

Golby Family - Bob, Hubert, Rose and Snowy, 1982.
 Transcribed by Doris
 Anderson
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This is an interview on 16th February, 1982, at Bob Golby's place, on the way to Ingebyra, and gathered around me are most of the Golbys, or at least four of them, who, I hope, will tell me a little bit about the Cascades, the Tin Mines, perhaps Charlie Carter, the Ingegoodbee and other places between the lower Snowy and, I guess, the Crackenback.

KH So I'll leave that whizzing on for a while. When I start these interviews, it's a little bit hard to get going sometimes. I thought we might start with the Golby family. You've just started telling me a little bit about this house. What was the beginning of the Golbys in this part of the world? Do they go back as far as the Pendergasts?

BG Oh no. But earlier than 1900. I'm not sure. Our Grandfather Golby came to this area, and he selected land here.

HG First of all he bought it, Bob, didn't he? from Don Thompson.

BG He probably bought it off Donald Thompson first, and then he selected land, another block alongside the Donald Thompson block.

KH This would have all been heavily wooded then, wouldn't it?

BG No, not to the extent that it is today.

SG More open country than there is today.

KH Really! So these hills, it's regeneration, is it?

SG Yes. The odd scattered big trees. I can go back where it was plenty open forest. Now you can't ride through it.

KH So that clearing would go back to the 1840s or 1850s?

SG About 1840 old Golby came here, didn't he? But he was here a while before he took land though.

BG Yes. As far as we know, we haven't any facts on his early arrival, except that, as far as we know, he came from Victoria, and he arrived at Ingebyra was the earliest settlement in this ... other than Moonbah. And he arrived at Ingebyra and they said that he had a poor kangaroo dog and a leg of kangaroo, he was carrying a leg off a kangaroo. That was all he had.

KH That was as a young bloke.

SG He walked through from Ballarat or Bendigo, or somewhere on the goldfields.

BG The goldfields. And then there was another story that he was on the goldfields, and he was involved in some of the trouble

with the Chinese. As a result he hit a Chinaman over the head with a pickhandle, and he cleared out before he killed him. Whether that was from ..., but he did come through from Victoria into this area. And he was a bit of a mystery man, nothing known about him. He must have been a very quiet sort of man. I suppose if he thought he'd killed a Chinaman ...

SG He went over to the name of White when he came here. He changed his name to White, and then he didn't go back to his proper name until he took land up.

KH Oh. then he went back to Golby.

SG He was born in Banbury, in England.

KH This is your father?

BG Grandfather. Our father was born in 76.

KH Right. Because most of the goldrushes were in the 1860s.

BG Our grandfather died in 1888, I think, when he was aged 67, wasn't he?

HG I think it was 1890 something when he died.

BG 98, was it?

HG No, it was earlier than that.

BG Yes, it was a bit earlier than 98.

KH Is he buried around here somewhere?

BG He's buried at Beloka, near Dalgety.

HG It's got the date of his death and the place where he was born. You don't usually see it on headstones. His family took that trouble to identify him. or a little bit of history.

KH He was the first person here, in this area. So he would have lived in a bit of a humpy or something.

BG Oh, well actually, I think he, for a start, he and another fellow, whether they came here together or about the same time, they were known Filtness, there are still Filtness people in the district, he and old Filtness, they practically came here together and they knocked about together for a while. And the first land that Grandfather Golby took up was in the Dalgety area. That was, as near as we can find now, it was open land, but squatted land. And he took up land there, and apparently he was pretty smart. He done alright. When he died, he had a fair bit of land and property, for a completely illiterate man. He only ever signed his name with a cross, but he was pretty shrewd when it came to putting a bit together.

KH So this homestead here now would have been predated by something else.

BG No. This actual piece of land here then was taken up by my father about the turn of the century, and he built this. He was an original. The land that the grandfather had was further over, and this was an adjoining block to that land.

KH It looks like it's a lot wetter, the country here, than the Jindabyne country.

BG Oh it is.

KH Suddenly it became very green when I came over these hills.

BG Yes. We're round about the 4,000 feet level, another thousand feet higher than Jindabyne.

KH And did your father start to use mountain pastures at all?

BG Well they did, in those times, and at times, another four or five miles further out into the hills. They used to have sheep out there. They were shepherded, and certain times of the year they had sheep.

KH Would that be up Wombat Gully, Drift Hill way?

BG No, this is back towards the Jacobs, Thatchers Hole, more south.

KH There's country there that's fairly clear, is there?

BG Was then. Today you can't ... It's scrubbed up completely. This is hard to believe, but we have seen it, even in my 40 or 50 years here, I remember how much more open the country was, the bush country. Today you can't ride into it, and at those times you could see round the sides. You could go over here by the big trees, for instance, and off the flat, you could look up virtually anywhere up the side of the hill, in those times.

KH Would that be partly due to more fires?

BG Oh yes, more fires.

SG It hasn't been burnt much, has it.

BG No, but there was a couple of fires round about in the early 30s, and the big fire in 39. Since then the scrub just came up.

SG I'd say the rabbits brought it a lot. They came here and they eat the country out and they eat the bark of the trees, and caused the regrowth. Because they were in plague proportions, in about 1914.

KH Oh yes, around the First World War. I guess they would have been into parts of the National Park.

SG into the low country down there. Timber grew up after the rabbits came through.

BG Father talked about that low country, it's something very hard to understand why people came into that low country down the Snowy River. But he took it and he used to say it was good country when he first knew it, and a drought or two and the rabbits, he always blamed the rabbits into that country. They eroded it and that was it. He said until the rabbits came into it it was good ^{grazing} country. It's hard to believe, but ...

SG Barry's got a lot of country run here between the rivers, didn't they, and that, it was country that shouldn't have been touched with an axe.

KH Too steep?

SG Yes, and too ... it's a light soil, I suppose, ..

SG Rabbits were on it, though, and they killed all the grass, and then the soil washed away. Green timber won't hold the soil down there. The road was undermined with green timber even if there was a clear patch.

HG It couldn't have been heavily timbered when they run it.

SG It didn't want ringing, did it. ... box trees on it.

The pine only came during the last 60, 70 years.

KH Do you reckon?

SG There was no pine when Dad was first in it.

KH Really! that cypress pine? Do you reckon it's partly due to clearing?

SG Oh, just as natural to the country, I suppose.

HG They call it Murray pine, don't they. ?

? big tree there. Out west. Cocaparra they call it.

KH What have you got here?

BG Well that's the copy of the first... the death certificate.

He was about 26 when he came out here, in about 56.

That's the grandfather. See, he was about 26 when he came out here, ...

RG Or when he came to NSW.

BG oh, wait on, what does that say? 41 years in NSW.

He could have been in Victoria for a while. We don't know.

KH He died of exhaustion!

RG He'd been a pretty sick man.

BG ... kidney

SG He used to take strychnine, usedn't he?

BG Saltpetre.

KH Charlie Carter was into that sort of stuff too, was he?

HG Bluestone Charlie.

SG ? Strychnine might kill disease?

KH You'd have to have a cast iron stomach I should think.

SG I dare say he would take a drop, some strychnine, before he could take a lot.

KH Yes? I suppose he'd become immune to it. Like people drink more and more beer.

RG So that would work out at about 1846 or 56, do you reckon?

BG There's another word there, before 'exhaustion', did you notice?

KH Yes, I've never seen that word before. I dare not try and pronounce it.

BG I wouldn't either.

HG It'll cut out a doctor.

KH A very sophisticated medical term.

RG Oh, you get a copy from the registrar general.

KH So the grazing leases that he would have had, your father would have had, what were the routes into that country? Did you go down the Barry Way first? or did they go cross-country from here?

BG No. They'd all come from this other way, from the Dalgety side.

KH Do any of you remember hearing anything about the earliest phase of mining? Apparently the Tin Mines started in about 1897. Do you remember anyone talking about that phase?

HG I thought the syndicate started before the War, they were the first in there. That's what I thought.

SG About 1940?

KH No, 1935,36

BG 35 or 36 they came in there.

HG They were going to mine it and fly it out, wasn't they, and the War intervened anyway, and it squashed the project.

KH But there was mining before the turn of the century. There were discoveries of tin, never extensively developed then.

BG I think that would have been, prospectors came from the Omeo side. Because there was a fair bit of mining done in that area there. Without any doubt the prospectors would have ...

KH Did your father ever talk about that?

HG No. It was something he was never interested in really.

RG He was never a miner.

KH Was there any gold mining that you know of, apart from the Tin Mines?

SG Yes, up here on the Boggy Plains it was all dug up. The Chinamen (?) were there, just a few mile up in that direction. I don't know whether they ever got anything. they done a lot of work.

KH Which creek's that?

HG It's the King's Arm Creek, Round Mountain Creek

BG Yes, Round Mountain or Longueview Creek. So far as I know, I've never seen any record of any gold being got out of this area here. Out of the Crackenback area and so forth, there's records there of so much gold being won, but I've never known this one here to be mentioned, but there was a lot of work done and a lot of men. But I think it was that way in those times that, you know, gold fever was pretty rife. You only had to start digging somewhere and it was on. And there's a great similarity to the Kiandra country. Up here, I suppose they just thought, well, there must be gold here somewhere. They certainly done a lot of ...

KH Do you remember any of the miners from the Tin Mines?

BG No.

KH They would have all been gone I suppose, by the time you ...

BG They all came, you see, from the Victorian side.

KH Because, looking at these photos and these cottages, it would seem there could have been 12 or 15 men employed at times.

HG Here, the last bloke here to do any fossicking around there was a Chinaman, so they must have got something, because Mum used to talk about old Joe the Chinaman. He used to often come here and get a few provisions. That would be about the turn of the century. She said that eventually a well-dressed or prosperous looking Chinaman come and collected him and took him away.

RG He brought clothes to dress him up, and do him up, didn't he, and the only thing the old boy wouldn't part with was his cap. They reckon the cap was full of gold, whether it was or wasn't they only surmised it.

KH So he was a bit of a hermit.

RG Yes.

HG Although there was one still later than him, old Bill

Conolly, wasn't there, Snowy.

SG He never done much work, did he, Conolly.

HG No. What would his purpose have been there? Just to be on his own, just like Carter, I suppose.

SG Well they say he was mixed up with the Kelly gang, was why he come here, but, too frightened to move.

HG What would it be, '14 or '15 when he died, wasn't it? Were you back here then from school? When Conolly died?

SG Oh I can remember when he died, but I don't think I was.

KH Where did he live?

HG Up here in Wolagoolabar Cuts (?) on the diggings here, two or three miles up the valley here.

KH Which catchment is this part of? What does this run into?

BG This goes into the Moonbah River, into the Snowy below the dam, below Jindabyne Dam.

HG Just here at Grosses Plain Creek.

KH Grosses Plain Creek. So all of this country just over here is Grosses Plain. Yes.

HG They found Conolly dead there, in the hut. Yes, he died, and I think they buried him about there somewhere.

BG Just buried him outside the hut. He had been dead.

It was in the mid-summer and he had been dead a while, and they buried him on the spot. But there was an old chap that lived

with our family for years, and he was a Victorian too. He always said that Conolly was a mystery man. And somehow or other it came out that he claimed, or it was said that he had helped make Kelly's armour, and he was reputed to have an awful set on policemen. The police used to ride about and do their tour around in those times, and if the policeman, somehow or other, if he was in the district, the name Conolly disappeared. He kept out of sight. So the yarn goes.

KH I think there are a lot of people claiming to have something to do with Kelly gang.

SG Just like the man from Snowy River!

KH Yes. Everyone's claiming them for themselves now.

SG He just lived there and grew artichokes. He mainly lived on artichokes, didn't he, old Conolly. There was something wrong with him.

BG Yes, swedes, you know, a few turnips and things.

HG He had a bit of a garden.

KH Would that be national park now, where he lived?

BG No. It'd be still outside the park boundary.

KH He sounds like a forerunner to Charlie Carter, a bit.

RG He was more of a hermit, wasn't he, really, than Charlie Carter, because he didn't go to town or anything, did he. Whereas Charlie Carter would come in and go to town and get a few supplies, but this old chap would never go anywhere like that.

SG He wouldn't mix with anyone, would he.

RG He wouldn't go out where he'd be seen or anything.

BG He was a complete hermit, I think.

KH So he was completely self-sufficient.

RG He probably came here and got a bit of flour and so forth off Mum at times, didn't he.

SG Yes, he was here one morning before daylight.

RG He used to come here very early, early in the morning.

SG Raving mad, nearly, he was. I can remember when I was a little boy.

BG I've got slight recollections of him coming in.

KH Which one of you is the oldest?

SG Me.

KH And you're the second.

HG Yes, but there's another brother between us, or was.

KH And then who's next out of you two?

BG Well, there's another brother still.

RG There's a brother and a sister between him and the next one.

BG There's a brother and a sister between me and the next.

SG I was the eldest boy.

BG Nine of us in the family and out of that family there's one dead. The eldest is Greg, in Jindabyne, he's 82, will be 83 this year, in September. The third one in the family is dead, that's between Snowy and Hugh. He's dead. The rest of us are still alive.

KH Quite a few of you would have gone off to the Second World War, wouldn't you?

BG Only me. I was the only one silly enough.

KH Yes, there were a lot of deaths in the Second World War. A lot of families lost children. So, to go back to the mountains, none of you remember the Tin Mines actually in operation, or hearing about them being in operation.

BG Well it was in operation about 1935, 36, and we only just knew that they built the track in from, it was a motor road, in from Benambra. They brought vehicles in there, which was, for that day and age, was a bit of a
But how much or what went on, we knew very little of it.

KH Carter wasn't around then, was he?

HG No, Carter would have been in Queensland at that stage, I think. He left Indean (?) after his court case.

BG Carter would have been about this area, here. He came back here in about 32, 32 or 3. But he stayed here, in this area.

KH A bit lower down.

BG Only just a few miles over. But he had the prospecting bug, and he camped out on the Round Mountain^{and} beyond the Boggy and ? and dug great holes into the sides of the hills there. Then in round about 37, 38, he took on dog trapping.

HG Yes, it would be about 37, I think.

KH Oh did he? Well, he would have been employed for that.

BG He was employed. And he done, I suppose, a couple of years, did he? on ...

HG He done more than that. I just can't ... It's hard to say.

BG Then he went back to ... Did he go back to Snowy Plain again for a bit of prospecting after the dog-trapping?

HG He done a bit.

BG Then he came back here, and I suppose it would have been about 39 or 40, that he went into the Tin Mine area, I would say.

KH But he had a period here before on the Ingegoodbee.

BG He had, when he was first in the area. I don't know, but he went to the Ingegoodbee area and took up the run there, and I don't know when that would have been, do you remember?

KH Back in the 20s?

BG Yes, it would have been in the 20s. It would have been in the early 20s.

SG See, I don't know if he took that country up. He bought it from old Billy Wellsmore. And the Freebodys had the law case with him. They won the case, and they took over the land and gave him 18 months in jail.

HG No, Carter didn't do time, did he?

SG Yes he did. He done a bit of it.

~~HG He done a bit of it.~~

BG He got 18 months sentence and he done a bit of it, he

done some time.

KH I know people have said that he went up north, suggesting very much that he spent some of the time in jail.

HG Well, for a start, I understood that when he left here he went to Sydney, about Marrickville, or somewhere, and lived about there, and he nominated as an independent for a bi-election or a ...

RG Well, it says there from that article.

HG And he done no good, so he went to Queensland then, roo shooting.

KH Did he? After he'd been on the Ingegoodbee, after his fight with the Freebodys.

BG After his run-in with Freebodys.

SG They beat him out of it. He had to go.

KH Were they given his land, what, as compensation? That seems a bit strange. Because you can go to jail and still hold on to your property or whatever.

SG I suppose there must have been some verdict against him, costs, or, he couldn't pay anything.

BG Yes. I don't know. It's something, we haven't got any records of what went on over that furore, you know. There's a bit of legend about it all.

BG It was a horse-hide, wasn't it? or was it a bullock hide?

HG Horse-hide.

BG Horse-hide. He used to shoot a few brumbies and had the hides there, and Freebodys moved into the area, and they didn't want him there, so they planted a hide in amongst his, and brought the police, and said to him, we want to look at your hides, and they looked at it, and here's one with the brand on it. That's how they got him.

KH Would he skin horses? He'd be able to sell horse hides. That's pretty unusual, isn't it? We never hear of it now.

BG Yes, it would be nowadays, very. But I think, in those times, you know, ...

SG A bob was a bob, wasn't it. A few shillings would do a lot.

SG ? They had whips and that sort of thing.

KH The Freebodys had cattle in there, I suppose.

BG Yes. They moved into that area with cattle.

KH Do you think the Freebodys had something to hide? And that's why they didn't like Carter in there?

BG Oh, I don't know.

KH Because I'm trying to work out why they would have done these things, why they wanted Carter out.

BG Well, I don't know. I don't know whether Carter had any stock, did he?

SG He never had any, only one or two horses.

BG Horses. That's all he had.

SG Yes, he wasn't interested in stock, Carter.

KH But I mean, if the Freebodys were into cattle duffing, for instance, Carter might get wind of it.

SG I don't think so. I think that people, no doubt Freebodys were, but as far as I know they were alright.

BG It seemed as if they just wanted the area to themselves.

SG Carter might have been a bit funny too. Freebodys always got the blame for what went on there. I think if they'd left Carter alone, all he wanted was to dig a hole in the ground somewhere.

KH But did he ever do any good?

BG No.

KH He was after gold, was he, or was he after tin?

BG Gold.

HG No, well he was mining tin.

BG Well, at the finish, you know, at the Tin Mines, he talked wolfram, didn't he. I think he was just interested in digging holes. (Laughter!)

KH He could have put posts in them, at least, and built a fence!

HG The country out at Ingegoodbee was fenced in, a what-do-you-call-it, a dog-leg fence, and anyway, it was supposed to be a fire started, somewhere or other, that would eventually have burnt the fences down, and he went right round and lifted the rails out and stripped them all of bark, and everything, and he saved the fences. Which would have entailed a hell of a lot of work.

KH Was his hut anywhere near this present Ingegoodbee hut? or this old Ingegoodbee hut that's on some of these photographs?

SG It was down on the crossing, about the crossing.

HG About the crossing, as far as I know. Up to the Tin Mines would be 7 or 8 miles, wouldn't it?

SG Yes, but Carter had the first hut at Ingegoodbee.

HG Where the old hut, where the original was.
 BG Yes, then it became ^[known as] Linus (?) Freebody's hut.
 KH And this is some distance off the Barry Way? Up into the valley?
 BG Yes, it's up into the ... yes.
 HG It's back up on top again. You go into country about as high as it is here, 4,000 feet, I suppose. From the junction of the Pinch and Snowy Rivers.
 KH Is there anything left of that old hut?
 HG It got burnt down, didn't it. Didn't it?
 SG I don't know. I haven't been there for years.
 BG The original one, yes, was burnt, then the second one, the Freebodys built another hut about the beginning of the War.
 SG That time they sold out.
 BG Yes, although it was just at the, some time, I think, about when the Japs were coming into the War, because old Paddy, they packed flour and sugar, in case the Japs come, they were going to go out there and hold out.
 HG Their last stand.
 BG They took supplies in there.
 KH This is in the Second World War.
 BG In the Second World War. And they were going to ...
 SG I don't think that hut would be burnt without someone burning it deliberately, because there wouldn't be any cleared land.
 BG Oh yes, it went.
 SG It was the last one built there. I haven't been there since we used to take cattle through, that's going back 15 years, is it, 20 years.
 BG It would be more than 20, I suppose.
 KH So Charlie would have started there in the 20s, maybe?
 BG Oh, it must have been in the early 20s.
 SG When Charlie was in Ingegoodbee? I reckon 1900 and that sort of years, wouldn't he?
 BG Oh no, no.
 HG Oh no. It says there in that big letter to Melbourne the day Deeming was hanged, or something.
 BG It gives the date there when he left Melbourne.
 SG Billy Boswell had that run at the time Christy O'Rourke got lost out there. Because Christy was with him when they parted, in the fog. When would that be?

HG Well, I'm dammed if I know.
 KH Tom Barry's father talked about that. They found him.
 HG Oh yes, they found him up at Tom Groggin here.
 SG They rode round a mob of cattle. Billy Boswell went one way and O'Rourke the other, and in the fog they didn't get together again. Christy left and he took the wrong fall. He took the Murray fall instead of the Jacobs, instead of the Ingegoodbee fall. He got himself into a fix down the Murray River somewhere. Couldn't get his horse out of it, so he took the saddle off and put it in a tree and walked out.
 HG So he could go back to it, last time I was talking to him.
 KH Oh, he walked out himself.
 SG Too rough for the horse to go.
 KH There was another story he told about someone breaking their leg or something, or breaking their hip?
 SG David Spencer broke his leg up there. Old Billy Boswell said he didn't break it at all, he was a bit of a squib. ... walked in. They carried him in. (Much laughter!)
 KH And somebody set his leg somewhere.
 SG Dad was mixed up in that, wasn't he.
 BG Oh yes. Dad was in that. It would be Dad who set his leg, I suppose. He liked anything like that.
 RG He was the doctor.
 HG But they made a stretcher, and they carried him, and when they got to the fall here, what we call Pigeon Springs about there, it was pitch dark, so anyway there was an argument. Someone reckoned they were on the wrong track, some reckoned they wasn't, so they camped, and Dad tells the yarn, he said in the morning we got up, and we built the bloody fire right on the track, they was right on track,
 KH And what was this other story you were telling me before, before I put the machine on? about the Battle of Waterloo?
 BG Oh that's how, there's one of those photos there, the horse in Waterloo yards, and how did it get the name of Waterloo. Jim Bryant, he was a stockman for - who would he be there for, Barry?
 SG Bryant? All I knew about him he was a rabbitier.
 BG Well, apparently he was camped there, this Waterloo, and

once again, another person into the area, and I suppose Freebody's didn't want him there. So Paddy Freebody arrived at his camp about daylight on a very cold, wintery morning, and called him out to fight. So he came out and they fought and Bryant won the fight. And that was Freebody's Waterloo. Although Paddy rode all night, or got up somewhere very early in the morning, he arrived at daylight and called Bryant out of bed, and they fought and Bryant beat him.

KH There were only the two of them.

BG Only the two of them. Just imagine! (laughter)

SG They didn't have much to do, did they?

KH And did Bryant stay?

BG Oh I suppose he stayed.

SG He was deaf so he wouldn't hear. He wouldn't be able to hear if anyone told him to go.

HG They were pretty wild men, the Bryants, wild and tough, great fighters. But oh, I think, a lot of their fighting used to be, they'd have to be primed with rum for a start. That caused a lot of the fights.

SG And Jack picked on young _____ at Jindabyne, in later years, Jack Ridley. He's got an odd eye, I can tell.

BG Yes, I've heard of that, too.

SG Old Bryants were pretty smart.

KH You had to be very cunning to beat a Bryant, by the sound of it. I notice on the back here it refers to Bill's Garden.

HG That's Warrigal Bill. He was a prospector. He was supposed to have found a reef there in those hills or somewhere and could never get back to it.

KH Because there's a place called Bill's Garden on the map. We stopped there once and there's nothing there. Or we couldn't find anything.

BH There's about three of them, three Bill's Gardens. This old Warrigal Bill, he would pull up somewhere and camp for a while, and this one out here was a few vegetables.. the one down on the Victorian border below Suggan Buggan, or towards Suggan Buggan, I don't know, there was nothing at all.

HG Nothing. It's only clear flat.

KH It's the road out from the Tin Mines, by the Ingegoodbee? Yes, that's the one I've seen. You couldn't see anything.

It would be named after this Bill.

And who sent you these photographs? They're very good photos.

BG He was a DMR engineer, and I think his name was Endean.

He'd be well and truly retired retired now. that was in '49.

RG He'd be dead.

HG Oh no. He was a fellow about my age, I reckon.

KH Was he from Sydney?

BG I think he came from Goulburn at that time. The DMR was a divisional headquarters set up. Goulburn, I believe, was their headquarters. And of course it's all altered and switched round. In later years it was Bega, and it might still be Bega, I think.

KH Do any of you remember all these cottages at the Tin Mines?

RG Snowy would.

HG They were there, several of them, in disrepair. When was it that Greg and I went down there? '42 was it?

BG No, it would be a bit later, '43, or '44. Or would it?

HG The day we went out to find Carter.

BH That was in the winter, wasn't it.

HG Yes, we left here on the shortest day.

BG His dog came in here. And he thought, well, he came in here and he was here in the morning, so they thought, well, this is strange. Carter must be on his way in, but why would the dog beat him in. So after a day or so ...

HG I think a couple of days we waited, and no sign of Carter, so Greg and I reckoned we'd go out and see where he was. And anyway, we left here about 8 o'clock, I think, shortest day of the year. Greg had been out there once before, and I'd never been out there, at that period. Anyway, when we left Pigeon Springs, we got up towards Bill's Garden, I suppose, there was about a foot of snow, you see, on the ground, and we went wrong in one place and had to backtrack, and anyway, from then on, when we got back again to starting, the dog took over. And we followed him, until we got up over what they called the Lookout and got down on the snow again on the *Punch* River.

We done it in 8 hours. It was pretty solid going. When we got up there, of course Carter came out to meet us, and we could see he was alright, so next morning he took us to show us his latest shaft, where he was digging, and he climbed up onto a downdrag heap of dirt and then looked down into it, and he said he'd had a few fallen in. And we said then that that's what we reckoned might have happened. but anyway, that night for supper, he wanted to know if we'd have a turnip, because if he was not out of cabbage, he'd have cabbage for a meal, if he was not out of carrots it would be carrots. He grew his own vegetables there.

This night it was turnips. Anyway, he just cut the top off a bit, and not the bottom, he just threw them into the pot, and boiled them up. He peeled them you see, after he cooked them, they were quite alright. But anyway, we didn't ... He wanted to know if we'd have a turnip, but we didn't. We didn't have a turnip. So next morning then, he got the loan of one of our horses and he went down to Ingegoodbee somewhere or other where his own horses were running and he brought them back, brought his own horses back. He said he'd follow us in, which he did, the next day.

KH Was this in the middle of winter?

HG Yes, the middle of winter.

KH You'd often get snowed in there, wouldn't you.

HG Yes, there was no snow about the hut, but there was here on the tops, on the main tops there was a whole lot of snow.

KH Was his vegetable patch at the Tin Mines, between the huts there somewhere?

HG Yes, there was a water race where it rained.

KH Yes, the water race is still running.

HG Well he had a little lake alongside the water race, where ...

RG He did the dog in, because he said the dog was a liar.

BG Unreliable, he said.

HG Usually, you know, I don't know who he got the dog from, because he knocked about a lot, he never had a dog, you know, even when he was dog-trapping. I had a lot to do with him when he was dog-trapping. And he never had a dog.

BG Not for a good while. He got one, didn't he. I remember him having a dog.

SG What was he, sheep dog or heeler?

HG No, he was a black dog, sheep dog.

RG Bitzer?

HG Bob and I struck him over here one day. We were fencing. And Carter arrived. And when he were dog-trapping.

Anyway, we were just going to have dinner. He decided he would have a feed with us. He kicked a bag of stuff out on the ground. There was aubergines and a damn mixture of stuff, and out come bread, it was in a white bag on its own, the bread. He used to make his own dampers, plenty of bran and suet, cut up and put in it.

KH Syrup?

HG Suet. You know, the sheep's fat.

RG You don't render it down or anything. You just take

it out of the sheep and cut it up into tiny little bits and put it in like that.

HG He brought out a loaf, and he pulled a knife out of his pocket and he wiped it backwards and forwards on his leg, and cut himself a slice of bread.

BG Do you remember that day he had the remains of a dingo in a bag. That's why he come round, you see, he caught this dingo and he hadn't been back to his trap for a good while. And it had all disintegrated, and he brought it along to show you, and he tipped it out on the flat first, bits of bones and hair and so forth, pulled a knife out of the pouch and he flicked the bones about, oh well, we just had the can boiled. Oh well, he said, I don't usually have a meal at midday, but I suppose I could have a meal now and it would save me having one later on. So he started then and he pulled the knife out of his pouch again and cut the brownie. (Laughter)

KH No wonder you didn't have any of his turnip either.

BG We reckoned after it didn't seem to be the sort of thing you'd expect a doctor to be doing.

BG Not very hygienic.

SG He was fasting one day a week. One day a week he had nothing.

RG It was good for your health. You didn't eat all the time.

BG Two meals a day he run on. He never bothered with a midday meal. Seeing we were having a meal, well, he'd have that meal, and he was going on. He used to camp at Waterloo. He'd leave here and he'd put his camp up at Waterloo. And then next day he'd get into the Tin Mines.

KH Oh, he wouldn't go in one day. He'd be on horseback, wouldn't he.

HG Oh yes. He had two packhorses. Coming on winter, he'd come on to me and he'd ...

END OF SIDE ONE

KH And he'd buy them here?

HG Yes, and butcher them.

KH And he'd salt them down up there.

HG Yes, rub them all over with core salt.

KH So he was a meat-eater, he wasn't a vegetarian?

HG He wasn't altogether a vegetarian. But he had a habit of

grinding his teeth. And then it sort of got on his nerves, and the next thing was, he arrived and he was chewing a little square of rubber, and it was cut out of some gumboots he was buying and they had white soles on them. He cut himself a square of rubber out of the gumboots and he was chewing it, and it was going squeak, squeak, squeak.

KH Saved his teeth.

HG It saved his teeth. He probably still had his own teeth. He didn't have false teeth.

BG Then he switched from that and he took to chewing horseshoe nails. Do you remember when he bent the end of the horseshoe nail over and he used to have it in his mouth. Poked up through his mouth, chewing on it.

KH But he must have been a well-educated man.

HG Well, I think he went to school until he was about 14. But he was generally self-taught. He was a great reader.

KH Did he go to school in Melbourne?

HG Yes. He came from Melbourne.

KH Do you know what he did before he came to Ingegoodbee? What led him to go in this direction of life?

HG No, I don't know at all what prompted him.

KH Did he ever talk about his past.

BG It says in this here that - "a roving career that began in Gisborne in 1871. Carter first worked in factories making chairs and candles and in a sawmill. Then on a memorable day, the day Deeming was hanged, set off for NSW, to work on stations, prospecting, trapping. And in a moment of high hopes, standing as a candidate in the NSW parliament."

SG Well, I remember him rabbit trapping down at Dalgety, to 1916, 17, would it be.

HG Would it? Or was it after the War ended?

SG It was before. Rabbits were in thousands then, I think.

KH He didn't stay at the Tin Mines all the time? He'd come out and do something else?

BG Well, that was probably before he went to Ingegoodbee first.

KH the rabbit trapping?

BG Yes.

HG I don't think it was.

KH That suggested he was born in 1871.

BG No, he left Melbourne. "a roving career, which began in Gisborne ..." No, no, no, that wouldn't be right. That's when he was born. That's when he was born, 71.

KH See, by the 1920s he would already be in his 50s.

SG It was after he'd been to Ingegoodbee when he was down there rabbiting. Because that's when he started just rambling about everywhere. He'd gone to Queensland, Sydney.

KH After Ingegoodbee.

SG Ingegoodbee he'd done his first attempt to settle down, I think.

KH He was already in his 50s then, so he'd been roving for a long time.

SG That's right. It must have been about 1900 when he'd be in Ingegoodbee. That would make him 30, wouldn't it.

KH Yes, in his 30s in 1900. But did he ever talk about his book? Did he ever show you a copy? The one about the cures for Communism? (all talk at once!)

Tom Taylor lent me a copy.

HG I've got a copy of it.

BG Yes, it was only, you know, in his latter years. Here, 30 years ago, he produced his main work: Principle of Life.

" a 400-page book which has its place in the libraries' collection of Australian literature. It's 200,000 words, written in long, slanting penstrokes, by the glow of firelight and kerosene lamps, in huts along the Alps, near Kosciusco and at Ingegoodbee. With saddles, guns and the other paraphernalia of a bushman's hut, mingled strangely with the bookshelves of Gibbon, McAuley, Carlisle, Marx, Lenin, Spencer, Aristotle, and scores of other famous works. Rated as a poor scholar when he left school, at the age of 13, Carter the prospector had opened up a rich world of learning."

KH Is that the book you've got?

HG Unfortunately I sent the book to his sister. I did have one. I sent the book to his sister, and yet he ... I was Executor of his Will, and I sent the book to his sister.

RG Was she an old lady when ...?

HG Yes, she died before the estate was wound up really. Her son finally ...

RG What was his name, do you know?

HG Ashdown

RG Perhaps he's still alive somewhere.

HG Oh, I wouldn't ... But the other one, there's one in the library, whatever the main library is in Melbourne,

BG That would be this one, I'd say.

KH Yes, I've got a copy of that one. Tom Taylor gave me a copy.

HG I wish now I'd have kept the one I had.

KH But it's heavy going.

HG Well, to a certain extent, yes. But when you sort of know a few of the.. knowing Carter, there's a lot in it.

KH You'd like to see it again, would you?

HG I certainly would.

KH If I come down again, I might be able to bring it down. It doesn't have any date as to when it was published. There's a photo of Charles in the front. There's a frontispiece, it doesn't say who published it, or anything.

HG They reckon that that's why Carter criticised the bludger on the bench, as he called him, the old judge, him that tried him, he reckoned he was the bludger on the bench.

KH The bludger on the bench wouldn't like that very much. He'd get an extra six months for that.

HG It was libellous. What's-his-name, the editor of the Melbourne Age, I went with him, I was with him when he went to we went to the library - what do they call that library in Melbourne? - but anyway, he said that he went to a little drawer, and he got out a card, with a number on it, and he pointed way up into the sky with books in it. Carter's book's in it.

KH He had some things published in the Cooma paper, didn't he?

HG Oh he did. He had a lot of stuff published in the Cooma paper, but no-one ...

KH You never kept any.

RG No, we don't seem to have more. I can't think why we haven't.

HG Yes, well, Craigie, you know, was the editor of the Cooma paper of the day, certainly printed a lot of stuff for Carter.

KH So by the time you knew him in the 40s, he would have been in his 70s. He was an old man, wasn't he. Well, a relatively old man.

HG He was such an active man. He'd come in here with a young, snorting brumby.

RG You'd wonder why he hadn't had his head kicked off.

KH I mean that's surprising. Breaking in brumbies, digging holes in the ground, those long journeys in his 70s, that's pretty amazing.

RG He'd done it not long before he died, too, didn't he. He was 81 when he died.

BG Right up until when he did die, yes.

RG Because he was over with you then when he died.

KH So all of his theories about curing the body and so on may have made some sense.

HG Well, he was a very polite sort of fellow. The first thing he'd do is come and take his hat off. But one day he arrived, I lived just up, not far up from here, he arrived in, he wouldn't take his hat off. We discovered afterwards, there was something wrong with his foot, but he had a poultice on top of his head for treatment.

KH He had something wrong with his foot, and he was curing it through his head.

RG His toe kept twisting. His big toe kept jumping.

HG Yes. He was a little bit out of ...

SG If there was anything wrong with the ^{head} he'd poultice the foot.

KH What was his favorite mixture for curing things?

SG Bluestone

RG Sugar, soap and ...

BG Spirits of salts, bluestone and soap. He melted the soap down and scoop the creamy ^{lather} off and mix it up with that.

RG Did you have to have a special kind of a bolt?

BG Well that was to crush the bluestone up with.

KH Bolt? metal bolt.

BG Oh, he said the, there was no great expense involved, was there, in mixing up this thing. He said a bolt in a jam tin was quite suitable to polarise the bluestone.

KH What's bluestone normally used for?

HG Oh, it will cut out proud flesh, I know from experience. It's supposed to kill snails and frogs, and ...

BG It will kill anything.

HG It's very potent.

KH And then he rubbed his body, did he? Didn't he have a lot of bare patches on his skin, or something? Somebody said. He rubbed parts of his body with something?

SG Yes, he used to use this ointment, to rub on him.

HG It would do as a poultice, or as a rub on.

KH More a poultice, like a bandage.

HG More a poultice is what he used to use.

SG Well he gave me a pot of it for toothache. I rubbed it there when the tooth was aching, and it cured it.

RG You were game.

HG When I was a kid going to school, I fell over and gravel rashed my knee and it wouldn't heal, and anyway Mum ground up bluestone and sprinkled it into it. I can tell you I done some walking for an hour or two, but finally it worked. But why it wasn't diluted with water and poured onto it I don't know. They'd been bad for a good while. They wouldn't heal. I've still got the scars as a matter of fact on my knee.

KH Are any of his dingo traps and things still around? Did you bring out much of Carter's stuff? Like his traps and things like that when he died?

HG Oh, no, he ... Oh I used to bring the traps out. I was secretary to the association at the time that Carter was employed here, and I had to ... anything if he wanted us.

BG The traps belonged to the association, the traps that he would be using, you see, they were not his own property. They belonged to the board.

SG And he hadn't been on for years, had he, when he died.

BG No, he hadn't been on for quite a while.

HG Joe Collins and different ones, Dunne, Bill Dunne, quite a few after Carter give it up.

KH Did he ask you to be executor of his Will?

HG No, I think he told me, just told me one day, that he'd make me executor of his Will. He didn't, he was on a pension. that was his only source of income really. And at times he would still trap dogs. If there were dogs come about there, he'd set the traps up. He was a terrible keen dog trapper. He was out on his own at that stage, as a dog trapper.

SG They'd be what, about 5 pound a skin then, or were they not worth that much?

HG No, only 3 pounds. The wage might have been 5 pound, I think, a week.

KH Was there much left over that you would send to Melbourne?

I suppose it would be just papers, wouldn't it.

HG I think he traded up something like 200 pound, is what I sent to the old ...

SG the horses. He had three horses, didn't he? and packsaddles.

HG Yes, he had, well the packsaddles were only homemade. Snowy and I and Ron, Snowy's son, we went to, when Carter died, we went out to the Tin Mine to collect his stuff, what there was of it. We had a packhorse.

KH Some of his tools, I suppose, would have been around too. Picks and shovels and things like that?

HG No. Someone had been there before us, you know, and got some of the stuff.

KH And he mainly lived in the big building. That was his kitchen and, the big mess, the biggest space there, with the shingles, half shingle roof.

HG Yes, he mainly lived in that big one, where his ... Greg and I, there was another good one, Greg and I camped in it for the night, another one.

KH One of the little ones?

HG One of the smaller huts, yes.

KH That's the one we now know as Charlie Carter's, I think.

HG Oh yes. It was in fairly good repair at that stage.

KH Apparently that may have been the manager's residence. What do people reckon?

HG Oh, I don't know at all.

KH But Carter mainly cooked and lived in the big one, and he used another one, you said before?

HG No, I think he slept in a bit of an annex or something, there was more than one room in that big one, wasn't there?

KH Well there could have been, yes. There's no partition there at all.

BG It was only where you found him dead, wasn't it.

SG Yes, he was in the big room, but the bed was there, in the corner.

KH It was big enough for everything.

HG Yes. Well that's where he lived in it, lived and slept in it. Dining-room, everything.

RG Was he in the bed, Snowy?

SG Oh yes. No, he was dressed, half on the bed.

KH When you found him?

SG Yes. He was, sort of, went to get up, I reckon. Or went

to get on the bed. He wasn't stretched out on it.

KH You were the first ones that found him. You were out riding and you checked on him, or something?

SG Oh. We went through with cattle, to Bairnsdale, about a fortnight before that, saw he'd been at Ingegoodbee and had a fire lit in the hut there, knew that he'd been after horses. He was supposed to go down Ingegoodbee his horses, about 12 mile, he would have to walk after them. When we got back home he still wasn't here, so we just went out to see. He was dead there. He'd starved as well as couldn't get his horses.

KH He'd normally have to walk down to get his horses? He couldn't put salt out, or something like that?

SG He'd walk down the side and he'd come back to the Tin Mine and he'd have salt round the yard (?) or something to attract them. They'd come back for him, but this time they wouldn't come, I suppose.

KH Was there snow on the ground when you were in there?

SG No.

HG It was about October, wasn't it.

SG The horse was still down Ingegoodbee way.

KH So he didn't actually die in the middle of winter, it was in the spring.

SG Spring, but there was heavy rain.

HG It was still on, that rain, you remember, when we went out, then the creeks were flooded, the rivers were flooded.

KH Then the policeman was involved, wasn't he?

SG He went out there to bring him in.

KH Wasn't there some story about problems getting him across the river or something?

BG Oh, yes, it was terribly wet, at that time, when they were bringing him in.

HG They came up through ~~Thatchers~~ Thatchers Hole, didn't they?

BG No, they came back through Ingegoodbee. They went out through ~~Thatchers~~ Thatchers Hole.

HG They came back for fuel one night. That would be the bigger trouble, packing and unpacking.

KH I thought they had to wait, camp an extra day or something at one of the rivers, wait until it went down, or something like that

SG Well, I think they did, too. They got held up. Do you

remember the name of the policeman?

HG Oh, Lang. Yes, I remember Lang. It was Lang and Pinky, wasn't it.

KH Pinky. Pinky Harris?

BG Yes. Bill Harris.

KH Was he in Jindabyne? Yes. Near the Pendergasts?

BG That's right.

KH Oh, I've heard of him.

RG Banjo Paterson Crescent, isn't it?

KH Near Dave and Nan Pendergast. He's supposed to be a bit of a mountain pilot.

SG A singer, a cowboy singer, ^{poet,} make up songs. I think he's slipped though, hasn't he?

BG Oh, I haven't been talking to him for ages, I don't know how long.

KH Did he ever sing anything which were mountain songs? like which he's made up?

SG Oh, yes. I think he's gone back. I don't know now. I never see him. He used to drink a lot, one time.

BG Yes, he used to, you know, when he got on a spree he'd probably sing and recite poetry. When he wasn't on a spree you couldn't get a word out of him.

KH Leo Russell started to recite a few poems last night, late in the evening.

BG He must have had a bottle of ...

KH No, he didn't. He just got into it. Poems which I had never heard before, that are not written down anywhere. Do you know of any unpublished poems?

BG No.

SG Old Pinky can make up a good song and sing it. He can make it up and sing it straight away.

HG He can accompany himself on the guitar.

KH He does?

HG Yes. I never ever heard him. they say it wasn't too bad.

KH When you were out in the hills, in the evenings, round the campfire, was the main form of relaxation, entertainment telling yarns? or did you sing? or ... Any musicians amongst them, did anyone bring out a mouth organ or a concertina or anything like that?

ALL: No.

HG For my part, I was too damn pleased to get into bed. Get to whatever sleep you could.

SG I was at Victor Connor's once, Victor's singing, you know,

HG I didn't know that.

SG He was a good singer, in his young days, he used to sing.

KH Did you people still have stock up there in the 50s, when Carter died?

HG Not out there, no. After Freebody left, that run, in there, mainly for the people that come from the Murray side to bring cattle in there.

KH The Nankervises and so on?

HG Mowatt

BG Benson, Balcomb and, the fellows that took over from Freebody's ...

HG Bentley, Don Benson

SG the three Bs, it was.

BG Yes, the three Bs it was, Balcomb and Bentley, was he, the other fellow.

KH They then had the Tin Mines lease?

SG No, Mowatt had the Tin Mine.

KH Mowatt, Don Mowatt. I've heard of him.

BG They all came from that Corryong side, Mowatt and Benson, and ..

SG When did that big fire come through Ingegoodbee? You know it was after it killed all the trees. You

could see all over the place at Nine Mile.

HG Well, that was before we went out to get Carter's stuff, all that country had been burnt. It was 53, was it?

BG It was October 53 that Carter died, wasn't it?

SG No-one had the run then. Because myself and Burns, we had a lot of cattle up and going there. They done terribly well, mustered every beast without any trouble. The country was all cleared. You could see over it. The cattle just lived on the best places for them.

KH Did you ever get up to Cascades way?

SG Only was there, no, I just went through there.

HG I camped there one night, at Cascade Hut. Went out with Rob McGufficke to burn the remains of horses that we'd poisoned for dingo bait, before the winter, the only time I've been in that area.

KH It still had a bark roof then I suppose.

HG I don't remember.

KH What about Teddy's Hut, up in the top of Wombat Gully? Did you ever go up there?

HG No, I've never been there.

KH Below Drift Hill. There's a big brumby yard up there. It was originally built by one of the Perces.

So Charlie sounds like he provided specially local people with things to talk about. He was one of the star attractions of the mountains, I suppose, around here, in his own way.

BG Oh, he was a character.

HG When he came back from Queensland, while he was up there, he'd acquired a Ford vehicle, and he'd put a tray on the back of it. And he headed back with that. And down here between Bunyan and Cooma, you know, in those days it was dirt roads and corrugated, as bad as they could be, nearly, it was blowing windy and one thing and another, he was having a terrible rough trip, from Bunyan to Cooma. When he got to Cooma, he discovered that one tyre had run off. He reckoned that he soon discovered why it was so rough. He put it all down to the wind.

KH So it was running along on the axle, was it?

HG It was running on the rim. Previous to that, before he got to Queanbeyan, he pulled up on top of the hill. The brakes weren't too good on it. He fell a tree, and he tied it on behind, and he said, "Be damned, I couldn't pull up until I got to the bridge in Queanbeyan." So he pulled up there, and got it off, and come on.

KH So he'd go off on these little jaunts occasionally.

HG I don't think, once he landed the vehicle over here, where he finally, where he stayed for a while, I don't think he ever drove it again. He never took it out.

KH He would have been a squatter at Tin Mines. He wouldn't have owned that land, would he?

HG There was 40 acres there.

KH Was there? It was freehold?

HG Yes, it was freehold, or ... And then he'd have a lease in virtue of that.

SG He wouldn't hold 40 there when he died, did he?

HG Oh no. He, there was movement afoot. It seems he could have reclaimed it, but Freebody blocked it. Because when I went to the solicitor about it, he questioned me about the block, and all that. He was going to see if they could still claim it for Carter.

KH So it wasn't in his name then.

HG No.

KH Do you remember a guy called Jack Carson? from Sydney? who used to come down sometimes?

HG Oh, yes, he used to come to McGuffickes. I never met him.

KH He used to come down quite a bit apparently. Because the Pendergasts thought he might have some old photographs of the Cascades and the Tin Mines.

BG He died not long ago, Carson.

RG

BG

KH Oh dear! He'd come and see you too, would he?

BG No. He only ever came to McGuffickes. I don't know how he come to get in co with them. He was a city man, as far as I know, and he used to come there every year for a holidays and then he would go into the hills with them, I think, at various times.

KH It was Dave and Nean who told me about him, gave me an address in Sydney, too.

BG It would be since you were out at their place that he died. Not long ago.

KH In the last couple of months?

BG Within the last month or so.

KH I was going to see him over Christmas. I should have.

BG Yes, you might have caught him.

KH Still, his wife or a descendant might still have some of his photographs.

BG Yes, I would say McGuffickes would have an idea what other family he had. I don't know. I think he was a colonialist somehow.

SG Jack would know more about him, wouldn't he. Jack Pepper and Dave, they'd know more than the McGuffickes.

HG And Teddy's dead. It would be only Richard. Richard would know.

BG Richard wouldn't know a thing about him. Oh, Edna would probably have an idea whether he had family left or not. I don't know that he did.

RG Because he was there not so long ago. It doesn't seem long ago since he was there.

HG Jack Pend (?) would know more about him than anyone.

RG Wasn't he there since Norman died? at McGuffickes?

BG Oh yes.

RG He must have been there with Mick. Or was it just before Norman died?

BG He probably was there since Norman died.

KH Are there any other stories that you can remember about Charlie, or were there any other characters, or any outstanding tales that you remember people telling?

HG As far as my memory goes I don't think there are any worth recording.

KH So the two outstanding characters would be the Carter guy and this other fellow, the fellow who was there earlier. I can't remember his name now. You mentioned him before. He lived down here somewhere.

HG Connolly.

KH Did Carter ever use the access track through the Crackenback? up the Thredbo River? in from Dead Horse Gap?

HG No, I don't think so.

BG I wouldn't think he'd ever been there, at that end.

SG He used to break his own horses there at Ingegoodbee.

That would be even when he first had the place. He'd hobble side-line to ride them first. If anyone came along the horse would take fright at anyone else riding, bolt with Carter, once he got them out of the side-lines and hobbles. Someone had to yard in there one day, and they went to see Carter, and the horse kept bolting, didn't they. get near him, they

outrun him at the yard in the finish.

KH They'd use side-lines to get them used to the reins.

RG To stop it from moving about.

SG The two front legs were hobbled together, and the hind ones hobbled to them. He'd only fall over. That's how he first tried them out.

KH He would have been in his 50s by then. He wouldn't have been all that sprightly.

SG When he was first at Ingegoodbee. Oh then, in later years he used to do the same thing of course.

HG His horses always had that ... you know, they were always watching you. Even the horse he used to ride in here, and the

horse he used to pack. He could walk round them and get on alright, but I never ever felt safe with them. They always had that appearance that they were watching you, to see what you was up to.

SG He was never frightened of the horses, was he. He had no sense of them, somehow or other. I suppose the horse must have known. That stallion he had, he bit Ian (?) McGregor and nearly took the arm off him. Carter took him in to break him in and he got on alright with him. We thought he'd be killed, but he wasn't. Did try, down Numbla Flat (?) once, didn't he.

HG I don't remember any of it.

SG Carter was knocked out.

BG Oh yes. They drove in behind him in a car.

SG The horse took fright.

BG It must have been Bob Cox and Leo Barry, was it?

SG That was the time they were looking for a road.

BG Yes. They drove out along the Ladder road, and Carter was riding out along there, and they come onto him pretty quick and the old horse took fright and got from under him.

SG Knocked him out.

KH Did he grow many vegies? It would be a pretty limited time, I should think. You wouldn't be able to put much in before November up there.

BG I think he only just went for the turnip and carrot, and a few root vegetables that he ...

HG I don't know whether he tried potatoes or not. It would be mainly cabbage or things that were frost resistant. And it would be just enough for his own requirements, really.

BG Wasn't it up ... there was another place up here, above the Boggy there they call Carter's Garden. He had a garden in there and he had lettuce there. the rabbits took to them, so he put a bit of strychnine into them, And someone was in, said I've a good mind to take one of your lettuces, Charlie. Oh well, he said, just be a bit careful

which ones you take, he said, I've got strychnine in some of them

KH Yes. David Pendergast told a story a bit like that.

But you haven't any photos of Charlie himself apart from that one that's on this ... There's one in his book. Well, I've got a pretty good story on Charlie Carter now.

RG You reckon you've found out about different places?

KH Yes, the Tin Mines. Unfortunately most of the Tin Mines is gone now, but there was some talk of trying to restore that big, the workshed, but I don't know that it will happen.

BG No. When he came back from Queensland, he took up his quarters for a while with Charlie Finn. He was an old batchelor here. I suppose he was one of the biggest characters that this district had. He was a mountain stockman, and had been in the mountains all his days with cattle. He knew the mountains, this end of the mountains, round here, very well. And in later years he was a carrier. I think for a start, he had a carrying business between here and Jindabyne, did he, a bit of horse and cart delivery. And about 1926 or 27 he bought a Chev truck, and they sold him the truck, taught him to drive. He kept a record of it. They gave him so many hours, so many minutes and so many seconds instruction, didn't they. That's all he had and they set him off in it. And about his first trip he was coming downhill this side of Jindabyne, it got out of control with him and he turned it over. He had two or three capsizes, didn't he. On one occasion someone said, you was lucky, Charlie. Yes, yes, well, he said, I was. I couldn't hear them with my glasses broken.

KH Where was this? Where did the two of them live together?

SG ~~Here~~ on Grosses right over that side

BG Yes, on Grosses Plain, towards the Round Mountain.

HG They told him to be sure and take the handbrake off before he started. So he was following things to the letter, he got the ute to get into it, and before he did anything at all, it wouldn't matter what incline or where he was, he'd take the handbrake off. Of course, it didn't give him time to start the engine or do anything at all. He wouldn't alter that. He'd keep at it until he finally stopped. I can remember it well. I said to him you don't want to take it off until you're starting it. He said they told me, the first thing I do is take the handbrake off, but he did it before he had the engine going or in gear or anything.

KH It would be an angel gear then.

BG There were a good few gates on the road between here and Jindabyne then. Out this way we had mail twice a week from about

halfway between here and Jindabyne on, they had it three times a week. So Charlie would decide he'd be on a trip to Cooma. And he'd go down the road and he'd pull up at a gate, and he had a bullock's horn he used to blow. And he'd blow the bullock's horn. And he'd do this, probably before he started at Cooma.

HG He'd blow it in the morning before he started, wouldn't he. You could hear it miles away.

BG Yes. You could hear this damn horn. And he'd pull up at vantage points, mail boxes and gates, and he'd blow this bullock's horn. Then, if people wanted anything, they'd leave a note in the mailbox or on the gate. He always called it 'a lion'. I'll drop him a lion, he'd say, or I've left him a lion on the mailbox. And he was a terribly scrawly writer. He'd go to write a bit of a note and scrawl all over the place, and you had to work hard to read it. But he'd kick off at Cooma, and there'd be notes on the gates and the mailboxes, that he'd pick up all these parcels, and as he come back home, as he delivered the parcel into the box, he'd blow the horn again. He was in Cooma, there was a fellow with him, a passenger, one day, he struck him in Cooma, he had a lift out with him. So this fellow was watching Charlie. He was busy talking to someone up the street, and at last Charlie went to the truck, and got the horn out and blew it, , to let this fellow know he was ready to leave. The trip used to take him three days, to go to Cooma and come back, to his run, and he had various food stopping places.

KH Was he paid by individual people?

BG Yes. That much a parcel, and so much a ...

SG He never got a lot of it, though.

BG A lot of it, he done it ...

HG To put in time, I think.

BG He'd go to Cooma and certain things he'd do, he would visit the hospital. He'd see who was there, and he'd come back and he'd report then on who might be in the hospital, and what he thought about them, and how much longer they might be there, their general condition, and whether they were going to get better or come out of it, or not. At those times, or a bit later on, we had a party telephone line. He was on it too.

He'd arrive home from Cooma and he'd ring up. Mum or Dad would go on and they'd talk to him. We heard it in the other room there. We could be out here and could hear Charlie talking from out here. Laying down the law, describe his trip to Cooma, how he went to hospital, who he saw, ... He was coming out from Cooma one day, and was coming down into Jindabyne, and poor old Helen McGregor was walking along the road, so he pulled up and he said, would you like a lift? And she said, no thanks, Charlie, I'm in a hurry. So, I can't. And someone was in the hospital, and no, she'll never get better, he reckoned, she won't come out of there. Sometimes he was right, sometimes he was wrong.

KH Did Charlie Carter ever try to cure other people?

HG Oh yes, if there was anything wrong, if you had anything wrong with you, he'd offer to.

RG He cured Snowy's toothache.

SG I went to him with toothache.

BG I had an operation for appendicitis, and I went away from here. It was a rush trip. We left bright and early in the morning, got to Cooma and I was operated on that evening. So after I came home, I met Charlie. Oh, you've been to hospital, he said. Well, that's really not necessary. If I'd have struck him before I went in, he could have fixed me up without ... He didn't believe in surgery. Fix these things without surgery. He would have put a poultice on my footfinger, or somewhere or other, and fixed it.

KH The poultice idea was to draw the bad things out.

BG All the muck. He used to call it muck. He'd tell you, oh, that seems wrong, and I'd put a poultice on and draw out that bloody heap of muck! He'd shake his head, you know.

SG He specialised in cancers, didn't he, mainly.

BG Yes. All these complaints or illnesses were brought on by overeating, gorging. He was a great advocate of fasting one day a week. Overeating was at the foot of practically all these problems.

RG He might be right, too. I'm now trying to get us some afternoon tea!

KH We'd better just have water for afternoon tea!

END OF SIDE TWO

Bob, Snowy, Hubert and Rose Golby