

Hubert Golby, 1982.

Transcribed by  
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This is an interview on the 23rd August, 1982, with Hubert Golby, in his house near Ingebyra, which is about half an hour's drive from Jindabyne, on a beautiful, sunny afternoon.

KH We'll just start with a few general questions. Your parents were born in this area as well. Do you remember when they got married?

HG Oh, I don't know. It would be somewhere in the beginning of the 1899, as far as I know.

KH The first child, Pauline, was born in 1899. - Oh yes, we're talking about your oldest brother.

HG Yes, he was born in 1899, 29th September, so my parents were married possibly in that year, but I don't know.

KH Did many people have to get married in those days?

HG Well, then again, I don't know. In those days (extra?) marital relations were pretty taboo. As far as I know, there was no talking between parents and children. What you found out you found out yourself.

KH But often people's private life was revealed through the closeness of the dates of being married and the birth of the first child.

HG I never bothered to find out when my parents.. what the date was, or anything, believe it or not ...

KH It would be on old family records somewhere.

HG Oh yes, there would be no doubt about that, it would be on their marriage licence, and Rose would have that, that would be at home, I suppose, as far as I know.

KH Do you remember if your parents had very much education?

HG No, they had no education to speak of. My mother went to school for a little while. Dad claimed that he only went to school for a couple of days. He got hit over the head with a slate, and he give it away! He could read, though. He could read the newspaper and all that, and he could sign his name, but as far as I know he never ever done <sup>anything beyond</sup> signing a cheque.

KH He didn't do much writing, apart from that.

HG No, but Mum could write a fair bit. She learnt to write, you know, alright, you could understand her.

KH So she had more schooling than your father. She lasted longer.

HG Yes, she lasted longer. But that's what Dad claimed.

KH And your father was on the land all his life.

HG Oh yes, and his father before him, he arrived here about the middle of last century, as far as I know, and he acquired a fair bit of land, you know, here and there. There were only the two sons, Dad and his brother, George. And when, in 1914, the brother was getting out, he was living in the ancestral home then. Dad, apparently, or he wanted to get out, and the place was put up by auction, and there was only a pound per acre bid for it, and Dad wouldn't take it, so that's why, in 1914, we shifted from *Crosses Plain* to Gallagher Dip.

KH That's back to the ancestral home.

HG Yes. I started my serious schooling from there. And as I say, I walked for seven years, walked three miles to school.

KH You mentioned, I think, that your mother was a seamstress. Would she have been a seamstress before she got married?

HG Oh, yes.

KH Would she have actually learnt it as a trade?

HG No, not really. Her mother was a jack of all trades, I suppose you could call it, and my mother would have picked it up from her.

KH And that was more of a tradition <sup>at</sup> the time.

HG Yes, that would be right.

KH So the mother's skills were passed on to the daughter and the father's skills were passed on to the son.

HG Yes, that was very true in our case, I think. As far as the sons were concerned, Dad was a great horseman, a bushman. All that I know about horses today I could say he taught me.

KH I think when I interviewed the three of you before, we went a little bit into the family's history in Australia, but can you just go over that again. Your parents were already born in Australia. Were their parents born in Australia?

HG Yes, Mum's mother was born down near Braidwood, but Mum's father came from Scotland. My sister Rose has gone into it a fair bit, and I always understood that Grandfather landed in Twofold Bay on a ship called The Lightning, but Rose says that she has found out since that that's not right. He was supposed to come into Australia when he was 11 years old. On Dad's side, his mother was born in Campbelltown and she came

into the Dalgety district as a lady's companion, they called it, I suppose a governess, to look after children. But Grandfather Golby he was supposed to arrive in this locality with only a mangey dog following him, on foot. And it is <sup>Presumed that</sup> he came from the Omeo Diggings, or diggings in Victoria, but apart from that I don't know.

KH So he was the pioneer in this area.

HG Yes. As far as I know he was the only one with the name Golby. There are other Golbys, but whether they are any connection or not, it's quite possible. He was supposed to be born in London, at Banbury Cross, or Banbury. I've made enquiries about Banbury, and they said it would be Banbury Cross, it's only a mile from London Centre.

KH It features in one of the Beatles' songs, doesn't it?

HG Oh, I couldn't tell you about that. And I understand that he never owned a horse, or the first horse he owned, they bet him that he couldn't (ride?) a horse. That's not very far from here, and he happened to be there, and they said you can have such-and-such a horse if you can ride it. And he said Lord-to-God I rode him alright! And that was his first.

KH He was fortunate. I suppose that was where he worked.

HG Well, from what I can understand, he was a bit of a wanderer about for a while. I think he was a pretty tough customer to deal with. Some said that he got his start after a drunken brawl somewhere, and he got away with the gold, is what some of them say, but you know, these yarns, they're told long after anyone can know whether they may be authentic or not. But as I say, he accumulated a fair bit of ground, for a man who came here with nothing. But of course it dwindled away, bit by bit. But where we lived down near Dalgety, it was hemmed in by bigger stations. He only ended up with 600 acres, I think, after his brother got his cut. And he was landlocked.

KH There were just two brothers.

HG Yes. None of the stations adjoining Dad would sell him any land, and that's really why he finally sold it out and came back here to where Bob lives. That was in 1926.

KH Did your father or any relatives fight in the First World War?

HG No. My eldest brother was too young. He was 16 when it started.

KH There were a few that got into it at that age, the really keen ones.

HG Oh yes. A few of those that wanted to get into it.

KH What about the Boer War?

HG Well, I've heard in later years that Dad and another bloke went and volunteered, but they never left Australia. It was all over before ... I've only heard that, you know, in later years. Dad never mentioned it.

KH Were any members of your family members of the RSL?

HG After the First War? No, but my brother Bob was, after the Second War. He was in the Kokoda Trail, in New Guinea.

KH Who was the sister who was there that time I was there with the three of you? Was that Rose? Yes, so she's the one who has been doing most of the work on the family history. And what about during the Depression, come the 1920s? I guess being on the land, you could continue with things. Did it affect you very much?

HG To be quite candid, it didn't make much difference to us. I suppose we were living fairly rough, you know. All my life, as far as I could see, we were living as cheap as you could, or you had to live as cheap as you could. There wasn't a lot of money about, even when I first started work there was no money. If there was, the casual worker wasn't getting it. I suppose you could class me as a casual worker up to a point. It didn't make that much difference to us as a family. You could grow your own stuff to a certain extent. We had our own stock to kill. I suppose we may not have went out as much on account of the benzine position - petrol - I suppose not a shortage so much. Although I don't know if it did curb us much, because none of us had to knock off on Saturday or go on to the town or anything like that. Too many gates to open for a start, you know. I don't think it made that much difference to us. In consequence you got the name for having plenty of money. It wasn't that at all. My sister-in-law in Cooma one day happened to hear a couple talking. She presumed they must have found out who she was, she heard one say to the other, that I believe they're rolling in money, the Golbys were. But it wasn't the case. I don't think we were people to seek publicity or draw attention to yourself. That's the way it was. There were a lot of people came into the district, there was young fellows out of work. Two in particular took up with us, you know, and just lived with us and worked for a few bob, token, and made one of the family. It was all the result of the Depression, there was no doubt about that. It must have hit the cities. You were pretty isolated here

in those days, more so than what you are now.

KH This was up at Bob's place, just a few miles up the road? Yes. The track out of here would have been just a bullock track, I suppose.

HG Well, more or less, one that they used with bullocks in the earlier days, it might have been improved a bit. But when they came here it was still horse and slide country, or packhorse country. The person who selected this particular property here where we are now, he went to the First World War and he never came back to us, here. He bought a place down in Victoria, Buchan, or got on to a place down there, and he never came back here. This particular place laid idle for years. It was a lot easier set-up than what it is today.

KH Did you go to pre-school at all? Was there any such thing as a pre-school that you went to before you went to school, or a kindergarten, or anything like that?

HG No, there was nothing like that. I can remember a teacher coming up here to Grosses Plain. That was a *part-time* school between Ingebyra and Grosses Plain. And I can remember walking out onto the front verandah there at home, and this young man arrived on a pushbike. It turned out he was the new school teacher. I don't know how far he rode the bike, whether he rode it from Jindabyne. That was at the beginning of 1914, if my memory serves me right. He was the school teacher then, and I went to school every second day to begin, until November 1914, when we left there and went back to Dalgety. And that particular teacher - I don't know whether he got words from the authorities, the military authorities about trying to get recruits for the War, but anyway, the next thing was, he came to visit us down where we lived, and said he had enlisted. Anyway, he went on, and he won a military medal. I think he was invalided back. I don't think he lasted long after. I don't really know where his home town was whether it was Goulburn or ... I never saw him after. I can remember walking the distance up there from Bob's through the paddocks to the school. It was situated down there near where the bridge is over the *Creek* where you turn into the Snowies, into the bitumen, and the school was there then. It's gone many years now. It was still there in the Depression days, there was a family partitioned it off with bags and one thing and another and lived in it, for quite a while. Later on, some years

after, there was another building put up there. It's standing on the road over here now at Ingebyra. There was another building put up at Grosses Plain which was used as a school for a while, but when attendance dropped off up there it was brought down to Ingebyra and was used here for a while. There was no kindergarten training and the teachers at the Numbla school, they'd be teaching classes from infants to 6th or 7th class. At one stage there was a school coach run there, a three-horse school coach run there, and a number of pupils, about 32, I think, that that teacher used to teach.

KH And you went there for seven years?

HG Yes, from the beginning of the 1915 term until August in 1922. But I think the teachers used to be helped out a bit with the older ones, like myself could help with the smaller infants. That's what used to be done. There was no Parents and Citizens Association. And the teachers, generally speaking were, you know, very good. They couldn't be anything else but good.

KH So they were all local children. They were all farmers' children and so on from the district that went to that school?

HG Well, at one particular stage down there, there were teams of men come on to the stations. There was quite a few big stations in that area, 12,000 acres, 15,000 acres, and things like that. And the rabbits were bad at the time, and there used to be teams of men camped in tents, or if it happened to be a man and his wife and kiddies they'd probably be on a cottage somewhere on one of the stations. That's what swelled the attendance for a while.

KH Right. It could double it, I suppose.

HG Well, yes, it would. It would fluctuate a fair bit.

KH And they were mainly catching rabbits, those teams?

HG They were digging them out by shovel and mattock.

KH And they were being paid by the Government?

HG Oh no! The land owners, the station owners would pay them. Those that employed them. For some of them it was money down the drain, I should imagine, ... I've done a bit of it myself, digging out rabbits out of burrows. Nothing more *sicker* than following a burrow along, digging it out and then probably doubling back and having to shift all the dirt you've shifted before.

KH Yes, I imagine some of them could be quite long.

HG Long and deep. That would be 1915, 1916, when the rabbits were really thick. There was a drought in 1915 and I can remember it well. It was just bared earth. On the property that Dad had then, 600 acres, he netted it all in, and then, after shooting them, they had three rabbit drives and they got 1,000 rabbits, yarded them. 1,000 rabbits off 600 acres. You had to see it to believe it.

KH In terms of school, do you remember any particular friends that you had? You would have had a group that you were with mainly at school? or did you tend to go off on your own?

HG Oh no, it <sup>was</sup> always one of those cases of don't go with such-and-such or play with so-and-so. Come straight home from school when you were let out. Which we usually did, because if we came any other way they'd soon know at home what direction we come home. We never had any particular group, there were never any fights at school, no disagreements. As I say, there was no Parents and Citizens Association. There was only the teacher who kept law and order. In most cases they were respected.

KH Were there any children that you weren't allowed to play with?

HG Oh no. We could play with anybody.

KH But you'd have different mates at different times?

HG Oh, no, as far as I was concerned, no, I never ... and it was a funny thing, little infants, the smaller kids, would often take up with me, for some reason or other, I don't know.

KH You were the protector, were you?

HG Well, without blowing my own trumpet, I never liked to cause any trouble. I think deep down I might have realised that the teacher had a job to do and I didn't want to cause any trouble. But, in fairness to other people and that, I think there was only on one occasion that I can remember, that a parent came to the school to dress the teacher down. That was in the whole seven years.

KH Was it the same teacher in all those seven years?

HG Oh, no. They were women teachers, all women teachers I had, except for this one who came when I first started.

KH Who went off to war. How far did you have to walk to school?

HG Roughly three mile.

KH You walked that all the time. You didn't ride a horse or a bike? No, so you walked six miles every day. Do you remember which subjects you did?

HG No, I think there was only one subject I didn't like and that was grammar, parsing and things like that. And then, when it came to algebra and that it was beyond me. Spelling was my main topic. I liked spelling. But then again the method was different to what it was later on, because we had word-building and things like that in those days, which they seemed to discard in later years. It was a shame that that system went out. My wife, when she, the boys and girls, they had correspondence school. It was a different system coming up.

KH Do you remember any of the textbooks that you used? Did you have textbooks? Set books that you learned from?

HG No, I don't remember for that. There was history books and geography books and things like that. Oh there were these algebra and parsing books too, but as I say they were beyond me. Whether the teacher that I had couldn't instil the basics of it into me or not, I don't know.

KH But on the whole you liked your teachers. It sounds like you got on very well with them.

HG Yes, I did, always, even at the expense of being called teacher's favorite, and things like that, it never made any difference to me. If you're <sup>subject to</sup> authority in your own home, well it don't come hard on you to respect authority.

KH Do you remember Anzac Day at all? Did you celebrate Anzac Day at all? It would have just happened when you were at school.

HG Yes. When I was going to school, they used to have what they called patriotic meetings down there. The women would go and they'd make pyjamas and what have you, and the men would go and sew sandbags. Red Cross, that was in full swing. And that would be held generally at some of the station homesteads. At school we used to do work. Those boys and girls that would knit, would knit frocks or something like that, you know.

KH What about Empire Day? Did you celebrate Empire Day?

HG No, nothing like that.

KH What about Cracker Night? Did you have Bonfire Night?

HG No, not as such. We may have brought a few crackers and let off. Dad was terribly nervous. We couldn't let them go where he was. It didn't matter how many crackers you let off. Dad would always go crook, (get off his chair?)

KH So you weren't allowed near home with them.

HG No, we certainly weren't.

KH Was the cane used at school? with the women teachers?

HG Yes. It was there and it was used on occasion. I think I only ever had to face the music once, but it was certainly there. Although they were women teachers, they could use it.

KH Yes? across the backside?

HG No, on the hand, just across the palm of the hand. It was rather foolish to do that, because it put your writing hand out of focus for a while.

KH Do you remember what sort of things people got the cane for?

HG Oh, probably swearing or something, or one of the girls would pimp on someone.

KH What did you get the cane for?

HG Swearing in the playground.

KH Not smoking cigarettes or something like that?

HG No, as far as I know there was no smoking went on in the playground, but we tried smoking roots, you know, ordinary roots. Have you tried that?

KH What? from a tree? a dry one?

HG You don't want to .... it burns your tongue. I only tried it once or twice. There was nothing in it. No, I never started to smoke until after I'd left school. It was an off and on sort of a go. Sometimes I had tobacco, sometimes I didn't. Sometimes I didn't want it. Sometimes I threw it away before it was half finished.

KH You don't smoke now?

HG I haven't smoked for 30 odd years.

KH What about games in the playground. Can you remember any?

HG Yes. There used to be the rounders or prisoners base, or bushrangers and coppers. But then we got energetic and we tipped the grass off and made a tennis court, the senior boys, and we played more tennis. But we used to get a bit sick of doing it. You had to chase the ball too far.

KH You didn't have a wire around it.

HG There was no netting around it. You know, there were no facilities for the children. Nobody to look after them in that respect.

HG Do you remember any rhymes you had? any sayings? any rhymes that you used to get at somebody else? You know, those naughty things that children do?

HG No, there were no torments, or anything like that, that I can remember. I think I can only remember one brawl in the

school itself, and that was between two brothers.

KH Fisticuffs, was it?

HG Oh yes. Pencil boxes rattling. They was laying into each other with the pencil cases. One wanders over and the other got up and left and we never saw them again until the next morning.

KH They didn't get the cane for that?

HG No, there wasn't a reprimand. Oh, I suppose they were reprimanded, but there was no caning on that, no aftermath.

KH Were there any cadets or anything like that? or, you mentioned something with regard to people making things for the Red Cross. Did the girls get involved in that sort of thing at school?

HG Oh, probably knitting socks or something like that. As a matter of fact, I've knitted socks for the Red Cross.

KH Did many boys do that?

HG No. As far as I remember, I was the only one. I used to make my own socks, and things like that. Oh yes.

KH Do you still knit?

HG Oh, I could do if I wanted to. I could make you a pair of socks.

KH That's a handy skill. Yes, I heard of another stockman up north, up near Kiandra, who used to do that too. He'd pull his needle and wool out at night, in front of the fire, and start knitting.

HG As a matter of fact, I made jumpers and that for the two elder kiddies, the boys, when I was married.

KH And you would have taken your lunch to school.

HG Oh yes. Only lunch. Nothing to drink, only water out of the tank at school. There was no taking tea or anything like that.

KH What was your lunch? Sandwiches?

HG It would be sandwiches, generally corned meat, or roast, or leg of mutton or something like that. Sometimes things would get pretty low, and it might be bread and butter and jam.

KH And did the other kids bring similar lunch?

HG Yes, mostly sandwiches.

KH Were there children who couldn't afford lunch? Were there any really poor children?

HG No, and there was never any thieving for lunches went on. No, everyone would have had full and plenty, I think.

KH Did you swap sandwiches?

HG Yes, we used to swap. You'd swap some. Some you wouldn't swap

KH Your favorite you wouldn't swap, no. Did you have a piece of fruit or anything?

HG No, fruit used to always be pretty light on. We had a bit

of an orchard at home, but codling moth and that was in the apples Oh, I don't know, it never seemed to be oversupplied. Plums and apricot trees seemed to do better than anything else. When they were in season you'd have them, but no, you wouldn't take them to school. You'd just take a sandwich and some cakes, some everyday cakes and wash them down with a mug of water. That was the general thing.

KH What about after school. What sort of things did you get up to? You were usually expected to come straight home, I suppose.

HG Oh yes, well it would all depend. In the winter time, as I say there was rabbits, well we used to set traps, ... come home and get into your old trousers and go and set a load of traps.

KH What? because you'd get money for the skins?

HG Oh, yes, that was our pocket money. And in the winter time you see, you might sell the carcass. There was a freezing works in Dalgety where you could sell the carcass. Neighbours were pretty good to us in that respect, They used to have a carter of rabbits to the freezer. If you were rabbiting for the skins, you'd wait til you'd got about a hundred, and bundle that money up and take them to town.

KH That was like a part-time job, wasn't it.

HG Yes. A funny thing about it, though, it was generally on these neighbouring stations where you'd be trapping, and they didn't really like it. Why, I don't know. As a matter of fact, some wouldn't give permission.

KH Now, when you set your traps, you'd have to go out next morning, wouldn't you? You'd do that before school?

HG Yes, if you set them in a place between the home and the school, when you went to school ...

KH How did you get your traps? Your father gave you some traps first, did he?

HG Oh, I don't remember for that. They'd probably be cast offs for a start someone else might have had them, or there might be some broken ones mended up. I think that's how I got mine, which was a bad policy because in any case they probably wouldn't have held a rabbit, just make them more wary. You know rabbits are very hard to catch. They know where the traps are...

KH Did you have any other work and things, like on the week-end?

KH: What sort of other things did you get up to? Did you go down in summer to the Moonbah River, or something, have a splash about?

HG No, there was a waterhole up in one end of our paddock. Sometimes the neighbours, they were older than us, bigger boys, I suppose in their teens or twenties, they'd probably go there. We'd probably go up and have a dip in the nuddy. No, sometimes as far as work went, Saturday or some time like that, I used to get a few shillings weeding someone's garden, something like that. The neighbour might be doing a bit of fencing and want someone to help him pull the wire in the fence, or something like that, you'd go and give him a hand. They'd give you a few bob. It wouldn't be what you'd ask for.

KH They'd determine the pay.

HG Someone might want help with a bit of droving.

KH When did you start that? when you were 13 or 14?

HG Yes, as soon as you could ride.

KH What about fencing. Did you get into that?

HG Oh, not in the early stages, no. Only as I said just the odd, very odd job.

KH Was it a big deal leaving school? and did you, in terms of discussing your future with your parents, ...

HG No there was no discussion at all. There was a new school teacher came there at the beginning of 1922 and I seemed to be making great headway with my schoolwork. But then she was taken, it would be the May holidays, I think. They only left her there a little while. When she left I felt that I was finished too, but I went on until I was 15 in August. I just pulled out

KH So that lady, she was quite important in your schooling.

HG Yes, I felt that I knew where I was up to, somehow. But they didn't leave her there. It ended my school career then.

KH So a person who was sympathetic like that, who you got on well with, if they had stayed, might it have changed the direction you went in? Might it have meant that you'd gone on to a college or something?

HG Well, I can remember expressing the wish on one occasion to Mum that I'd like to be a school teacher, but, you know, I didn't get any encouragement. Then when I turned 15, I suppose I felt I was finished. And then shearing started at one of the next door neighbours' stations, and I got a job there.

END OF SIDE ONE

KH You were the tar boy?

HG No, tar branding. They were branding the sheep, that is the shorn sheep and keeping the woolly sheep up in the catching pens. That was my job. That was really the first job I had after I left school. You said about the living conditions - well, it was the bunk in the shearer's hut, it may have been as wide as this table and it had a board round it. It was filled with straw, and it was covered with a wool pack. And I don't suppose you've ever slept on a woolpack. It's one of the hardest things there is. That's the type of bed we had to sleep on.

KH Compressed wool. Like the kapok. Harder than kapok.

HG Oh no, it was wheat and straw, covered with a woolpack. I don't know, I used to sleep alright. It was very primitive to what it would be today.

KH That shearing shed was nearby, was it?

HG Oh yes. I could walk the distance. It wasn't much further away than the school, really.

KH And you would have got that job just by word of mouth?

HG Yes. I went to the owner and asked for a job. I tried one other one before and he said no, he wouldn't give me any work, the contractors would do it all. But I didn't have a union ticket, and as far as I know, I was never asked for one. Whether others didn't care and just keep doing it ...

KH What were you paid, do you remember?

HG No, I don't remember what I was paid for that. But the first job that I had that I suppose you could call it a permanent job, I was in Dalgety one day and the manager of another station not far away came to me and asked if I wanted a job, and I said oh yes. Well, he said, if you'd like to come down to Springvale I'll give you 15 shillings a week, your horse feed and tucker. And come down on the Monday. So that was the first job that I had and I stayed there for quite a while. I used to butcher four sheep a week and I used to have to cut the wood into stove wood length, and five or six cows to milk.

KH Twice a day?

HG No. The calves were on them. They'd shut up the calves at night. I stopped there for quite a while and got sick of it. I had about three months there, I think.

KH And that was 15 shillings a week. That would have been in 1922, 23?

HG Yes, 23. Then there were some horses on another station towards Cooma, some horses to break in, so I thought I was capable

of doing that. I went and broke in the horses. From then on it was more or less, I suppose I was beginning to become a stockman or boundary rider or what have you. It looked as though it was outdoor life or station work or what I could get, you know.

KH So you really moved from one thing to another for a while.

HG Yes. Then when the family left, when Dad sold out, I drifted back here. I came back before Dad came back, before the rest of the family came back.

KH Back to the ancestral home?

HG Yes. As a matter of fact one of my brothers had bought in a place over here a bit further. I came back here to help him cut chaff. He bought the place with haystacks on it and I came back to help him cut it into chaff. And that was the start of the finish.

KH That's when you started to settle down, was it?

HG Yes, more or less, I suppose. But while all this was going on you don't realise the transition from the horse to the motor car was more or less getting finalised, I suppose. Here in this area we still had to depend a lot on the horse. Motor transport and that was still pretty high, on account of the bad roads and the number of gates and what have you.

KH In that period did you stay in one place longer than any of the others? Was it at your brother's place in the 1920s that you stayed the longest?

HG Backwards and forwards in that respect, but previous to coming back here again I put in a fair while boundary riding <sup>looking</sup> after ewes and lambs, mustering them and things like that, back in the Numbla area. That was what I done after the horse-breaking episode. While there was horse-breaking and that, I suppose things must have been looking up with the station owners, because there was a polo club formed in Cooma at the time. Where I was at that stage I used to ride one and lead two horses 29 mile from the station to Cooma for the boss to play polo on. I did that over the week-end, look after the polo ponies, bring them back again on the Monday. That went on for quite a while. After I broke in the horses that were to be broken in, I carried on with general work around that property, and back again to where I originally went as a wood and water joey, looking after ewes and lambs.

KH A wood and water joey? That's a new one for me.

HG Oh well, carting wood, and I didn't have so much water to cart. That was the designation, I suppose.

KH Fetch and carry.

KH What about the women at that farm where you looked after the polo horses? Were there many women working there?

HG There was a cook and a housemaid in that particular place. Even where I was a wood and water joey they had their cook and housemaid and that there then, and there used to be at least four jackaroos there at the same time. It was more or less a training. You know, they were there getting colonial experience.

KH Whose farm was that?

HG It belonged to : <sup>Wallegarang</sup> down near Goulburn.

KH Oh, I see. It was as far away as that.

HG No, that's not where I went. <sup>Wallegarang</sup> owned it, this station down near Numbla. That place along with two others were managed <sup>or owned</sup> by the Crisp family and they were the original descendants ... their fathers before them. They were old men, the Crisps at that time, you see, there was Charlie, George and Dave Crisps, Johnny Crisp, and they owned those stations. They'd had them since the beginning. They were the first owners of them as far as I know.

KH And in terms of the men and women who worked there, were there distinct jobs for women and distinct jobs for men? You mentioned that the two ladies there were cook and housemaid. You wouldn't have male cooks?

HG Oh, no, they were women cooks. There were always all women cooks on the stations in those days, never any males.

KH So there was a division of labour in a sense.

HG Oh yes. Even in my own family, I reckoned that it wasn't a woman's place to do outdoor work, and my sisters ... And it's hard to live down.

KH So you feel that it's not necessary to be like that, but that's the way it was.

HG Oh well, looking back now, I think that why not. If they're prepared to do it and can do it. But it was considered mannish, or something. Well that's the way I look at it now.

KH It would have been considered womanish for you to be knitting socks, I suppose, strictly speaking. Women could have done the milking, I suppose they could have done that sort of thing.

HG Oh, they did. Of course we're getting back I suppose into class distinction probably. Those places where I worked on they were stations. They had a different mode of, whe<sup>re</sup> as my people and other ordinary people, the women done the milking



and what have you.

KH They did the lot.

HG In a lot of cases, yes. You know, those stations, they were the aristocrats of the ... It's only of late years that Jack's as good as his master. It's only recent, don't you think?

KH Well, I think more so. It depends in what circles you move in. Some people still like to maintain certain class distinction. But on the whole, yes, they've melted away.

HG I've often thought if I wrote a book I'd call it 'Behind the Curtain'. Down at Dalgety Hotel in the dining room, there was a curtain across the room. I don't know if it was halfway or not. I was never game to look behind it. Station owners, or what have you, you know, those in higher circles, the elite, whatever you'd like to call them, they'd dine behind the curtain. We roughs would be on the other side, probably paying just as much and getting it in the same way, but they'd have the privacy of the curtain. I've never been back in later years to find out if it's still there. In most cases today it's 'Good day Dick' or 'Good day Tom', or you know, employee or ~~employee~~. We were brought up that anyone older than yourself or a higher station in life or anything like that, you had to rise your hat to them. As far as I'm concerned it's a custom that's died pretty hard. That's as far as women go anyway.

KH Do you think that the owners, the landed gentry, actually looked down on the others?

HG Well, I don't suppose it's looked down on them, but there's something there that makes you feel different.

KH Were they snobbish towards you, or did they raise their noses in the air? Or find some way to put you down?

HG Oh no, as a matter of fact, some were definitely nice, well met people, and all that. I speak generally. I haven't had it happen to me, but it's the impression you get. But there was always that master and servant ... and I suppose it was quite right. If you were <sup>going</sup> to work for a person, you gave them the respect you had at school for the teachers.

KH So what would have been the furthest that you were away from your home territory in that time? 50 miles?

HG Oh yes, in those days Cooma would be the limit.

KH So you still stayed pretty close to home on the whole, didn't you? Within a day's riding distance, just about.

HG Yes, that would be right. I could ride, I had the horse to be doing now, I had to go from here down to the workhole in the morning or in the day and not notice.

KH And when you worked on other properties, was your lunch, for instance, very different from what it might have been at school? Say, when you were working in a shearing shed or something like that?

HG Oh yes. Shearers, you know, they're generally pretty well fed.

KH Were they fed by the employer? Would a big spread be brought in or did they ... ?

HG The sheds where I went to first, there was a long table and you'd go in, and it might be roast beef or something like that, the cook had it all sliced up, and you'd go along with your plate and take what you wanted, and get a mug of tea.

KH And then at night time you'd eat with the staff, I suppose.

HG Well, in those days, the shearers would come in and they'd camp in the huts, too

KH What would they do for dinner, for tucker?

HG Oh the cook would have something.

KH Oh there'd be a cook of course, a cook for the shearers. He'd be employed by the boss.

HG Well, yes, although from what I remember that particular cook came with the shearers. They must have been a team, I think.

KH Right, so some of the pay of the shearers went to the cook.

HG Yes, some of it was deducted. So much would be deducted from each shearer to pay the cook. I think it was how it works. But on the stations and that you'd have just whatever was going, what was set out for you. Maybe you'd dine with the staff. In some particular places you'd dine with the housemaids and cook.

KH Do you remember talking a lot to these people? Would you discuss topics of the day? World events, political events in Australia, that sort of thing at all?

HG No. You generally got told what you had to do, or what was wanted of you.

KH With your colleagues, like with the cook, or with other people, or jackaroos, and so on, did you ever talk about things that were beyond the farm?

HG No., not really. The jackaroos and that that came down, some would have an idea of what to expect, others wouldn't. They had to get experience in everything, milking cows and things like that, we taught them to milk. As far as discussing the political scene or any thing social like that, no. The jackaroos

would have pretty lonely lives. Once they got a bit of experience they could get out riding about with the stockmen, it would be better for them, but until they get out it would be pretty lonely.

KH Did you ever belong to a trade union or anything like that?

HG Yes, on one occasion, in 1929, I went out to the Lachlan River out to Hillston. I was with the Grazcos shearing team out there, and I had to take a ticket, then. That's the only ticket. I put in three months away.

KH Was that with the AWU?

HG Oh yes.

KH Do you remember how much that cost?

HG I think something like three pound. I'm not real clear on it now.

KH What were your wages out there? Do you remember?

HG I think it was 42 shillings a hundred. I was shearing. Yes. I shore for quite a while.

KH 42 shillings a hundred. And how long would it take you to shear 100?

HG Oh, I only shore 100 on one occasion there, I think. I was eight hours doing that. This was out at Hillston.

KH But that wouldn't take you long, shearing 100 sheep, would it?

HG Oh my word it would. It had been a bad year, and the sheep had walked into the dams up to their knees, and they had a ridge of sand along their back bone, and it was a bad year. I come back about 40 pound better off that when I went away.

KH Did you have hand shears or motor driven?

HG Oh motor driven, they were machine shorn.

KH But you'd shear 100 in a day, wouldn't you?

HG No, I was never a 100 a day man.

KH They're the gun shearers, the top notch?

HG Yes. I wasn't in that pile at all.

KH So that might take you three days, might it?

HG No, I'd do it in two days. I'd shear 70 to 80 a day.

KH So you'd earn about 30 shillings a day.

HG Yes, something like that.

KH That would be a pound and a half a day. And you'd work six days a week? or ...

HG No. I forget now whether we worked half day Saturday or not. I don't think so. I think we only worked for five days.

KH So if you earned 1½ pound a day and worked 5 days a week you might earn 7 or 8 pounds a week.

KH And your ticket, the AWU ticket was two pounds.

HG Yes, something like that.

KH That would be pretty good wages, wouldn't it? 7 or 8 pounds/week?

HG Oh, it was alright. As I say, I came home 40 pounds better than when I went away.

KH That would be quite a lot of money now, 40 pounds, in real value.

HG Yes, I think that the value was better then. But I only had the two sheds. One was Victorian settlers coming <sup>in there</sup> and they <sup>rolled</sup> a lot of mallee down one end or the other, and it came dry and they were getting no return on the crops at all, and wind storms, dust storms. It was my first experience with it.

The plates on the table, you'd shift them away and the shape of the plate would be there - dust. You could hardly see around before you.

KH Entirely due to overclearing? Overstocking?

HG Overclearing, I think. They hadn't been there long enough to.... <sup>Instead of leaving in the</sup> windbreaks mallee, they took it in the face I think. It blew away, a lot of it.

KH Do you think that working as a shearer, the environment was a healthy one? Like the conditions of work?

HG It was new shed and new huts we went in to, the first shed I went to. The conditions were, you know, alright. Better than the first one.

KH What was wrong with the first one?

HG It was the one with the straw (mattresses), straw and woolpack over the top to cover it. But these others were reasonably good.

KH Was it hot inside? Inside the shearing shed?

HG Oh no. As a matter of fact, there was a cold snap, a big hail storm there, a cold snap, it was in September, I think.

KH That was the only time you belonged to a union?

HG Yes. I'd done a lot of crutching and some shearing around the district and never had to ... <sup>no</sup> one ever bothered about it, a union ticket and I never took it. But I suffered with a bad back and that is what curtailed my shearing.

KH How did you get a bad back?

HG Oh, bending over didn't agree with me.

KH From the shearing?

HG Yes, from the shearing. I took on work like that, I couldn't depend that I'd be able to carry on.

KH Gee, that would be pretty hard. Did you ever try to get compensation or anything like that?

HG Oh no.

KH So you went from one thing to another. You spent some of the time out west and mostly you were on properties around here, and then you came back to your brother's place, and you kind of worked with him didn't you?

HG Oh yes, I worked with him and for him, and that, In those days there was a fair bit of give and take between brothers, in our case anyway. But in the meantime, to get money, to carry on, there'd probably be a droving trip. Someone would want a drover, or ... I had the horse and the dogs and what have you, I was fairly lucky in that respect. In those days there was no road through here <sup>to</sup> Bairnsdale in Victoria was the main market.

KH From here? Was it?

HG Yes. There was a lot of cattle come through here in the late ... the early 30s, I think it was, late 29, early 30s. There were a few mobs of sheep went through from here to Victoria, and I gained a lot of experience droving through these hills.

KH Was that a similar route to what the Barry Way follows now?

HG The same route, pretty well.

KH Along the lower Snowy, and ...

HG Yes, and up over the ranges there. And even drove stock from Moonba<sup>h</sup>, or from Jindabyne to Crackenback. I drove one mob of cattle from Crackenback over to Corryong, before ever there was any road.

KH Oh, across Dead Horse Gap? So there was a stock route through there?

HG Yes. We used to like taking the stock up there. Oh yes, and for pastime, then, you might go and do buckrunning, brumbies about here, a fair few of them, go and build a yard and run a mob of brumbies into it, if you was lucky.

KH Would you do that once a year or something?

HG Oh, just when ... Although they were valueless really, it was more or less sport.

KH Would you trap them for a rodeo elsewhere? Did they have rodeos in those days?

HG No. They'd probably end up sending them to Victoria, to their markets.

KH And would they be sold for meat?

HG Yes, they'd be sold, in most cases, I suppose, for dog food. Oh, you'd only keep what you could handle successfully. It would

be more than one. There used to be quite a few brumbies through the hills.

KH But there were some really nice horses amongst them, too, weren't there? Wouldn't there be some that you would keep?

HG Yes, there'd be some. I've had quite a few, kept them, you know, and worked them, and sold them locally. There were some quite favorite horses among them, but they're all gone now.

KH But there are wild horses in the mountains?

HG No, not now, I don't think. Oh, further back. They're not coming in here.

KH Oh I see. There are some up around the top of the Big Boggy, Drift Hill, Cascade country. I've seen them in there.

How long would the track across to Bairnsdale take you from here?

HG It would take about seven days with horses.

KH But more usually it would be cattle, wouldn't it?

HG Oh yes, mostly cattle. I was only ever with one mob of cattle right to Bairnsdale. That was in 1936 and me and another chap, old chappy, we took 180 bullocks from here to

Bairnsdale. And I think we were somewhere about 10 days, droving them there, through here. It's only about ... You haven't been right through?

KH I've only been as far as ...

HG The border?

KH A bit further. I've been down from the Tin Mine via the Ingegoodbe<sup>e</sup> track. And then hit the Barry Way and then come out. I haven't even been to Suggan Buggan yet. So it would be 7 or 8 days, yes. And of course the journey back would be pretty good, wouldn't it?

HG Oh, not too quick. You'd have to wait for your dogs and that. You can't bussle that. It's about three days, easy days, to come back from Bairnsdale.

KH So it would virtually be a two week journey. And do you remember how much you got paid for that?

HG Oh, I don't remember.

KH Would you be paid so much per head? or ...

HG No, I think I got something like 15 pound out of it, I think.

KH That would be a good cash crop, would it?

HG Oh yes, it would be alright. It would be better than an ordinary wage. I was with three mobs of sheep, through there. Two mobs of 5,000 and one mob of 2,000. The first time I went out there were three of us to bring 1,000 sheep through there.

We didn't have a really easy time either.

KH What, you'd lose some?

HG No, we didn't lose any, but we had to be on the lookout all the time.

KH Did you just get the dogs to keep them together at night?

HG No. Generally it was my job to go ahead and build a sheep break, to hold them in, and then probably come back and meet them, the mob again.

KH It would be a pretty rugged journey, wouldn't it?

HG Yes. It was.

KH Gee. It would be along the lower Snowy, steep sides,

HG Yes, steep sides, and in those times the water could be nearly straight across.

KH You'd just get a narrow strip, steep hill there, and raging water there.

HG Yes, I was never really happy about that section.

KH Yes, it's still rugged. Driving along it is pretty hairy. So you did that three times with sheep. Did you do it a number of times with cattle as well.

HG Yes, only once right to Bairnsdale, but with cattle, oh, three or four times, I think. And horses twice. The first trip I ever had through there was with horses. that was back in 1926.

KH Were the Freebodys around then, Paddy and Jack?

HG Yes. Jack was there.

KH He was actually living out there, was he?

HG Yes.

KH Would you have met Charles Carter in those days? in the 30s? Or was that not until later?

HG No, not until later, I don't think I met Carter. He had a trip away to Queensland, and I knew him when he came back. I'm not too sure now. Getting a long time ago.

KH One thing that intrigued me was that Carter, the mining company started up again in 1936,37, and I don't think Carter was around then. I think he came back to the Tin Mines after the miners had left.

HG Oh yes, that's right. No, he came back, and I think he might have went to Snowy Plain. He was there for a while.

KH The Gung<sup>r</sup>alin?

HG Yes, up in that area. When he came back, that's where he went to for quite a while. I'm not real sure of it now.

KH And so you did some droving trips, you worked with your brother, but at some stage in the 30s, did you acquire your own property? The place where you built the house when you got married, was ...

HG It was on the block where Dad selected, it was on the same block. In conjunction with my eldest brother Dad made the block, some of the country, over to us, and we brothers all worked it together for quite a while. Then when Bob came back from New Guinea, we had another dividing up again. We bought this place, oh no, we had it while Bob was away, in a way, it was bought in our three names. It wasn't until after he came back we had one dividing up, and after I came here, I got the control of all this land. But that was in the 50s.

KH But in the 30s, 37, 38 ... You got married in 34, and you built a house that you showed me on the photograph. You built that soon after, did you?

HG Yes. I built that in 36, I think I had it liveable.

KH You would have had your first child by then. And by 1938 you had two. So you were well established in that cottage by 1938. So it was your wife and two young children who were there at the time.

HG Yes in 38 I had a bloke working for me, ringbarking and one thing and another, he camped in a tent outside the house. In those days, anyone you had working for you, sort of, took them in, much as you could, tuckered them ...

KH And you were running cattle?

HG Oh, sheep mainly.

KH So the idea of someone staying, other people coming along and working for you, was pretty common? You might almost consider them permanent casuals, or something like that?

HG Oh, yes. There were a couple of blokes in particular that put in a fair bit of time with us.

KH What about your wife? Did you have any women to help her? Who would help with the laundry or anything like that? She did all that herself?

HG Yes. At that time it was all pretty primitive. As I say there was never much money to spend on luxuries or anything. It was quite a while before we got the house all lined or finished, or settled in.

KH So you lived in it unlined initially, very simply. Did it have fireplaces?

HG Yes, it had a fireplace, stove  
 KH Oh you had a stove, for cooking on. Was it a slow combustion stove?  
 HG Yes. An ordinary wood stove.  
 KH Oh I see. Not one of those super duper. Oh you haven't got one here. You would have had one here, I suppose, at one stage.  
 HG Yes, we did. It burnt out and got thrown out.  
 KH And what was the size of the selection that that house stood on?  
 HG Oh it was about a 40-acre block. In those days you could take a 40-acre block and they'd give you three acres for one in lease, CL is what they called it. You could take up 40 acres or an area of CP. Conditional Purchase, and you'd be allowed three acres of lease, three to one, CL, Conditional Lease. When you paid for it in 30 years, you had 30 years to pay for the CP, and then you could convert the CL into CP.  
 KH And how many rooms did that house have?  
 HG Oh, only three, really. Kitchen, bedroom and parlour/loungeroom.  
 KH So you lived in the same bedroom as your children? You shared, all four of you? in one bedroom?  
 HG Yes.  
 KH Do you remember any of the furniture, or any of the ... Did you have much furniture?  
 HG Oh no. It was mostly built in and the kitchen was all built in, in the kitchen. There was one sideboard in the lounge room.  
 KH You had a sideboard. And the loungeroom would have doubled as a dining room, did it? or did you eat in the kitchen?  
 HG No, the loungeroom/dining room, all one.  
 KH But that was separate from the kitchen.  
 HG Oh yes. There was a little wall there.  
 KH Did you have a cocktail cabinet or anything like that?  
 HG No!  
 KH Would you have bought the furniture in Cooma? Any furniture that you bought, did you have to go far afield?  
 HG No. I made some of it myself. One was a family heirloom. The sideboard was a family heirloom. That was all there was to it.  
 KH And when you had visitors and things, they'd be mostly entertained, as it were, in the living room, I suppose. That was the important room, was it?

KH It was quite a small cottage, wasn't it? Three rooms. And you would have had a bit of a bathroom? at the back or something? or did that double as a laundry?  
 HG Oh no, for a while. It wasn't long I added a back verandah and bathroom and laundry, but it was a while after.  
 KH Would you have had electricity on in that cottage?  
 HG No. No power  
 KH You had kerosene, did you? kerosene lamps?  
 HG Yes, kerosene lamps.  
 KH And what about hot water?  
 HG Boil the kettle, that was about all, or put a bucket on the stove.  
 KH Did you have a big fountain on the open fire?  
 HG No.  
 KH What did you do for bath water?  
 HG Oh, when, had a composite up outside. It was very primitive.  
 KH And did you go outside and have a wash?  
 HG Oh no, or yes, you'd have a little wash down. When we started, for a while it was around the wash house.  
 KH What about washing? Did you have any sort of washing machine? It was just in the copper, was it?  
 HG Yes. The copper was set up outside, and clothes were steam boiled.  
 KH Did you have a fridge? Kerosene fridge?  
 HG Oh, I built a cooler, one of those cooler bag sort of a cooler thing. That was all we had. You had a tray underneath. *This* covered thing sat in the tray, filled on top with water and *we'd* hang strips of stuff down the side. Bag sides let the water *evaporate*.  
 KH Oh, so you had evaporation of water and that would cool it. A bit of wind coming through it. It would be sort of like a water bag principle.  
 HG Oh yes. Much the same. Hessian.  
 KH Did you have a wireless? radio? in that time?  
 HG No, we did have a secondhand one that went for a while, but you had to get batteries ...

END OF SIDE TWO

KH We were talking about wirelesses. You had a radio.  
 HG Yes, we had a second-hand one, but you had to have different

sets of batteries from what I remember, dry and wet, I think. The reception was never very good. I suppose it might have been the fault of the machine, I don't know. You had to synchronise three dials on it to obtain the results. It was called Lyngay. I don't know if that was the trade name or what. As I say, it never functioned very well.

KH Would that have been kept in the kitchen?

HG No, in the lounge.

KH On the mantelpiece, or something?

HG Yes, or on a table, or against the wall.

KH Was that a very important <sup>thing</sup> a wireless? Would you listen to it regularly?

HG Oh, listened to the news, probably. The kids say I wouldn't let it be used, only to listen to the news. But I suppose they must have wanted to hear more.

KH But you wouldn't listen to it as much as you would look at television now?

HG Oh, more of a novelty, I think. Now the TV, to my mind, there's too much trash on it. I often go .. without having it on. I like to get the news, but then it can go off in a manner of speaking, as far as I'm concerned.

KH Did you have a telephone at all in the 30s?

HG No. There was no telephone at that stage.

KH Could you have had the telephone?

HG Yes. The line went fairly close to the house, the cottage. We didn't get it on until about 1940, I think.

HG Would other people around you have had the telephone?

HG Oh yes. By the time ... had it, it was on. It was a party line, really. It came through the bush, at the post office in Ingebyra. It was never very satisfactory. It wasn't maintained enough, really. It was as I say a party line. Some would do a bit, some wouldn't.

KH Did you have vegetables around the house?

HG Oh yes. We grew vegetables. It was a case of carting water generally, for quite a while, and then I put on a farm pump, and laid the water on the house.

KH Carting the water would take the fun out of it. You couldn't gravity feed the water from a dam or something?

HG OH, not really, a big undertaking in those days. You couldn't go and hook up a tractor. To a certain extent in the bush it was still the horse, draft horse and slide and whatever.

It was still a horse and cart existence.

KH How far was your nearest neighbour?

HG Oh, Bob's place was only a quarter of a mile.

KH What time in the mornings would you have got up? say, during a typical weekday?

HG Oh, it would be round about half past six, seven o'clock. In the summer time it may be earlier. You'd get out and do something before the heat of the day. If you were <sup>fencing</sup> and what have you, the line you're in might be clearing the line through the bush to build a fence or something like that, you'd try and get out and do the work before the heat of the day.

KH So you wouldn't necessarily stay at home much. You wouldn't take much time over breakfast.

HG Oh no. You'd have your breakfast and probably feed your horse. You'd have to ride, probably, to where you were working. Generally you'd get up and feed your horse, put the nosebag on the horse first thing, so you'd be sure he'd have his feed before you, by the time you were ready to go. But then there'd be milking and that to be done.

KH Would you do that or your wife?

HG No, the wife never ... She was allergic to cows.

KH So you'd be up very early, wouldn't you?

HG Oh, the time would vary. It would depend, I suppose, on what time you got to bed, or what you were doing. But the cows had to be milked, and in my case, I'd take the milk down on, probably

Rose would separate it, and <sup>they'd</sup> make the butter there. It was sort of keeping two homes going, especially when Bob was away, although Dad was still able to do a lot. I suppose I still felt responsible, to a certain extent, doing my bit.

KH What did you have for breakfast? Did you have a very solid breakfast? with meat and things like that?

HG Oh yes. It would probably be cold meat, probably fried vegetables, if there were any left over from the night before. There'd be nothing special really. The main diet always seemed to be corned meat and vegetables, except when ... we used to kill a lot then, it would be mutton. You'd probably pack your lunch. The usual thing was a sugarbag with a strap on it, and hang it up over your shoulders. Probably use a nosebag with feed for the horse on the other shoulder. As Malcolm Fraser said: Life wasn't meant to be easy. It certainly wasn't in those days! I suppose

it was no harder than what you made it.

KH In '38 it would be mainly you, your wife and two children who were in most of the meals, plus these casuals.

HG Yes, plus these casuals, the casual workers that you may have.

KH And you'd go off and do some fencing, or general farming things, ...

HG The shearing, those seasonal things, the shearing in those days, I used to, whatever sheep I had, they had to come over to my brother's place. I didn't have a shearing shed then. My elder brother never ... we used to always shear at my other brother's place. That's when I had to be out early. I'd ride from Grosses Plain to my brother's to see to the shearing. It used to be pretty tough, because it used to go on for quite a while, specially when it'd come up bad weather, miserable weather. Well, you'd sooner be stopping at home, or stopping in bed. Perhaps you'd be haymaking or something. You'd have to be out early or work late. More often with haymaking you'd be working late rather than early.

KH So you'd often not come home until it was dark.

HG Oh, very often.

KH What was the evening meal called?

HG Supper.

KH And if you had lunch at home, did you call that dinner?

HG Yes. Oh yes, that was always dinner.

KH And what did you have for supper?

HG Oh well, meat and vegetables. Maybe a pudding of some sort.

KH Did you do any of the cooking at night?

HG No, I never ... once I was married.

KH Did you do any reading after dinner, or anything like that? You might listen to the news, but ...

HG No, it'd be very limited, you see, we'd only get the mail twice a week, on Sunday and Wednesday, and the papers would be days old when you get them, generally, whatever paper was got. I don't think I ever got the papers. I got them when Dad was finished, and then I'd probably read them. You'd generally glance through them. There was very little reading done for past-time.

KH So you would have gone to bed pretty early if you got up early. You'd be in bed by nine, I suppose, most nights?

HG Yes, <sup>you</sup> would be ...

KH So your wife did most of the cooking and the cleaning, I suppose, she was mainly in charge of the house?

HG Oh yes, that was a foregone conclusion, really.

KH When she was away, like when she was in hospital with one of the children, or did she have the children at home?

HG No, two of them were born in Goulburn. The two elder ones were born in Goulburn.

KH It wasn't Cooma? You didn't send her on to Cooma?

HG No. She went back to her mother's. Her mother lived in Goulburn. But the other four, then, they were born in Cooma.

KH You had six altogether. But you'd take over those chores if she was in hospital or something, wouldn't you?

HG Oh, yes, when she was in hospital in Cooma, my mother and that looked after the other children.

KH Oh, I see. Your mother would come in.

HG Yes, they'd go down and stop with her, or I'd come home and they'd come and stay with me at night.

KH And would you have been the main controller of the purse strings, or, who was the economist?

HG Oh, I suppose you could say that. There was never, they never took much controlling.

KH There wasn't much to control, I suppose.

HG There was very little to control.

KH But you did most of the domestic accounting, did you? Did you give your wife so much?

HG Well, in those days, I had an account at the local stores. There were two stores at Jindabyne. You could go there and book what you want. In some cases you mightn't pay for it until the 12 months was up. The storekeepers seemed to <sup>have</sup> be an unlimited amount of credit, or you had an unlimited amount of credit. There was only ever very little money in the house, actual money, pounds shillings and pence. My youngest daughter said to me, she wanted something over in Cooma one day and I didn't pay for it, or something, I couldn't pay for it. She said book it up and pay by cheque, so that was the idea, ~~The~~ kids, anyway, they never saw money. But then there were the accounts at about four stores in Cooma. In those days you had an account there. But now that's reduced to nil. I wouldn't run an account now, not the way we used to.

KH Hain s would be one place, I suppose, where you'd have an account.

HG Yes, I have an account there. That's only one though, now. Although I could go to others. I don't know about ?

I could go to Solomons, ... get the books out, but I don't do it now.

KH Was there a Mrs McGregor's shop?

HG Yes, Polly McGregor, a shop in Jindabyne. Jim Malinn had the other one. ? M - a - l - i - double n.

KH Yes, because somewhere I read that Charlie Carter, when he got any gold, took it in to Polly McGregor's and exchanged it for food. But I'm not sure that he actually got any gold.

HG No, I don't know about that either. Polly used to collect Charlie's ... He used to get the pension. And in those days you could get someone to collect it for you, and Polly used to collect his pension.

KH Oh I see. So he'd be able to buy his groceries and things there. So you would have bought most of your clothes and furniture and food in Cooma? Those bigger items? personal items, or would you get those in Jindabyne?

HG No, you'd get them in Cooma. Jindabyne was only more or less groceries. We had an account at David Jones, in those days. They used to send out a fairly well illustrated catalogue.

KH Oh, and you'd send it by mail, a mail order catalogue.

HG Yes. As I say we had a credit account there.

KH Do you remember any big things that you bought in 1938? like a new piece of furniture or a fridge or anything like that?

HG Oh no, I think I have to correct you there. There was no refrigeration.

KH No, that's right. You only had a sacking system. But what other big things might there have been that you needed in the household? I'm trying to get an idea of what sort of things and also what you might have paid for them.

HG No, oh well, I suppose the stove. We bought the stove new the wood stove, and I think it was 25 pound. And the bath, we bought a tin bath. I think it might have come from Grace Bros. about five pound, I think, galvanised iron. And I went on down to the Moonbah church with the horse and dray and met the carrier. The creek was flooded at the time when the carrier was coming out. I went down to the creek at the Moonbah church with a horse and cart to get the bath. I think there was something else, but I forget now.

KH You floated it across, I suppose!

HG Oh no, I won't get real dramatic about it. I was able to take a fair bit of water because of the horse and cart, draft horse and cart. But that was the way it was. The roads were that bad, we used to have to go and meet the carrier with stuff. There'd

be a bog somewhere along the road. The carrier wouldn't be able to get through. We'd hook up the horse and cart and go on.

KH I thought you might have plugged up the plug hole and gone for a bit of a paddle.

HG Ha! No. There was another bloke there at the time getting a bit of stuff from the carrier, and he reckons you'd find it pretty cold bathing in that, but no colder than any other if you put the hot water in, really. Ha ha!

KH Was there anything delivered to the household? Like bread or medicines?

HG No, All the bread was homemade, breadcakes, what-have-you, or butter, and jam probably made a fair bit in season. Hope it would last til the next crop would come. You lived more or less off the land, really. What you didn't have you went without.

KH What about materials. Did you have ... Like at the Taylors at Coolamine there used to be a Sikh who came around with cloth, a cloth merchant. Did you have an Indian cloth merchant?

HG To go back to before we left Numbla, or Dalgety, there used to be an Indian hawker come round, leading two packhorses. And they of course, more or less, had a jumble of everything. there'd be cloth in it. Also, a Syrian hawker from Crookwell used to do the rounds. There were other Syrian hawkers. They were based at Bombala. They used to come round in that area a good bit.

KH Syrian? You mean from Syria?

HG I think he was Peter Melon, a Syrian, I think. Yes, you know, he was Syrian by birth.

KH Oh I see. That's Turkey, is it?

HG Oh, I don't know myself.

KH Somewhere in that Middle East area.

HG They were Syrians. Of course a lot of those Syrians, we used to think, they're Lebanese now, aren't they?

KH I suppose so. Afghans, Lebanese, Arabs, Turks, Iranians.

Would your wife have done the baking on a special day of the week?

HG No, it would be whenever we run short, there'd be a survey taken. The yeast would be compressed yeast, the likes of the stores  
mum and

Rose they used to always generally make the yeast and put it in a bottle and ferment it that way. As a matter of fact I used to be able to get everything ready for the setting of the bread, and all that. I never done the actual cooking. I could prepare the stuff for the yeast. It used to be put in a bottle and a cork tied in. Sometimes, for some reason or other, the cork would



fly out of the bottle, and someone would race to get the cork and someone would race to put their hand over the top of the bottle, to stop losing the yeast. You had to be on the alert.

KH I suppose you would have continued to trap rabbits, and had rabbits some of the times.

HG Oh yes, that went on. There were a fair few rabbits in this country when we came here. In the Depression days rabbit was the main diet, I mean.

KH Were there fish? Did you go fishing at all?

HG Yes, on odd occasions, we'd ride out into the bush fishing, probably catch 13 or 14.

KH Yes? Trout? It would be introduced trout by then? or was it native fish?

HG As far as I know they were introduced, or ... they were in it when I first come here, trout, in <sup>1931</sup>, 26. But my Dad and eldest brother, they packed trout from here, out, they put them in the *Ingee goulbyce* River.

KH Once they were in the Snowy they'd travel ...

HG No, no, you never get any trout in the Snowy. There used to be perch come in there, they say, but the trout won't.

KH Is it too warm for them?

HG Too hot for them.

KH What about blackberries? Did you have berries by then?

HG No, no blackberries around here. Even now.

KH Oh, that's good.

HG No, the closest would be over in Groggin, I suppose.

KH Oh, there's a lot down there. Would you have gone into town at all to eat out? Would you go into Jindabyne and eat at the pub? in 1937, 38?

HG Oh, if you happened to be down there you might have a feed, but generally speaking you wouldn't bother. You'd go down after lunch. Stores used to be open after lunch on Saturday, or Sunday for that matter. I often went down and got my groceries and that on Sundays, in Jindabyne, back in those *Polly McGreyer* days.

KH You mentioned getting the letters on a Sunday. That surprised me.

HG Mail would run on Sunday. He used to come by horseback or horse and sulky, but it would depend on the load or whatever he had.

KH Did you have anything special for birthdays? Cake?

HG Oh, perhaps a cake, maybe, but it would be more for necessity than otherwise, you know, ... for the kiddies.

KH Candles?

HG Yes, cake and all that.

KH What about Melbourne Cup Day? Was that a big thing? Would you be glued to the radio to listen to the Melbourne Cup?

HG No, not really.

KH What about Christmas? Anything special?

HG Oh, it was always special for Christmas. There'd be ham and what have you, jellies, blancmange.

KH Presents on Christmas Day?

HG No, oh yes and no. It was more often no than ... We were not very sentimental.

KH Did you go to church at Christmas?

HG No. In those days it wouldn't be local anyway. There'd be no Mass at Moonba<sup>h</sup> or anywhere like that. It used to be in the Cooma Parish then, and the only priest available would be there.

KH What about Easter time. Did you go to Church on Good Friday?

HG No.

KH You wouldn't travel away to go to Church?

HG No, I never travelled.

KH What about a travelling priest coming around?

HG There was some priests that used to visit on motorbikes, a couple of them on motorbikes different times. That would be in the 1930s. But it fizzled out. Jindabyne was made into a parish for a while, and it was embodied back into Berridale and then back into Cooma again, it was sort of bandied around a bit.

KH Was your wedding a big celebration?

HG No, there was only just the wife's people and a couple of mine.

KH That was in Goulburn, was it?

HG Yes, in the Depression. The Depression couldn't have been much worse. They talk about the 1929s and 30s and that, but as far as the Depression went there was still no money about in 35 and 36.

KH So it was a pretty simple thing, your wedding?

HG Very simple.

KH Spartan?

HG Yes. It was an afternoon, at 6 o'clock.

KH Did you have a reception or go out for dinner afterwards?

HG Oh, there was a bit of a reception at the wife's home, a handful of people there, very low key

KH Did your brothers and sisters come to that?

HG No. My brother that's dead, he was my best man, that was all.

KH Your parents were there?

HG No.

KH Just your wife's parents? and your brother and who else?

HG Neighbours, some of the wife's neighbours.

KH From up there? Not from here?

HG No.

KH Oh, so that was very small.

HG Yes, that was the way we wanted it and that was the way it was.

KH What about Anzac Day? Was there anything by then?

HG No, not by then. Later on there was one priest at Jindabyne.

I think may have been instrumental in a Mass being offered on Anzac Day. Apart from that there's never been any. There might have been one or two marches before the cemetery, back in the early days, round to the cemetery from the town. But nothing in the 38s period.

KH Was there a picture theatre or anything like that in Jindabyne?

HG Picture theatre come there periodically, but I never ever attended ~~them~~<sup>am</sup>.

KH Or sporting events. Would there be a show? there'd be a Jindabyne show wouldn't there, or Cooma show?

HG The Cooma Show, yes.

KH Would you go to the Cooma Show?

HG Oh yes, I've been to the Cooma show at times, but not every time.

KH Would you have taken your wife further afield, on holiday or anything like that? in 37, 38?

HG No.

KH Couldn't afford it, I suppose. Like to Sydney?

HG Couldn't afford it. We had to, in the 30s, no we couldn't afford it. We had to take our second eldest boy to the doctor's in Sydney, but that was all.

KH What about at home. Did you have card nights and things like that?

HG No, not in that period.

KH Or a dinner party? Would you invite the rest of your family over for Sunday dinner?

HG No.

KH But you might go over for Sunday dinner to the family home, to your parents' place?

HG Oh, it's possible, yes. We may have done. No, we never went in for that at all.

KH Did you have any drink? Any alcohol or things like that?

HG There was never any alcohol in my house, until the family was grown up, or knew what was ... There's none now. I couldn't offer you a beer now!

KH It's a wonder, with two sons around.

HG Oh, sometimes there's some, it all depends, even so, it'll remain in the case for days and days and no-one will touch it. Very lucky in that respect.

KH Did you get any newspapers or magazines? in the 30s, 38?

HG No. If there was any, probably if we went out, the wife might buy it, a magazine or something like that. The paper would generally come on the mail, as I say, and I'd read them, perhaps when Dad was done with them, perhaps I wouldn't. Never kept track with much of what was happening outside, really, we seemed to be too preoccupied with trying to make a go of it.

KH Well I suppose if you had just built your house, and you had two young children and you'd just recently married, you had your hands full.

HG Yes, that's quite right.

KH You married fairly late, didn't you, because that was '34, you would have been what, 29? Oh yes, 27. Was your wife younger than you?

HG About three years, four years. She was born in 1911.

KH Would there be a library in Jindabyne where you could borrow books?

HG No.

KH What about her? Did she have any, did she go out with the children or go to any social things in Jindabyne?

HG No.

KH Well, this is easy, isn't it?

HG Oh yes, I suppose, looking back, going over it, I suppose. I wonder how much could we have *altered it*, I wonder would we have *altered it*.

KH Would you have had any things you went to as a man, that your wife didn't go to?

HG No. It would be about that period, we used to pack our lunch, mostly, of a Sunday morning, and go to Moonba<sup>h</sup> or just beyond the Moonba<sup>h</sup> church and play tennis. There was a tennis club.

KH You'd all go to that, I suppose.

HG Yes, the wife and two kiddies. We'd have the day out, play tennis and go back home.

KH Would that be a Sunday?

HG Yes, it was always on Sunday.

KH And your wife didn't go to certain things that you didn't go to?

HG Oh no, there was really no means of going. In those days the men generally drove the car.

KH You had a car by then, did you? in '38?

HG Yes, a Chev 6, tourer, they were most(ly) tourers in those days.

KH So that's interesting. I mean, you were still sort of getting the house together. You started building the house in '35, '36. You got married in '34, yet you could afford a car.

HG Well, for some reason or other, I went into Cooma, and this one was there for 120 pound. It belonged to the local member. He'd traded it in or something, and anyway I paid them 80 *pounds* and I paid them the rest when I got the wool cheque. That was the hire purchase agreement.

KH 80 pounds.

HG I put in 80 pounds. I paid them the extra 40 when ... It was 120 pound for the car. They wanted 120 pound for it. But they took 80 down and the rest in three months.

KH Was that a new car?

HG No, second hand. It belonged to the local member. I had it right up until 1950.

KH There would have been a lot of local people who didn't have a car, wouldn't there?

HG Oh yes, there would be. There were quite a few that wouldn't have. As I say, it was a sort of transition from the horse to the motor car.

KH Your children would have been very little. Did you in your household use corporal punishment at all? For your children did you ever get out a strap or something?

HG Yes, they had their backsides tanned if the occasion arose. It was the accepted thing as far as I was concerned. I know it worked on me.

KH You reckoned it would work on them too, eh?

HG Yes, I don't think they're any the worse for it.

KH And I suppose you would have taught your children to respect adults?

HG We certainly did. I suppose a person may have still stuck to the old adage a bit, be seen and not heard, up to a certain age. I still don't think it hurt them.

KH What about their behaviour in more public places?

HG Faultless. Never had any cause for ...

KH What were the things you prized most about their behaviour and their values? What sort of things did you try and instil in them?

HG Oh, I don't know, I think, ... it was ample,

KH I suppose honesty would be pretty strong?

HG Honesty, and do the right thing.

KH Unselfish, too?

HG Yes,

KH Compassionate?

HG Oh, I don't think even amongst themselves, I think they were a pretty close-knit little family, and there were never any hassles, I don't think. You must realise, in the work that a man had, you were away so much in the day, you'd see so little of the ... To a certain extent it's the mother that, sort of, does the biggest job. No, I couldn't or wouldn't, couldn't fault them in any way, not as children or as adults.

KH Were there any crises? any serious events in the late 30s? with your children, like injury or anything? or illness?

HG Our second girl died in March of '38.

KH Oh, right. What did she die from?

HG Oh, contracted pneumonia. We took her to Cooma and they said she had bronchitis and was getting on alright, getting treatment and getting on alright, and next thing was they said she had pneumonia, and of course, *she didn't have a chance.* She died on the elder girl's birthday.

HG Oh really. That would have been a big trauma. That would have been a major blow, wouldn't it.

HG It certainly is something you never forget.

KH Was she the only one who died?

HG Yes.

KH She was the second one. So she was only two, or something.

HG She died in March. Her birthday was in December, 18th I think it was, December. She died on the 3rd March. She was 12 months old on 18th December. She was 15 months.

KH 15 months. Yes. She was born the year before.

KH: Was it common then for children to die of pneumonia?

HG Oh no, I don't suppose it was common, but it looked as though there was carelessness somewhere along the line. I don't know. You don't know. You can only wonder.

KH Yes, that's true. Best to put it out of mind, I suppose. And how often would you have seen your parents? I suppose at least once a week, they lived not far away.

HG Oh, more than once a week. I'd see them every afternoon probably. It would all depend on what I was doing.

KH What about your wife's parents? Did you go to Goulburn and visit very often?

HG Oh, not very often. There again it was ... No we didn't go very often.

KH Would you have called on your mother in times of need, like when that little girl was sick? Would she have come in and helped?

HG Oh well, there was nothing she could do.

KH Did the two sets of parents get together at all, your parents and your wife's parents?

HG No, as far as I know they never met. They knew each other years ago, like years and years before. Both my wife's mother and father, you see, were descendents of local pioneers. And my parents knew them, knew the wife's father, knew him well, but I don't know whether they ever met the mother or not. I'm not sure on that.

KH What about affection? Did you do much cuddling with your children?

HG Oh no, I don't think so, I suppose not as much as I probably should have done.

KH Would you kiss them goodbye and things like that?

HG Oh yes, if I was leaving, not if I was just going for a day's work, but if I happened to be going away elsewhere.

KH What about towards your wife? Would you have expressed your affection very openly, or would it be a very private sort of thing?

HG No, I never believed in, <sup>always</sup> try to do things low key, I suppose. I never showed emotion or anything like that if I could possibly help it.

KH You didn't? You were quite reserved about it.

HG I think, in those sort of things, that people, if they're genuine, <sup>then</sup> know that down deep what the position is.

END OF SIDE THREE

KH Are you running out of steam?

HG Oh no, probably I'm not making much sense.

KH No, you're doing alright. I'll just keep going, I guess. What about in your relationships with girls, can you remember when you discovered that boys were different from girls?

HG Oh, no, I couldn't.

KH Like some people remember at the age of three, something significant happened, other people not til much later. Especially in the bush, if you went down to the local waterhole, you'd soon discover that some of them didn't have penises, for instance.

HG Oh no, I don't know when that would be. If so, it would sort of, I suppose it left me cold. I never questioned it.

KH For some people it would be a pretty big event in their childhood, to discover that they were different from someone else. And they would remember about it. What about reproduction and things, where babies come from. Were these sort of things discussed by your parents? How would you learn about that?

HG Well, I don't really know.

KH Babies came from underneath cabbage leaves for a long time.

HG Oh no, it was never, I just can't recall when I made such a discovery.

KH What about birth control, did you come face to face with that?

HG No, not really. There again, it never worried me, or worried us.

KH You would have had forms of contraception? or not? No of course, being Catholic. That would have had something to do with it, or the times?

HG Yes, and no, it had something to do with it, but again it never worried me. But you couldn't bring that down to '38.

KH No. But what they're after is sort of general questions, in terms of birth control, having babies, miscarriages and various other things, how different it was in '38 compared with now, for instance. You know, what it was like 50 years ago.

HG Yes, oh well, there's a big difference now, isn't there, in the outlook, or I suppose you'd call it the outlook, those things, in my day they wasn't talked about, and now it's a general topic in a lot of places, sex. It was never discussed in my day.

KH Not openly.

HG Not openly, no.

KH But see, today, a person might be Catholic, but they might still be using the Pill, for instance, or they might be using some other form of contraception. Do you remember anyone having a miscarriage?

HG No. Unless they were really closely connected, you wouldn't either.

KH People would be pretty quiet about it.

HG Yes, that's what I think.

KH What about abortions? Did anyone ever go away, go to Sydney or something?

HG No, not that I know of.

KH What about ... would you have come across the idea of homosexuality then?

HG No, I wouldn't.

KH When would that first have crossed your path?

HG Oh, I don't know, talking about queens was about the, you know, I don't know what age I'd be when I really knew what they were talking about.

KH It would have been the 1950s, I suppose. Or sooner?

HG Oh, it could have been sooner than that. I don't know. You know, you'd just hear it generally, it wouldn't be a topic of conversation, I don't think. I never ever went in much for you know yarn telling or, I suppose, probing into those sort of things. Now it seems to be vaunted at every turn.

KH Lesbianism would have been even more strange, I suppose.

HG More outlandish as far as ... How can they get a kick out of it? What's it all about? Even ? What's it all about?

KH Well, we'll change the topic, go on to class and politics.

HG It might be more bewildering to me.

KH Right. We talked about your car. You would have had a licence.

HG I drove for many a year without one. (much laughter)

KH Your wife wouldn't have had a licence, I suppose.

HG No, she ,

KH You would have done all the driving. And in terms of class, would you have thought that there were two classes in Australia at the time? or more than two classes, like the aristocracy and the workers, or the landed gentry and the workers?

HG I think that it's still ... Yes, I think there are two classes, it's something that's still alive, I think, and I think will be for many a day.

KH What sort of people belong to each class?

HG Oh, well, I suppose, I was reading a bit a while ago about Vaucluse land values, the people that live there and all that.

I suppose one would be that class, and then those that live in Redfern or Newtown. That's the way I see it. I think that class distinction has always been. It might be to a lesser extent today than previously.

KH What class did you belong to, do you think, in 1938?

HG Oh, to the working class.

KH Did you belong to a political party then?

HG No, I never ever did. I never subscribed to a political party.

KH Did you go to any political functions or anything like that?

HG No. I might have went on one occasion to hear one aspiring, I think he was an agent, talking on behalf of someone else. I think me and Dad and a couple of dogs turned up to it.

KH Do you remember who you voted for in 1938?

HG No, I suppose I'd vote Liberal though or UAP or whatever ...

KH Country Party type.

HG Yes, Country Party.

KH Do you remember why you voted for that?

HG No, I think just tradition. I think one was as bad<sup>as</sup> the other. Even today, there's so much underhand, or so much appears to me, by what little bit I read or understand, they're only in it for their own good. Whether they can do anything else about it or not, I don't know. It may be controlled from outside too.

KH Would you have talked about Federal politics very much? At home? did your father?

HG No. Oh no, Dad was, you know, he believed what he read, and that was, he never said a thing,

KH What about the Prime Minister of the time, Joe Lyons? Do you remember whether you liked him or disliked him?

HG Oh, I suppose ... I can't remember much about him, other than he had eleven in the family, .

KH Do you think he was doing the right thing for Australia at the time?

HG To be quite candid I don't know what his policy was. But he was a bit of a renegade, wasn't he? Wasn't it him and the Guy Fenton or someone, didn't they rout on one party, and he finally .... ?

KH I don't know. I don't know my politics of that era.

HG No, I don't remember.

KH Well Menzies was on the scene too, at the time, and McEwen too.

Menzies was up and coming.

HG Yes, but I think that it was still, they were out for their own advancement. I don't believe that any of them are, or they can't do anything for the ...

KH You don't think they can?

HG No, I don't think they can. For we hear, election after election about Australia's big promise, what a great place to be in, oh we hear it time and time again. Why haven't they made it the Garden of Eden it's supposed to be? They've had 50 odd years or 80 years to do it in, haven't they?

KH That's a nice sense of perspective. I thought that was fairly recent, all that. No, they talk about, now, bringing Australia back to the greatness it had. Apparently it used to be very united, perfect, and they want to recreate it.

HG Oh, it may have been with the earlier ones, too, but ...

KH Not in your time?

HG No, I don't think so. We hear too much of the same from both sides.

KH What about at the local level, were you very involved with local government?

HG Oh, I tended to be, as a matter of fact I submitted myself for one council election, but it was when postal voting was in, and I was fortunate, I didn't get elected.

KH But you went that far? You were prepared to stand.

HG Yes, but, I think I would have won, only that someone I thought was on my side, they got someone else to stand to split the vote. But I *got* quite a few for postal voting.

KH But that's more recently?

HG Oh yes, that's, I think that was in 1940.

KH Oh, as early as that. You would have been 33.

KH What about health care? Do you remember the first time you went to a doctor? Would you have gone to a doctor before '38? In Jindabyne? or been seen by a doctor?

HG No, In Cooma, I think I went to a doctor. I had a bad back I spoke of, but then it would be in the 30s probably. I went to see about it. He put plaster on my back, a strap, damn use of something or other, the shape of my back, and all that, put it on, anyway, it wrinkled up, and pulled it here one way and another, I soon got rid of it. But apart from that there was never any occasion to see a doctor. I think any doctor that anyone, I think it would be the wife and kiddies, up until ...

KH Did the doctor make housecalls?

HG Oh no, not in those days.

KH So your daughter who was ill, You had to take her into Jindabyne.

HG To Cooma.

KH So for any major things you had to go <sup>in</sup> to Cooma.

HG There was only a bush nurse in Jindabyne. There was no doctor there in those days.

KH Did the doctor in Cooma make housecalls?

HG Not into the country. I suppose they would in Jindabyne. I suppose if you got them, and rang them, I suppose they would have done, but there was never anything like that, as far as I know. Not in my case, anyway.

KH Did you have a local chemist or anything like that in Jindabyne?

HG No.

KH What about home remedies? Did you have any concoctions of your own?

HG I don't think so.

KH Do you remember any things, any special things, that worked wonders, cure-all or...?

HG Hot rum for colds, to stop a cold from coming on, if you were strong enough to take the rum.

KH What about Zam <sup>b</sup>ac and some of those sort/of tin ...?

HG Oh, we used to buy it. People would buy it and use it, but I think that a lot of those sores and things that people used to have in those days were more from diet, bad meat, I think.

KH Bad meat? What, old meat?

HG Meat that was spoilt, you know, that's what I think. A lot of those complaints were ... You don't see them now. Generally speaking, if you bump your hand and knock some skin off, it would go bad.

KH Then? Like tropic ulcers?

HG Yes, in those days, things would go bad. But they don't now.

KH No, not so much, no.

HG And as for those ointments that you mentioned, De Witt pills, and darn backache pills, or what have you, they did the chemist the best, to his pocket, I think.

KH So what did you think of Charlie Carter's remedies then?

HG They were, I should imagine, pretty severe.

KH A poultice of bluestone and other things. No, some other people have mentioned various things that they used in the 30s. Herbs, or things that they could pick. You know, sort of bush remedies, people would discover that a particular plant, if you inhaled it or something, it would do something for you.

HG No, I never struck any ..., never tried anything like that.

KH Did you have castor oil in your house?

HG Yes, there used to be castor oil, that was another thing now that I don't think you'd find it in too many homes. As far as it went I could take it and lick the spoon, but it wasn't the answer, I don't think.

KH Any other things like that that you had?

HG Epsom salts, have you ever tried that?

KH No, I haven't.

HG Oh, they're the bitterest. I suppose it did the same thing as the castor oil, but by God they're ~~wide~~ things to take!

KH People take them for a hangover, don't they?

HG I don't know.

KH What did you take them for?

HG Oh, constipation.

KH Oh, I see. But castor oil was supposed to look after that.

HG Oh yes, it was supposed to, but epsom salts was in it too.

KH Why were people so constipated? Why was there this big thing about constipation?

HG You know, because it didn't only refer to '38, I suppose, a lot reckoned you had to purge yourself, at least once a month, once a week.

KH What, clean the whole system out?

HG Yes, that's what they used to reckon. Yes, the family mum used to line the kids up, and take it, but not in our family.

KH You didn't. You didn't line up the kids and say "come on!"

HG No, if they did have any it would be a very odd happening.

KH Yes, castor oil, eh. They must have sold a lot of tons of castor oil.

HG Yes, they must have, yes.

KH Did people have the flu very much in the 30s? What were the most common diseases and things that people got? Colds?

HG Oh, I think it would be only cold. I don't know of any other.

KH Do you remember people suffering from headaches or migraine? or things like that?

HG No, I don't.

KH And when your child got sick, what was the treatment you gave her? It would have started as a cold, wouldn't it?

HG Yes. Oh, I suppose she'd be just fed whatever she'd take, I suppose. I couldn't go back over it now. I don't really remember, you know.

KH Do you remember any special medicines?

HG No. I don't know whether there was any special medicine got. She just got bad and we took her straight in. Then she was in the hospital a week.

KH I suppose with your parents, you would have had the attitude that people, when they get older, you look after them, you keep them as members of the family. Your parents lived with Bob?

HG Yes, they lived with Bob.

KH So Bob and Rose looked after them until they died, virtually, I suppose.

HG Yes. They both died in Cooma Hospital.

KH So they lived up here, where Bob and Rose are now.

HG Yes. Oh yes, yes and no, It all depends on the old people, whether you can keep them, or whether you don't. My eldest uncle died, Mum's eldest brother, he died there too, and Mum looked after him right up until his death. He died of a heart ailment.

KH Your mother's uncle?

HG No, my mother's brother.

KH Your mother's brother. So quite a few people have lived up there. Quite a few members of your family have been attached to the place one way or another. And would your parents have attended the death of your child? or was it just you and your wife that went to the funeral?

KH No, there was a ... I don't remember now, there was more than ... oh the family, most of the family were there. She was buried in Cooma.

KH Was she cremated or buried?

HG Oh no, she was buried, in Cooma.

KH And there would have been a priest? a ceremony and so on?

HG Oh yes.

KH So you didn't go to church regularly. In fact, a lot of the time you weren't able to get to a church, even once a year.

HG Oh no, that would ... I suppose there used to be Mass down at Moonba<sup>h</sup> once a month, but somehow you wouldn't make it every time.

KH But you might go every second time or something.

HG Oh yes, it would all depend whether you got there two

consecutive months or not.

KH Did your children attend Sunday School?

HG Oh no, there was nothing like that, not in my time even.

For my confirmation, I used to get the Catechism and you'd have to learn to teach yourself. Mum was responsible, or she took us to see that I was ... I had to learn the Catechism when the Bishop was coming to Dalgety, so I used to get the Catechism and I'd learn it. You see you'd have to learn the question as well as the answer, to make any headway with it. I used to carry one of the younger girls about, *Bob or Rose* and repeat it, parrot like, to myself. Tim and Terry, the two elder boys of the family, they - oh and Matthew too, the youngest boy, - they had no education other than the correspondence, and the same with religion, religious instruction.

KH Were there any special things about weekly life, like on a Sunday, for instance, would you still do the same things on a Sunday, even though it was the Sabbath?

HG No, generally speaking there was no ... unless it was shearing or something like that, the sheep had to be attended to, or ... there'd be nothing.

KH It would be quiet. Did you get to know the local priest? or did he call on your household or anything like that?

HG One or two of them did, but no, we never got really to know them. I don't know whether they were too busy, or whatever, or whether, why I didn't give them a chance, or ... It's only of late years you tend to get to know them more. But then, transport was ... you could blame a lot of things on transport, in those days.

KH Would the same priest who was in this area, did he officiate in Cooma at the burial of your daughter or was that someone else?

HG Oh, they'd only be stationed in Cooma at the time. There was no parish in Jindabyne.

KH Do you think that religion affected the way you chose friends?

HG I don't think it made any difference.

KH You wouldn't seek to find out what someone's religion was in order to size them up?

HG No, I wouldn't do that, and I've never ever been cold-shouldered or anything, I don't think, because I've been a Catholic. It never made any difference to my general relations with the people I met.

KH Was there much of a Catholic/Protestant conflict at that time?

HG Oh, I wouldn't say at that time. If it's varied over the years, it's been for the better, I would think, tolerance between

the non-Catholics and Catholics.

KH It's got better?

HG Yes, it's got better, probably. I suppose there'll always be the hard and fast bigots on both sides, but I think ?  
a lot better.

KH Would you have come into contact with people of other backgrounds at all at the time? like, well you mentioned some Syrians, but would you have come into contact with Jewish people or Greeks, or Germans, or other nationalities, in the 30s?

HG No, not really. Well, it would be that way that it wouldn't interest me what ... you know, you take them at face value.

KH But if someone had yellow skin, or dark skin, or curly hair or straight hair, or ?

HG I'd just still take them at face value.

KH You didn't sort of have a feeling that certain nationalities you couldn't trust or that sort of thing?

HG Oh, no. As well as this Syrian hawker and that that would come round, there was three Chinamen that used to come round, travel round, horse and cart and that, and they were ..., you know, we used to deal with them, in whatever way we wanted to. They were never on the outer, as far as we kids were concerned.

When we were kids, we, as I say, would sell them rabbit skins, and the likes, when were going to school. I go back, I suppose, to that era, they were established and taken for granted.

KH Did you think very much about the White Australia policy? and the whole idea of keeping certain nationalities out of Australia? Was there much discussion on that?

HG No, never any discussion, really, never had occasion to crop up. There was never anyone preached on it.

KH You didn't take a position, either way?

HG No. Wouldn't be well informed enough anyway, in those days.

KH Do you remember any serious celebrations in 1938 about Australia, European colonisation being 150 years old? We're going to have a Bicentenary in 1988, do you remember any <sup>thing</sup> special that happened in 1938?

HG No, I don't. No, nothing happened to mind at all.

KH In terms of the cities round Australia, which did you consider was the most important?

HG There again, never any question arose. I suppose I'd been to Sydney a couple of times. I suppose it was the only one as far as I was concerned. I might have looked on it at the time



it would be the only one I had a chance to visit, I suppose.

KH Did you ever go to Melbourne?

HG Not in ... it was late in 40s I was first in Melbourne.

KH So NSW would have also perhaps featured as the most important state. I mean, in terms of Australian states, would you have considered that Queensland or Victoria were more important for Australia than NSW?

HG No, I wouldn't give it no consideration at all. It would be something for others to worry about, I suppose, the politicians would have to worry about it. I never, as an individual, I never ... It wouldn't have entered my head.

KH And in terms of going overseas, I suppose none of your family would have been overseas at that time.

HG No.

KH And the first one was your brother, who went off to the War.

HG He would be the first. He went from Queensland to New Guinea direct. The only one to be out of part of Australia.

KH Did you think Australia was a lucky country in the 1930s?

HG No, I just took it for granted, you know, you're just there because you're there, I think.

KH Do you think it was freer then? Do you think there were more opportunities then than there are now?

HG Oh, I was younger, so I suppose the way I worked and that, I assume I thought the opportunity was there.

KH Do you think it was more restrictive in other ways?

HG No, I don't think so.

KH You would have thought it was freer.

HG Yes, I'd say it was freer then than what it is today.

I think that it would have been a lot easier, I suppose, if a person went the right way about it, of getting a better start in those days than what it would be today. The money had more value for a start. I think the outlook might have been better in those days, than what it is for a young fellow today.

KH At the time, what were your thoughts ... this might be a bit difficult to answer, what was the typical Australian female in your eyes?

HG Oh, I don't ... there again, I suppose there was nice girls, I was in a lucky position though, I could go and I could have a good time with not only a girl, but with girls. I think that I was able to earn the respect that they considered was due to them. Generally speaking.

KH What were the most attractive aspects of Australian females? What they're trying to get at is the sort of characteristics that were the outstanding characteristics, and also perhaps the more negative characteristics. I mean, were they all to your liking? Did they all have attributes that you were proud of?

HG Well yes, I think so. I think that, generally speaking, they were all nice girls that I knew. In those days, in the days of jazz and one thing and another, a bit earlier, I suppose, you could go and have a good time. The girls were probably in a group and would favour none. There again, it was something I took for granted. Transport again, the changeover from the horse to motor affected those things a lot. It probably curtailed your going out. Unless you went through it, you don't really realise it.

KH Did you think America was the most powerful country in the world? or did you think England was the most powerful? or Japan?

HG At that time, I would never give it thought, I don't think. There was a slogan on 'Buy British and be proud of it', about that time I think it was. But no, I didn't give it much thought.

KH Do you think there was a good relationship between England and Australia at the time? I mean, that slogan tends to suggest that England was afraid that Australia was buying from elsewhere, or was making its own.

HG Well, I suppose those slogans, they get them going, they've got some meaning, but it probably wouldn't occur to me, although it must have made an impression on me to remember it. On the broader sense, I don't think that I would have given it any thought, which of them.

KH Did you think Australia had any fear of threats from other nations or other people?

HG Well, from a little boy out, I can remember going to sleep in front of the fire once, as a little boy, and someone walked on my hand, sitting around the fire, and I woke up with a hell of a yell, and Dad said 'There's the bloody Russians have got you!', so I suppose there's been the threat of the Russians for ... It must have been in those days for Dad to ...

KH Did you feel that threat from the Russians?

HG No, it never sort of registered, any threat at all.

KH Would you have been very aware of the political situation in Europe? You know, the War was just around the corner, the

conflict, the rise of Nazi-ism, Hitler and so on. Do you remember that featuring at all on your horizon?

HG Oh, yes, I can remember wondering what it would be. The day that England declared war I can remember the day. I was shearing down at Moonbah, with my brother-in-law. But before that, the Mongolian War, it was in the picture before the other. For a person to be aware that there was, that it was on the cards that Germany was sort of taking Sudetenland. But that's what I was doing when the word came through there was war., in '39.

KH Did you take much interest in the Royal Family?

HG Oh, no, not really. I can remember the abdication in '36. I was on the way to Bairnsdale with a mob of cattle at the time. We were camped at a place called Canai Creek, and word came through that he'd thrown the crown away.

KH Oh, that stands out then.

HG Yes. Oh the romance, it was sort of headlines for quite a while.

KH And the last question, what sort of future did you think Australia had in the 1930s? You mentioned before that you were a young bloke then, and you were much more sort of outgoing, I suppose, and less cautious. Did you think Australia had a good future?

HG Oh yes, I thought that the future seemed bright. Well, I thought that, you know, a person had enough assets that in the time to come, he'd be, you know, he wouldn't have to work so hard, and that everything would go along. I think that that's what I felt, and must have felt that to undertake the job that was ahead of me, that was fencing virgin country and make something out of it. Unfortunately that didn't eventuate, not to the extent that I'd dreamed.

KH I think we might leave it at that.

HG That'll be OK with me.

END OF SIDE FOUR