegraph lines. Used to get 30 bob a pole and that was good money those days.

G. What did you do in Sydney?

AB. I had a friend at Tumut, the Shire Engineer. When I was building all those stone walls and tracks around the Castle Cave, Harrie Wood and all those, he used to go out of his way to come down to see me do it. He never could work out how I got the curves so accurate. One day I got a surprise. The Chief Engineer in the Railways was on a visit to Yarrangobilly with Bucknell, my engineer friend. I had the strings all set out for the path just beyond the Glory Arch. There's an "in" curve as well as a concave. He said "How the hell you can get those without instrum^ents I don't know". So I showed him. I cut that channel through the rock on the track to the Harrie Wood, and with all the material I cut out I built that big wall following it. Later on the Tourist Dept. sent me to Yarrangobilly, and I built that big stone wall at the back for the foundations of Hoad's cottage, while he was away on his honeymoon. I was there for about two months.

Mr Bucknell got me jobs in Sydney. In the war period I helped build a concrete bridge over Parramatta Road at the Ammonia works at Granville. I drove the first reinforced concrete pile in that bridge that was driven in Australia, with a After that things got a bit tight. All the time I was away Mr. Palmer of the Tourist Bureau was always wanting me to get back to the cave work. I don't think a month passed without my getting a letter asking me to re-consider. Then I got a job helping to build the abbatoirs. After my first morning's work a deputation came up and complained that I had done a week's work in the morning. Then I sharpened a bloke's saw, and soon I got the job doing nothing else but sharpening saws. Then I got another ring from Mr. Palmer.

"Brad," he said "I'm going up to Jenolan and I want you to come with me". "What for?" I asked. "I want to show you where you're going to live," he said. "But I haven't gone yet." "But you will." "Alright," I said "but what are you going to pay me? I'm getting 12/- a day here, top wages among all the men that' here, because I'm sharpening saws. I want the same to go there." "Alright," he said, but we'll have to put you on something special. Up there other men only get about 7/- a day." I said "I don't want to go to Jenolan. I was up there when I was about 24. The Tourist Dept. sent me there for about two months just for experience."

Anyhow, I went up with him, and later moved there. That was June 1916. (I was married in 1902). I was there until 1947, 31½ years. The last

15 years I was in charge - Chief Guide on the Cave section. Durlop and Havard and George Stanley were all University students. We used to recruit them for our extra busy periods, but the unions forced us to stop. Sammy Cleary was the last. He got into mischief. He was only about 16, and got gambling. He finished up head man in the Geology section in Tasmania.

Back to Yarrangobilly. Found the River and Harrie Wood with father and brother.

G. Were people shown through the River Cave?

AB. Oh, yes, for years it was part of the programme, in the old magnesium ribbon days.

G. Did you erect the cables in the River Cave to stop people falling into the water?

AB. Yes, we put those in there. The Easter Cave followed that. There's some pretty formation in it, but it's not big enough to open. There's one pencil piece there hanging about a foot long, with a stalactite a pound weight hanging at the end of it, right in the centre of the channel.

G. I don't believe that cave is known now.

AB. I doubt very much if it's there now; somebody would have broken it. Solomon's Temple is, I think, the finest specimen that God ever made in a cave. There's nothing to compare with it anywhere. It's such a magnificent position it occupies.

G. Where is the Easter Cave?

AB. Just before you turn around into the Harrie Wood Gorge there's a huge red cliff. Just before you turn to go around to the Harrie Wood Cave is a lot of decomposed limestone chock full of fossils. About half way along the red cliff, perhaps 50 yards down below the track, right down that ridge, just as you get to where you can see down a sort of a gorge down to the river.

G. Just before the track forks?

AB. About 50 yards this side of that. It's just straight down there, underneath a shelf. About 70/80 ft. above the river. There is some pretty formation in it. I nearly got the life squeezed out of me in that cave. A great slab of rock about 75 degrees to the horizontal has fallen away from the roof. There's only about 15 inches between it and the roof. It broke in half when it fell and there's a narrow channel which went up a fairly steep grade for about 20 ft. My brother went up first and he had a look. He said "There's a couple of wombats here." I hadn't seen a wombat up close till then. I said "When you come back I'll go up and have a look." I went up and had a look. I only had a candle in my hand, and I was putting the candle over, looking for wombats, and out they came. They nearly squeezed the life out of me getting past me. I hardly moved for hours.

Then there's a hole you go down. You need a rope, about fourteen feet. It's just a man hole down to the bottom floor, and then it runs along a fair distance. There's some nice formation there, but it's not big enough to open. They'd like to have it in some parts, but it's no good at Yarrangobilly.

From the Castle Cave, continuing up around the river, you get up to an enormous cliff, about 800 ft. high. Right up the centre of that cliff there's quite a big hole there, quite a big archway, and I had a look several times, but could never find a way to get to it. One day I was looking for some of our stock. I was on the other side of the river, and I looked up and on a grassy bank leading away from this hole there was about half a dozen sheep there. I thought "Wherever a sheep can go I can." So I got old Dad and we went up there one Sunday. We had to climb pretty hard as it was a long way from the river. We got up there and there was a part, almost a yard, that you had to step across, and stepping across you could see the river 200 ft. below you. I went across, but Dad wouldn't. From the archway there were holes going in all directions, but I wasn't game to go in by myself. Right on the top of that cliff, when I used to be riding, looking after our sheep, I spotted a little hole right on top of the cliff - only about 20 or 30 yards back from the face of the cliff. I got off my horse and threw some rocks down. I would say it was at the least 70 or 80 ft. deep. Nobody has ever been down that hole and nobody else ever saw it as far as I know. So if you ever get the opportunity of going up there, it might be the means of getting to a big cave. It's not particularly steep there, the hole is just down on the side of the hill. Yes, its upstream of the Castle Cave where the big cliff is.

G. Where would it be in relation to the Natural Bridge?

AB. That's much further up. It would be between the Castle Cave and the bridge.

On the opposite side of the river from the big cliff its just riddled with caves all through there. There are caverns going in all directions, not very big. I have a very hazy memory of what they are like. At one point about 100 feet above the river level there is logs in the cavern. That shows they must have been there for thousands of years. (100 feet above river level).

G. We don't have any record of caves on the other side of the river.

AB. Only ones I know, too. There's an amount of limestone up the river, and right up, oh, 4 or 5 miles up there's the Copper Mine Cave there.

G. Yes, we know that one.

AB. My brother and I went in and we sealed those. Years and years ago. We drilled a couple of holes just on the inside of the hole. The hole is only just squeezable to get through. We drilled two holes and then we crawled back out of there and put the iron stanchion in and cemented them in and thought you couldn't get through, but surprisingly the people used to get through there and practically destroyed it.

G. There was some very bad mutilation in there. Mr. Trickett reported it about 1890.

AB. It was nearly all crystal white formation, beautiful formation.

G. Do you recall the story about a football team going in there and breaking off a large column and smashing the formation with that?

AB. No.

G. This again may only be a story, but I wanted to know if you had any recollection of it.

AB. That could have easily happened there in that location because they could go in there without us knowing anything about it.

G. 1897 it was when Mr. Trickett reported on it.

AB. Oh, I wouldn't have any recollection of that period.

G. "Axes, crowbars, chisels and cartridges had been used to demolish or remove the beautiful formations. Nothing appeared to have been too large to destroy. The cave is still worth preserving. The portion damaged probably represents a very small part of the attractive chambers which may be found in the future along the underground waterway. It is important that the destruction of any caves at Yarrangobilly should be prevented for it is not unreasonable to suppose that this impressive scenery, the number and extent of the caves and the cool climate in this locality will render it in future one of the most pleasant resorts for tourists in the colony." So reported Mr. Trickett.

G. I think he recommended that it should be sealed up.

AB. Yes, my brother and I closed it.

G. Do you remember when that was?

AB. No, it was some time fairly early though, because my brother didn't do much in those parts. You had to walk up to your bottom in water to get along.

G. Yes, there's still a lot of water there.

AB. Not very far down from there if you're looking down the river on the left hand side about half a mile, a little more, there's an arch up on the side of the hill, oh for about 70 or 80 ft. It would make a magnificent theatre. It's quite a big arch, big enough to put a cottage in it, and it goes for about 70 or 80 ft. - quite a big size, lovely spot.

G. Where was this exactly?

AB. Near the copper mine cave - down the river half a mile on the left hand side.

G. Up high on the cliff?

AB. Up on the side of the hill.

G. I think it's the one we call Trickett's Cave.

AB. I don't know if there is any cave - any formations or anything. I never went through it, just into the entrance, because every time I saw it I was by myself. Never took any risks going in there. Don't know whether it continued on for any extent or not - most likely would, being that size.

G. Did you name the Harrie Wood Cave, or did someone else decide on that?

AB. No, Harrie Wood was Under Secretary for Mines at that period. It was named after him.

G. Yes, but who decided it should be called after him?

AB. I don't know. No, I don't think we had anything to do with the naming of anything at all there.

G. What about the Castle Cave. Did the names just happen?

AB. Just happened, I think.

G. The Easter Cave was found at Easter time. Could you tell me anything about Mr. Trickett's surveying - how did he go about it? Do you remember working with him?

AB. Yes, he used a theodolite, and I used to go ahead of him with a light and I'd hold the light and he'd pinpoint the light, and measure the distance. There was a bit of an upset with old man Trickett when the Jillabenan Cave was opened. I want to tell you this. You needn't let it go any further, according to your own desire. The Jillabenan cave was not discovered by Leo Hoad. He had nothing to do with the discovery of it. If anybody discovered it I did when I was only a kid, because when I used to bring the cows over in the morning I used to look all around the place. There was a hole about that size, quite a

round hole about 6 inches in diameter on the face of the rock, and you could drop little pebbles in it and you could hear them tinkling with the stalactites down underneath.

Well, the chap Alf Adget, he was the driver of the horse team - the mail coaches - and he used to stop there overnight at Yarrangobilly, and Tommy Urall, he was with Adget, only a kid about 10 or 12 years of age at the time, might have been a little more. Anyhow, he was running about and he found this hole and he came running back to Adget. Adget was gathering around the horses. They used to let the horses out to get a bit of grass at the weekend, and he said "I found a cave", singing out to Adget. Adget went across to have a look, and he said "Well, if you've found a cave you better go and get a pick and shovel, and we'll see what we can do about it. So he went back to the Caves House to get a pick and shovel, and within half an hour they were into the cave.

G. Do you remember when this was?

AB. This was about 1910 - 1909. Anyhow, Mr. Trickett came along to survey it. Old man Hoad was caretaker of the caves at that time, and he said "Leo will go along (his son)." Mr. Trickett said "Not on your life. No, he won't do" he said "Bradleys going with me. He's helped me with all the survey work that I've ever done in a cave, and he's coming now". Old man Hoad said "But he's got his work to do". Mr. Trickett said "He's got his work to do with me, too." So I went with him and surveyed the Jillabenan Cave.

G. Who named it Jillabenan? Do you remember anyone discussing that name?

AB. No, it's a blackfeller name, Jilla-be-nan, hyphenated.

G. It was suggested by Mr. Anderson and Mr. Leigh I think for the Jersey Cave. You don't remember the politics surrounding this? It was eventually called Jersey. (Anderson and Leigh were in the Mines Dept.)

AB. No.

G. I was wondering if Mr. Trickett read Anderson's report and thought it would be a good name for this cave. You don't remember any discussion about this?

AB. No. Anderson's name is only vaguely familiar.

G. He was a geologist in the Mines Dept. He and Mr. Leigh reported on the Jersey Cave in 1891, and they suggested it be called the Jillabenan Cave, but it was called the Jersey. I suspect for political reasons - because Mr. Brown wanted to name it after the Governor to get the Governor to come down to its electorate. Is this a fair sort of summation?

AB. Could have been. I don't know. W.S. Leigh, he was a very stylish sort of a chap. The old grandfather and grandmother were in Sydney on a holiday and Mr. Leigh, just before he came down to Sydney, bought Granddad a silver, English lever watch and he wore it to Sydney. Got his initials engraved on the inside of the watch. Well, when he came home he gave me the watch, when I was a kid, and I still got it. His initials are in the back of the watch and it is a perfect timekeeper - nearly 80 years old.

G. (Puzzled). You say that your father was appointed in 1895. This would have been as caretaker?

AB. It would be, yes.

G. And Mr. Hoad or Hoad's father Walter, was appointed in 1904, I think.

AB. 1904 or 5.

G. He followed your father?

AB. Yes.

G. And you remained at the caves?

AB. Yes.

G. So you were working under Walter Hoad - he was caretaker there?

AB. Yes, working under Walter Hoad all the time. He was there when I left.

G. 1910. Leo took over from him some time later?

AB. Yes, there was a guy in the Tourist Bureau - director - I got into a bit of an argument with him at the abbatoirs when I was working there. There was a house built there before I started with the other S. Leigh. He wanted a house for an office for the men who were going to build sheep yards - (This story is rather disjointed, and Greg questions it).

G. He was there a long time, wasn't he, till about 1950, at the caves?

AB. Yes, he was, but he takes credit for putting all the electric light in, all the water service. Our men went from Jenolan and done all that work.

G. Do you know when the first electricity was installed at Yarrangobilly, and when it was put in the caves?

AB. Somewhere about the 1930's.

G. I've found some record of there being an electric generator at Yarrangobilly in 1920.

AB. Man named Swan - he done that work. Leo took credit for it. He certainly did a good deal of work there, but he didn't do it all off his own bat. He had the men that were scientific in their work and done the work and I knew four different electricians that put in time doing the electrical work and one of his guides was an assistant electrician for quite a while. Went over there and put quite a lot of work in, too. The last chap that was there - somebody from Tasmania, saw the good work he was doing and took him to Tasmania. In Tasmania he discovered a good cave while he was there - down the west or east coast.

G. Do you have any other recollection of Mr. Trickett - anything you remember about him in particular?

AB. Every time, a week or two before he came into the caves, he used to send word along to have the old grey ready. The old grey mare was by Goldsborough, a Melbourne Cup winner very, very flighty. He was an aged man at the time, and we were always scared of letting the old man get on this mare. Anyhow, he used to ride all over the place, between the hills over the top there, all through the country. There's a place up there they call the Tombstones - he was fascinated with that business. He used to always go out of his way to ride through the Tombstones.

G. Easy place to get lost in there if you don't know your way around.

AB. Don't think he'd get lost, because I was always with him. I don't think he ever went with anybody else.

G. He must have enjoyed caves greatly, and they must have had a fascination for him.

AB. Oh yes.

G. Was he Jewish?

AB. Don't think so. I think he'd be more Scotch than anything else. He had the features of a Scotchman. He was a very active old man even when he was 60 years of age. He'd get hold of the broom handle and would jump through it standing up. He loved to go to Yarrangobilly and stop there for a week or more.

G. I've been in touch with his daughter who lives in Sydney, at Mosman. Apparently his home was at Mosman.

AB. I never saw any of his family at all.

G. I'm going to see her, too - Mrs Selms. She's going to give me information about him and his surveying. I'm hoping to write his biography. It has never been recorded in any detail. I'm trying to finish as much information as I can about his activities.

AB. The old man was very keen on being selective about his writings and everything, and when he was compiling his book on Jenolan he omitted to put in a little part in the Temple of Baal Cave. It's a little pocket only about an inch deep, and just like white enamel on the inside of it and about 14 or 15 pebbles in it. The pebbles are about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick. The water dropping from about 15 ft to 20 ft. off the roof every time fell on the pebbles, it kept them moving, and that movement was sufficient to wear them smooth.

G. They're coated with white calcite.

AB. Yes. Anyhow, he'd forgotten to mention it, so he wrote back to me at Jenolan (I've got the letter still) and he asked me if I could give him some sort of description so that he could put it in with the rest of his writings. So I described it to the best of my ability. He wrote a very nice letter back, saying that he was extremely pleased with it, it showed some aptitude but "don't let anyone know that you assisted me in the work".

G. Would you be good enough to let me see those letters? Could I borrow them and have them copied?

AB. Yes, of course.

G. Because I haven't come across any original document of his, and I would be very interested to see them.

AB. Could you come over again?

G. Yes, certainly.

AB. I'm pretty sure I could put my hands on it. Never want them destroyed.

G. I could have them copied photographically, in his handwriting, and return them, of course. His writing was distinctive.

AB. You'll have to come again. I have a nice projector - gave 25 pounds for it in Fiji - over 60 or 70 pounds now. I project it on to the wall.

G. I'll come over one night.

AB. My people have been at me about writing something - why I don't contradict. See Leo puts an article in his paper every year for years, and the trash he writes there would make you sick.

G. It's a pity you haven't because if he's not telling the truth it ought to be contradicted.

AB. As always I thought I didn't have the ability to do that sort of thing and it wasn't until the Director that was in charge got me to do this - I went in there to see him on something. I said "My grammar is not too good". "Don't worry", he said "We'll put that straight". I said "I'll just write it straight off as I think of it". He said "That's all we want". I think the taking over of the Trust upset this business. I think that stopped that from going on.

G. I see.

AB. Cause he was very keen on getting it done, and he kept a copy of what I wrote for him.

G. He never passed it on as far as I know. See we've taken over Kosciusko now.

AB. He's probably forgotten all about it in that time.

G. It's a great shame. It's a very valuable document I think. Could I photocopy this and return it to you?

AB. You can do just as you wish with it.

G. You do want it back though?

AB. When you have finished with it. I would like the result when you finish your booklet.

G. I'll give you a copy of the handbook and any articles I write on this because I'm working on this now.

AB. Add your own ideas to it.

G. The important thing is to get facts and it's so difficult to get original material. There was not very much recorded. I've been through the Mitchell Library. There are a few letters and papers and things, but they are all a bit sketchy. To be able to discuss it with someone who was there is marvellous.

AB. I think the fishing would be interesting to some people. See old Dad and myself put the first trout that was liberated in the southern waters, down below there at Glory Hole Cavern crossing at the river. George Irwin, a school teacher at Kiandra - he went to quite a lot of trouble to get the trout fry to Yarrangobilly. Well, any way they had to come from Sydney overnight by train. We picked up the two big cans - 20 gal. cans - on an old horse-drawn vehicle. We travelled from 6 in the afternoon - when the train got in from Cooma, and travelled all through the night, right through Kiandra where we changed horses, and on to Yarrangobilly, and arrived down at the caves just after daybreak. We were waiting cause they had to telephone from Yarrangobilly to Kiandra and we carried those two cans - heavy too - one each till we got to the steep grade, one can at a time, and when we got down there we tipped them out. The best we could see was only just a very, very few little fellas that seemed to be alive, but we got them there.

G. That was 1895?

AB. Yes. It was 3 years before we saw one and 5 years before one was caught - 1900 the first fish caught.

G. There were no further releasings that time?

AB. No. We thought they'd all died. I was always looking for them. One day I was down there and spotted one about this long. They were building that old cottage, the big accommodation room, at about that time - 1900. I told the old chap - Martin Amundsen - he knew all about trout fishing. He said "he's mine". He fixed up a line and came back with a couple of fish, but he didn't catch the one I saw. Well then, about a year or so later, just when Mr. Hoad came into the position, he got a group of fry - got them from nearer at hand - but anyhow they delivered them to him. He and I went up and put them in the Yarrangobilly and the Murrumbidgee River off Rules Point. That was in 1905, and I think that was the first trout raised in southern waters, and to-day fishing's a big thing.

G. Yes, there are certainly still a lot of people who come down to Yarrangobilly to go fishing in the river.

AB. Good strong river. When I was guiding there in the trout season I'd take a fishing rod with me, catch a feed of fish - couldn't miss them - overflowing with fish. Wouldn't matter if you threw in a hook without anything on it. They'd have a grab - plentiful.

G. Could you tell us about taking people through a cave in those days. Just what was entailed. They each had to carry their own light?

AB. Yes, you carried a candlestick - sort of a bow around the candle with the springs like a carriage lamp idea, and you undone it in the middle here. Turn it upside down, put the candle in, put the spring in and then put the basin on.

G. What's the spring?

AB. An ordinary piece of wire to push the candle up the front all the time. Spiral spring $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter of opening barrel of the candle.

G. What stopped in from springing up?

AB. The top had a cap on it, only about $\frac{1}{2}$ " for this flow to come through.

There was a cap around the inside of this top. As the candle burnt away it kept coming up through because you see the spring was tapered to about $\frac{1}{2}$ " at the end, and the spring was quite strong. Sometimes the people would be a bit inquisitive, then bang! They'd get quite a scare.

G. Do you recall any of the names of things in the Glory Cave? Can you tell me what you call these caves, the ones going from the Glory Arch, how were they referred to?

AB. There was the old South Glory Hole and North Glory Hole.

G. Going through South, what were the names?

AB. The first big massive material - the Cathedral Ruins - might still have photographs of them I think. I burnt a lot of negatives the other week that applied to Yarrangobilly. I think there's still some here. Just after you started up the steps towards the Blow Hole.

G. Always extinguished the candles did it?

AB. You had to crawl through there on your tummy for any many years. My brother and a chap named Polak (used to be sent in from Wombeyan caves) done the work there. Well, down in the basin they called it the Carrot Bed; there was a lot of broken stalactites hanging and lying all over the floor. There wasn't many names in caves. Wedding Cake about half way through.

G. Was there the Judge's Wig?

AB. I think it's near the Wedding Cake - forgotten. Not many names through there.

G. Mr. Trickett records quite a few on the map - but he may have made them up himself, I don't know whether they were used by the guides at the time. He's got the Inverted Forest, as you come up through the Blow Hole there's some grey stalactites on the roof, and there's a ridge of rock, and it does look like a pine forest upside down.

AB. Don't remember anything like that because there's a pretty steep crawl as you go up through the Blow Hole for a while there. I think your whole attention was directed on seeing where you were going.

G. You made some sort of a track through the cave - there were rock steps.

AB. Yes, you people made some track, didn't you?

G. We put concrete in. You would have carried one of those magnesium lamps that automatically fed the ribbon out, was this right?

AB. Yes, and it gave quite a good light. The ounce of magnesium used to do two caves, and it sold at half a crown an ounce at that period.

G. You charged people a fee for taking them through?

AB. Yes. It was half a crown flat at that time.

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G. Do you remember the origin of the name Glory Hole?

AB. An old family named Harris - there's still some of them left in the district.

G. Mrs Ida Harris is living in Tumut.

AB. Yes. Well, she still holds the deeds to a portion of land there in the Glory Hole - oh, about half a mile from the warm spring. The house is still is there any remains still there?

G. I'm afraid not.

AB. That was their winter quarters. They used to come down from Kiandra and spend the winter. The old man he had a team of pack horses. He used to go to Tumut and pack in potatoes, pumpkins, eggs and all that sort of thing, selling them to people along the route, and he'd go on to Kiandra when there wasn't snow about. They called the place Glory Hole.

G. I see. Do you know when it was taken up or when the land was first occupied?

AB. Mrs. Harris should have the deeds.

G. I've written to her granddaughter.

AB. She had a or something living here in Sydney.

G. This farm then, gave its name to the cave, is that how it happened?

AB. I think so. It could have, I'm not sure.

G. It would seem then that it's a coincidence that there's a hole in the roof of the cave. This is not the Glory Hole?

AB. Oh no.

G. We've interpreted that as being the reason for the name Glory Hole - the hole in the roof of the cave.

AB. You couldn't attribute any glory to that really.

G. Well, with the sun shining through it into the cave.

AB. I suppose it could be glorious some days.

G. This has been the impression for some years. I have heard of the Glory Hole farm, but I thought the farm was named after the cave rather than vice versa. The Glory Hole was apparently that valley with the farm in it.

AB. Yes. I haven't any idea, really, of the time they first took that up. They'd been many many years there before ever I went to Yarrangobilly, and they were well established there at the time, because when I was only a kid 10 or 12 years of age my old Dad used to let me go to Tumut with him. I'd ride one of his horses and help him along the road with his packs.

G. Did they ever supply anything to the Caves House?

AB. No, I don't think so.

G. Do you remember somebody by the name of Jack Dunn?

AB. Oh yes.

G. Was he a guide?

AB. Yes, and general purpose worker.

G. He didn't have anything to do with the Glory Hole farm?

AB. No, all he helped was in connection with my building of walls.

AB. When Leo was getting married the Department - apparently he had some influence there through the Director, Palmer, it was at that time, Palmer came and asked me would I like a trip over to Yarrangobilly for a month or two. I said "What's on?" "Oh," he said, "Leo's getting married and going on his honeymoon, and we want to build him a cottage while he's away, but we're stuck for some information concerning the foundation of it", he said. "And Leo marked a spot where he was going to build a wall, to build up at the back. We thought perhaps you might care to go over there and put in the time and build a wall while you're looking after the place while he's away." I was there for about six weeks, and Johnny Dunn, he had a horse and cart there and he used to bring the stores from way down - around a place that we called Jacob's Ladder. That was the first turn around that corner.

G. Why Jacob's Ladder?

AB. Because they had to jump from one stepping stone to another to get down there originally. When Lord Jersey came they had to slide down over the top from the top arm there of the Zig Zag. That was as far as the road went. Where you cut that channel through from the end of the South Glory Hole, and that was a much deeper crevice than what is there now. You must have filled it up, because some-time about 1894 or 1895 (it must have been about that because he died in 1895). Anyhow, the old chap was always wanting to explore that deep crevice in the rocks.

So he was instrumental in having a crab winch brought to Yarrangobilly. It was a thing weighing a hundredweight or more - should still be there somewhere about, and the piece of rope about 100 ft. Took about three men to carry the cursed thing. Anyhow, with my father and my brother and the old chap - he was an old man at that time - we scrambled up that side of the rocks, up to the entrance which is still up there, because that hasn't been disturbed. We cut a gum tree down and put it across there, so the rope was secure. We threw the end of it down the hole. The old granddad, he shinned down - he was a sailor in his younger days - he shinned down to the bottom, but when he got to the bottom and he wanted to come back after he'd seen all he wanted, he couldn't get out of it. He was there 24 hours in the hole. He was there all night, well into the next day. There was only my brother and I was only about 11 or 12 years of age at the time. But the only good purpose the winch served was that we could hold the slack - my old dad was most powerfully built, about 14 stone and not as tall as me. We built a sort of platform over the hole and he stood over that hole and lifted that old man hand over hand out of the hole, and I think he was about half a day coming out. We could only bring him inches at a time. Well, when the old granddad went down the old dad followed him down to where there is a big rock. I looked at that when I was there the other day. The big rock was still jammed in the crevice. I don't know what happened to the depth of it. It was 70 or 80 feet deep. Anyhow, it was too far for him to climb out and when Dad saw granddad couldn't get out he didn't go any further down - he came back. It was then they built the platform and Dad lifted him out. All the old chap knew when he was down there was that there was quite a strong draught. They had to send him some blankets down on a rope.

G. Another thing I particularly want to ask you is about the Easter Cave. Could you recall exactly where the entrance was and what it was like?

AB. Oh yes, it's just underneath a shelf of rock - not a very big hole. I think one of my movies (sic) might give you a better understanding of where that is - it'll show you the red cliff.

G. Yes, well I know the general locality. Do you remember how far beneath the track it was?

AB. It might have been 50 yards or more down the hill.

G. I tried to find this cave, but I don't think I've located it.

AB. Well, when you go along, when you follow the track along, if you can recall this, as you're coming around - do you know the part they call Fossil Point?

G. No.

AB. That was one of our names. There was a big green tree just on the bottom side of the track. The old track used to go nearly down to the River Cave, but I doubt if there would be any of it remaining now. Just as you get far enough along that track you can nearly see to the river, straight down - pretty steep - the Easter Cave is just on the Glory Hole Cave side of that steep gorge going straight down to the river.

G. I think I've got the spot. It's just a matter of how far below the track.

AB. Well, see it's not very rough just there - you noticed that, did you? There are no cliffs, or anything like that.

G. It's fairly smooth ground, but it's at a steep angle.

AB. Yes, well, it's just underneath one of those shelves, not very big.

G. Just how big?

AB. Oh, just big enough for a man to get through comfortably.

G. And how big is the tunnel inside? Is it a narrow passage?

AB. Yes, but I think we were on an even keel around at the beginning and it's on a slope going up. And there's a huge slab of a size that would cover this room. It'd been on the horizontal plane and probably volcanic disturbance has

caused it to fall. And its left about 10/20" in parts, just room to crawl through. And it's sort of broken in half, that big slab, and wombats had made a path up it. (Describes wombat incident again).

G. You mentioned a spectacular piece of formation - could you describe that and where it was?

AB. Yes. Well, when you get into the cave you walk around to the right side. I don't recollect much of what happened on the left side. I think you went up over the top down into a cavern about the size of this room, and there is quite a number of these very long thin stalactites there. Just the pencil thickness ones, and from the left you went around to the right side and there's a hole there, not much bigger than the size of that door, and it went down about 12 feet. You need a rope to go down it because there's no steps - nothing for your feet. It's only a sort of break through the shelf. It's pretty wide underneath, but there's nothing to catch hold of or climb on. I took a chap in there one time, Bert Ibbotson. He was given to laughing; anytime anything happened he'd laugh. Anyhow, I climbed up the rope first, then I started laughing. By golly, I was sorry, for I was there nearly half a day before I got him out, he got helpless. He was there as one of the contractors in building cottages, with a fellow named Joyce.

G. This formation was down in this chamber at the bottom?

AB. Yes. When you get down the bottom there is a channel going both ways - it doesn't go very far from what I can recollect to the left, but the arm to the right - I think that might have been through to the right over the top where the fine stalactites are. I'm not sure about that - but anyhow considering its about 70 or 80 years ago - it's no trouble for any active man to get up and down. You've got to climb hand over hand down that drop. I hope it hasn't been destroyed. I don't think it's been discovered except by us.

G. Well, no one knows where it is. Do you remember writing your name at the entrance?

AB. I never made a habit of doing that.

G. Well, I'm not criticising this, but I did find one cave where you did - high up at the base of the Red Cliff. It had A. Bradley 1899.

AB. We put a cross just to indicate that we'd been there before.

G. There were other names there too - one was Bridle. Who would Bridle be?

AB. They had a farm at a place called Bowler's Flat, at the 17 mile peg from Tumut - on the old road. It would be all under water now. There was Charlie, George, Harry and their old folks had an accommodation house.

G. Would they have been there about the same time as you?

AB. Oh, much before.

G. Was there any date?

AB. No. I think the Bridles used to take groups of people up there in the early days. You'd find his name all through the North Glory Hole - down in the lowest dark passages there, up at the back of the Cathedral Ruins - there's holes going all through there. I cleared out quite a lot of it there. I got scared of the place. I'd go out into the sunshine for a while and hate going back to it. All by myself with nobody else about.

G. There was another name there, McKay.

AB. Yes, Bob McKay, an old character - Tumut district.

G. The family may still be there, I suppose.

AB. There are still Bridles around Tumut and old William Bridle, on the old identities - he had a store in Tumut. My old Dad was an alluvial mining expert - he was known as Ballarat Harry in his early days. Anyhow, they were out at Temora. Isn't that the name of the place? It's between Tumut and Yass.

They were working on a tunnel or something there and it was all practically level ground about the place and the shafts were dug to get down to where the gold was, and as they'd been abandoned they'd filled up with water. My old Dad had a St. Bernard pup, and they'd raised him. He used to go into Tumut and Bridle used to tie the paper around his neck and he'd bring it back - about 10 miles. Somebody had been into town and gone on a spree and was coming home and fell into this waterhole - the pup pulled him out of it and saved his life, and that's not a fairy tale. The same kind of thing happened down at Burrangong. My old Dad came from Burrangong straight to Yarrangobilly. The same thing happened there - there was holes sunk everywhere. Lambing Flat was there. There was a big massacre there one time.

G. You were telling me you had buried the remains of Mr. Wiburd.

AB. Yes, I put them in a little niche on the side of the wall at the top of the ladder in the Cathedral Chamber of the Lucas Cave.

G. This was Mr. Wiburd's wish, was it?

AB. I don't know. It was his wish that he should be put there by the people around and there was only about 8 or 10 people altogether in the place when I went up the ladder. The ladder is over 80 ft. up to the top. There is a little recess just off the top of the ladder - just enough for me to get off the ladder and stand up in it. I put it there safe, so that any rats could not move it.

G. It was a steel box, was it?

AB. A steel box, yes, and as far as I know it's still there.

AB. I was in Kiandra in 1894 and it was the biggest snow on record - whole buildings were covered over. My old Dad had one of the hotels and an old German had the other. There were two hotels there and the drifting snow covered the whole town. There was 30 ft. deep of snow in the street and they had a tunnel from one hotel to the other across the street.