

HERB HAIN - Interviewed by Klaus Hueneke, 1 March 1982.

This is an interview with Herb Hain at his home near Cooma. Herb has been associated with horses all his life and in one way or another has been involved with different parts of the mountains, down south, south of Dead Horse Gap as well as in the northern plains country north of Kiandra. Herb featured in the book by Martin ^{McArdoo}, called 'If Only I'd Listened to Grandpa' and I think is one of the few people who has kept a substantial collection of pieces of newspaper, old photos, bits and pieces. I believe there's quite a sizeable Hain Archive.

KH: Do you want to go back to that article first, or would you rather - the things you jotted down in comments there, or do you want to start on those?

HH: It doesn't matter.

Well Dead Horse Gap, in my days, was run by Leo Byatt for Mr Nankervis from the Upper Murray - their property was down at Tom Groggin. Leo Byatt was the man who used to look after Dead Horse Gap. I believe it was built in 1926. Supplies came from Cooma, a store Hain & Co., which my father was the owner. In one consignment there were a hundred coils of barbed wire sent up, plus a ton of chaff, a ton of oats and rock salt. It was sent by lorry to Rawsons Pass and they packed it all down to Dead Horse Gap and hence up to Boggy Plain and out around the fence that they put between the Cascade and Boggy Plain. Also the supplies came from Jindabyne, from a Mr Blewitt - he used to send food as well and other orders that they had. Dr Foreman's ~~lease~~ ^{was} 10,000 acres including the Blue Lake and while I was there, there was some professor from the university brought students up. They asked me if I would take some of the gear down for them which I was able to do. One thing, when they put it on the pack horse, I had no idea what it was and when they unfolded it and put it together, the next thing I saw them ⁱⁿ ^{was} a canoe, which they told me it was and out onto the water. They were there for ^{or} 2-3 days surveying it and they came up with the same information that had been supplied by earlier explorers, that the lake was 75 feet deep or 72 acres in acreage - either way, one way or the other. They proved, by taking depth sounds and material from the bottom of the lake, that there was nothing living in it at all - that's what they told me.

KH: So you were there camped with them?

HH: They were camped at the lake as well as up at Dr Foremans. I took them down on the packhorse with the gear.

KH: That was when Dr Foreman's hut was still standing?

HH: Yes and we used it as a sheep and cattle run. My brother and I had it leased and then a few years afterwards some Westons or Wallaces and some

other people had it and then it was taken away as a cattle lease and snow lease.

KH: Was that about 1944 when it became National Park?

HH: Somewhere about that time, yes.

KH: So you were there in the late 30s were you?

HH: '37 and '38. It was in 1937 that I rescued old Mr Jack Adams. How that happened was, when I was bringing the first lot of cattle in, they were Devon cattle as well, that was the breed of cattle I had bought from Mr Mick Russell, an old man from Adaminaby - famous people. They were the first people to have Devon cattle and I bought the cows from him. I took them up onto this lease for the summer and as I was going past Adam's Hut I saw Mr Adam's horse tied up. Normally he would come out and wave and this particular day I thought he must have been over at the Chalet and he'd left his horse with the nose-bag on and I didn't take any notice. The cattle were bellowing and I didn't go over. I went on and I put the cattle on that afternoon, down on to Foreman's Hut or block, had a meal, then went looking for some more horses that I'd taken out the previous week to do up all the fences and strain them up. They'd cleared out of the horse paddock and I tracked them down past the Blue Lake and way down into Pound's Creek - that was the end of the run. It was getting dark and I thought well I can't find them, they're out on the top somewhere, I would ride up Spencer's Creek, which I did, and well after dark I arrived at Adam's Hut and the horse was still there and the door was shut. I opened the door and went in the hut and who should I find but old Mr Adams groaning and in terrible pain and nearly dead. I thought, my goodness gracious me - I was only a young boy - what could I do, I had better get him out.

KH: He was the father of Ray Adams?

HH: I think so. I asked him for the rum when I saw the mess that he was in. I pulled the sheets off him, he was in his old white underpants and all the blood had clotted on to his pants, he was completely stiff, his legs and the fat and blood had congealed through the underpants and he couldn't move at all - only his head.

KH: He had injured himself had he?

HH: Yes. What had happened was that his horse had fallen on him when he was out looking after sheep for the two brothers - I just can't think of their names - but he was looking after their sheep that ran up towards Kosciusko and he was able to get back on to his horse and get home. He got into bed and that was the end of him and he couldn't get out and couldn't move. I knew the old man always drank rum. I said to him 'Where's your rum Jack' and he said 'Up on the shelf'. I got the bottle of rum and I got a panican, but I'd lit the fire first and got some hot water and I put a great big stiff rum

into the old panican, some nice lukewarm water, I sat his head up and I poured it down him. I thought that would keep him going until I could get word ... by that time it was after 9 o'clock and I rode from there then - I got on my horse, after I left him, and rode to the Chalet. I gave the alarm to Mr George Day. He said, 'You've done a good job Herb, we'll take over now'. I had to then ride from the Chalet back over the pass down to Dr Foreman's Hut to get home, which I did that night. I found out afterwards that Mr Day got one of the lorrys out, one of the head waitresses and I think Mick Thompson and they went down and got him in the lorry and took him down to the bush nurse at Jindabyne and that was the end of old Mr Adams, he never ever came back into the mountains again.

KH: He recovered from the injury?

HH: Yes.

KH: He was a pretty old man by then?

HH: Yes a very old man. He never came back into the mountains.

KH: Did you have much to do with him?

HH: No, only as a neighbour, very honest, getting information where stock would be running or anything, he'd help you in every way. It was his daughter that Charlottes Pass was mentioned after.

KH: She was Charlotte Adams.

HH: Yes. There was two stories and I'll tell you one that I knew of and the other one is in a piece of paper out in the billard room - a hundred years ago - the other person's story and you can read it out and put it on the tape.

KH: Well you tell your story.

HH: I understand that Mr Adams was the first man to take a bullock team up to set up Wraggs^e Camp in 1898 and he took all the supplies up. It was during this time that his daughter was with him and naturally rode a pony or horses with the bullock team at all times. They couldn't quite make the Chalet that day so they unyoked them at Charlottes Pass or near Charlottes Pass and the next day when they went to muster the bullocks, he sent his daughter after them. She couldn't find them near the waggon or down in the valley, she went around and the bullocks had gone over the pass and she found this ^{beautiful} scenery from Charlottes Pass. She went back and told her dad and when they came through with the bullock waggon he said 'We'll call this Charlottes Pass'. That was the only story that I knew first, but I found this piece of paper with someone elses information, which I don't doubt in any way that that could be correct too.

KH: I was just curious about Jack Adams, because he was obviously an old-timer by the time you knew him. Do you remember any stories he told or anything like that.

HH: No, I can't help you there. Some of the older people would naturally

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know more about him than I would. I did have the pleasure of saving his life and he was never back there.

KH: He would have had cattle up there would he?

HH: He was looking after sheep at the time, when I was there, for the Sutherland brothers - Albert Sutherland and his other brother. Sturgess had a block there and the cattle ran further down - Leo Byatt was the man looking after Nankervis' cattle - all the Cascade right out to the Tin Mines.

KH: Up high there was quite a few sheep?

HH: That was the last of them - Dr Foremans. Outside the fence, Nankervis had and they ran right around to the back of Townsend and all that rough country looking into Geehi, the cattle were in there. They ran back again into Whites River, there was a lot of cattle in Whites River.

KH: I think Fred Fletcher had some cattle in there!

HH: Yes and the McPhies. There was one little story that I was told. Under the South Ramshead, there were 26 brumbies perished there at one stage. That's just around from where Seaman's Hut is. Not as far around as Coota Patamba - that's on the road to Dead Horse Gap. That's where they used to pack from Rawson's Pass, down past Coota Patamba to Dead Horse. The horses were snowed in under the South Ramshead.

KH: That's surprising that they'd be up there. Were they up there late or was it a freak snowfall?

HH: It was a heavy year and they came up on the tops and just didn't get back.

KH: They died there?

HH: Yes. The bones were there. Another little story which may be of some interest to the people. A Mr Willis found those people who were lost, hence the name of Seaman's Hut.

KH: He found the body of Hayes didn't he?

HH: Yes.

KH: Lindsay Willis' brother wasn't it?

HH: Yes. I remember about that time when it all happened and it was the sheep dogs that told me. When they were going up the road they weren't expecting anything and the next thing the sheep dog started to bark and the hairs were standing on their ends. When they came up, here's this man sticking out of the snow frozen. Lindsay told me that it was his brother who found it. That's all I know, hence the parents were responsible for building the hut or making the hut available for other people ^{that} may benefit.

KH: This was back in 1929. How old were you then?

HH: Well I was born in 1917, so I wasn't very old.

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KH: A very impressionable boy - 12 or 13.

HH: Yes I remember ^{being} told about it, then of course knowing this old Mr Willis and being out there when I used to see them dog trapping, I was naturally very interested in all those stories that took place and why they took place. But getting back to the Tin Mines, the little information that I can add to the information that I have seen, or the book - the Bushwalkers Book I think it is - Mr Straighty Pender, he was a very old character from Penderlea. He was the man who I bought all the brumbies from and he showed me all that country because I was out there. He told me, and not many people know this, that he packed all the tin from the Tin Mines to Rawsons Pass

KH: Good heavens!

HH: ... and it was put on pack-load after pack-load and when they got enough material there they would communicate with the transport to the lorries or a lorry and it was all carted back to wherever it was refined.

KH: So that was the phase back in 1935/36?

HH: It would be earlier than that.

KH: That was probably around the turn of the century. I think it started around the turn of the century.

HH: Well whenever they started because Straighty Pender told me that himself, that he pack^{ed} and carted all the ore out of the Tin Mines to Rawsons Pass. That's how they got it back and refined.

KH: Did they take materials in at that stage that way too, or did it come from Victoria?

HH: I wouldn't know, I believe it came from Victoria, that road was driven in from Benambra. Old Charlie Carter used to go out and get his supplies from Jindabyne as well as Benambra. He told me he used to go both ways, it all depended on how the weather was and what he wanted, but he used to go out to Benambra as well. He showed me the track when I was in there the first time in '48. He was the man that I was lost with. We set up a brumby yard, in our party, in 1948, there was quite a few of us. We went out for 16 days and unfortunately eight of those days were raining, but we had the yard built and we were ready waiting for a fine day to make a run and when it finally came and broke, we thought it would be right, we rode away down into Quombat and got in behind the horses and were going to drive them along the Quombat range. The horses would normally run from Quombat down into Little Pilot and then a way up into the Big Pilot. It was in that junction or saddle that we had that big trap yard built. We gave great instructions to the men that were to stay on the wings and under no circumstances were they to leave those wings, doesn't matter what time of the day it was, they must ^{not} leave. That was the

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rule in the olden days. Every man-jack that we had in our team stuck to their guns and unfortunately for Mr Charlie Carter and myself, we got lost. A big fog came in and we got on to the top of the *Quombat* ridge and we rode right past the ridge that brought us down to the Little Pilot, we couldn't see a hand in front of you. It was starting to get dark and Charlie started to panic. He said 'Well, we'll go on down and we'll make home, we'll forget about the yards'. I agreed with that. He said we'll go down into Dales Creek and cross over and should be heading for the Tin Mines. For a man who lived there all his life I naturally followed him. It kept getting steeper and steeper and I woke up that we weren't going down Dales Creek, we were heading for the Murray. I could hear the river roaring and I said to Charlie, it was well after dark then, I said 'Charlie I think you're lost'. He said 'No I'm not, that's the creek roaring', I said 'It's not, that's the Murray River'. He said, 'Alright, fair enough, what would you do if you were in my position'. I said, 'Well we've come a long way down this ridge, let's get back on the top and we'll be there when the sun comes up tomorrow', which we did. We tried to light a fire and couldn't light a fire, we got off our horses - he had a blue horse, brumby, and I said to him 'Tie him up Charlie because he'll get away, he'll get cold'. No, Charlie was going to let him go and I could see the horse start walking, trying to get away from us. I tied mine up and sat along the log and tried to go to sleep but it was impossible. Anyway next morning came, we could ^{not} ride, you couldn't see, the fog was terribly heavy. I said to him 'We'll just stop here and wait until the sun should come up'. Anyway about 11 o'clock that morning, it started - the wind started to get stronger and stronger and the fog started to clear a little and all of a sudden it started to lift and we saw the Big Pilot. We got our bearings and we headed back, we'd gone about a mile past our trap yard, so we turned around and went back to the trap yards and when we got to the trap yards all our men were waiting there for us.

[Interruption]

KH: You were talking about you and Charlie coming out of that creek and finding your way back.

HH: Yes, well my party of course, were in a panic and they decided after about 9 o'clock that night and knowing the fog and everything, that everything was hopeless and we'd obviously got lost. So they rode about six miles back to the Tin Mines, set up their camp and had their tea and then next morning, early, the old man Dan Broadhead and Harry Lamont from Cooma came back to look for us and the others stayed at the camp and looked after the horses back at the camp. Then we turned up about 11 o'clock that morning and rode home about 12 or 1 o'clock. We came back into camp and had a wonderful reception.

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Everyone was pleased to get us back again. That was my pleasant experience with Mr Charlie Carter.

KH: Did you still try to get the horses the next day?

HH: Our efforts were in vain after that because we didn't worry about the yards, they were left for the benefit of someone else.

KH: Were they very substantial yards?

HH: They were big yards yes, and they were built - a fire was put in them some years afterwards and they were burnt out, but a lot of horses were caught there.

KH: Between the Little Pilot and the Big Pilot?

HH: Yes.

KH: Would there be any remains there do you think?

HH: No, the fire had burnt them out the last time I was back there in 1968.

KH: And Charlie went with you?

HH: Charlie Carter was with us.

KH: So he was out with you for 16 days?

HH: We stayed at the Tin Mines for about 10 days altogether, but our trip was 16 days. We were heading back to the Chalet and during that big fog there was some bushwalkers from Melbourne - one was in charge of the wharfies in Melbourne, an accountant, and the other one was from a broadcasting station and they'd walked through from Benambra on to the top of Pilot and the fog beat them and they came off the wrong side of the Pilot and they finished up down in Jacobs River, in the Snowy at least. They picked our tracks up - these horse tracks - on the way down and they followed them in, because they could see they weren't brumbies, they were shod tracks. They came up the valley and stayed with us for about two days, and then we gave them - we knitted their socks, washed their clothes, helped them and gave them a fresh supply of food and put them on their way to the Chalet, they were going through to Kosciusko and to be met there at the Chalet. We followed them through about three days afterwards. Charlie came along, right through into the head - where the mountain ash was very heavy at the back of the Cascade hut and he said 'Now you won't have any trouble, you know the track from the Cascade, Herb, because you were the man who put all those horses - boxed your horses with the brumbies in the Cascade'. He said, 'I know you stayed in the Cascade Hut' - the original old one had ^abark ^{roof}.

KH: Yes I've seen some photos of that.

HH: Penders have the photos of that. I think they may have been responsible - old Mr Byatt or Jimmy Nankervis, or some of those boys built it.

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KH: Yes, Dave Pendergast had a photo of it with a bark roof and so did El yne Mitchell.

HH: Yes, well I remember staying in it, in that big violent thunderstorm that I referred to in Mr McAdoo's book. They were all very frightened and they wouldn't stop another night with me.

KH: Was Charlie in good health then, when you saw him?

HH: Yes and it was interesting - he was talking about the cure, blue stone and vaseline and some other cure and of course we had some hard cases in our party and they led him on, became very friendly with him and got a lot of information from him - they were the three Ray brothers, Teddy, Jack and Tom. Tom was a taxi driver for some 30 years in Sydney, Teddy was in the hotel business and Jack was in the airforce. They were able to kid Mr Carter along in many things and they got a lot about the finance of the country and how it should be run and all the advice under the sun.

KH: Would Charlie just hold forth at the drop of a ^{hat} or did he have to be coaxed to give forth?

HH: He had to be coaxed on to those subjects. He could only talk on those subjects of finance and the running of the country and this particular cure that he had for cancer or anything. This particular time, I'll never forget ^{the funny story} Teddy had something wrong, something on his lower part and Mr Charlie Carter said 'Well I can cure that', but Teddy was ^{not} game enough to let him try it.

KH: Wasn't *he* good at putting on *poultices* - to draw things out?

HH: This is what he was going to do, and this is why Teddy wouldn't let him try it on this particular sore part that he had. But they got his confidence and he would tell them and do anything for them. How he used to survive in there - I think the younger generation should know this - he used to shoot the little brumby *foals* and if he didn't shoot them he would snare them and he'd keep the veal hanging in the winter time, he had no worries with the flies or the meat problem. The horses he could get at them at any time and shoot them and he was doing his little bit of prospecting in the different little mines that he had there and on the creeks.

KH: He had the *foals* for meat?

HH: Yes he slaughtered the *foals* for meat.

KH: Didn't he also get the hides from the bigger brumbies and sell the hides?

HH: Well I never saw any of that, but I did see the veal and I know how he - he showed me how to snare the ponies and I've snared quite a few in my time.

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KH: Did he! Out of wire or something?

HH: Yes a wire snare on their tracks. It was a very sure catch.

KH: And the snare would close if they struggled?

HH: Yes and you'd have a peg in it so it wouldn't kill the pony, if you wanted to keep him alive, but if you didn't, well you just didn't put the peg in and it would choke them.

KH: Would it also catch bigger horses?

HH: Yes, you could catch anything with them. And there was also emus in that area and the white dingoes or the creamy dingoes. We saw two on one occasion and we poisoned some horses - the carcass of a horse to try and get some of these dingoes, but we never got any dingoes. We saw quite a few emus in there at different places.

KH: Yes, they're still in there. And did Charlie live in the big mess?

HH: Yes, the big old hut.

KH: That was the miner's mess wasn't it?

HH: I don't know, but he lived in that one with the big old fireplace.

KH: You don't remember anyone who know something about the mining of 1935-36, when all the cottages were in use and so on?

HH: No, I didn't know who they were at all other than what's in that Bushwalkers Book.

KH: There were seven cottages there and you were there in 1948?

HH: There was seven there when we were there, yes. I think the fires destroyed the lot except old Charlie's. Then the next time I was in there the Snowy - they didn't go in until after the 50s - they put a little old hut in there and that was in there and old Charlie's hut. There were only two when we went in there, *brumby* running, in later years.

KH: Did Don Mowatt ever have a hut in there?

HH: Yes, he used those huts - Don and his two boys - they used to up there. He had that Tin Mine run and he came up from the Upper Murray and he used to bring them up through Tom Groggin. They come up the *Indi* River and up the Cascade Spur and then come on to the Tin Mines.

KH: Did they go up the Upper Murray on some tracks that were put in many years ago?

HH: I don't think so, I think they made the original tracks because the Nankervis cattle would have made them all up that *Indi* going towards - out on the other ranges, what they call Davies Plains - they're opposite *Quambat* Range. Davies Plains are right out in Victoria and there was a road or a track up that way and that was a good start for them up the river. That had been there for many years I believe, I've never been on it though. I know where

it starts and I know it goes out to Davies Plains. That was the way they used to take the cattle up, across over the *Indi* and come up the Cascade, the back of the Cascade hut.

KH: So there was no track up *to* Dead Horse at that time?

HH: Oh yes.

KH: There was?

HH: That was Leather Barrel track. Nankervis - Byatts used to start their horses up with the packs and they'd come up all the way and the cattle. But Leo Byatt was a wonderful man. I didn't ever meet his brother - he was over in that *Maragal* side. When we went out looking for the 'Southern Cloud' with Tom Taylor, he showed me where Mr Byatt lived.

KH: Were you with Tom Taylor back in 1944 or so?

HH: Yes, I was the boy who went out with him. Tom was a wonderful man and a wonderful stockman. I was just married - I had ^{not} been married very long - and he asked me if I'd go out because he had this information and it's interesting for you possibly, to know that when we went out in '44 looking for it or '45 with Tom, we rode 10 days in that area, right from Adaminaby we left and right away back to *Curango* and fresh horses and home very late one night with a pack-load full of fish. We had a wonderful trip and to think that I've just come back after the 'Southern Cloud' was lost in 1931, to go out looking for it, or to go and see it and actually see where it did crash, in 1982, that's a good many years, and to think that we were within 400-500 yards of it.

KH: Tom I think, said, that he thought he saw it then but I think the country had just been burnt after the 1939 fires and he saw something that could have been a superstructure of a plane or something, but he wasn't really sure. For some reason or another, he said they couldn't get close enough to it to tell whether it was or not.

HH: His theory was and when we proved what it was, he and I, was that he could see it each year from the Cabramurra side, because he was a dog trapper in that area. Each morning about 11 o'clock when the sun shined in a certain position - there was a sparkle or a shine on that side of the hill. What had happened, when we finally got around there a few years afterwards, when he asked me to go in with him, we were able to pin-point that particular scene, was a drift of snow and late in the year when it was melting, the water would run and the sun would shine on it. He was certain - and that was what we had to find, we had great trouble finding it. We went on to ^{the} top of Black Jack, we rode right along the ridge and now that I've had a look at the area, it all came back to me that we weren't more than 400-500 yards - it was on the

other side of the ridge to what we were looking. We searched for miles all the rough country down towards *Maragal*, into Tumberumba, down on to the Upper Murray and we went over on to the other side looking into *World's End*.

KH: That's very steep country too.

HH: Very steep, shockingly steep, the steepest you'd ever seen.

KH: Out at the Tin Mines, did you ever hear anything to do with the story between Charlie and the Freebodys, the continuing feud that they had?

HH: He never ever mentioned much to us, but these boys did get something out of him and I believe it was over the killing of cattle and they were going to shoot one another and goodness knows what not. But other people would be able to tell you that story better than I.

KH: Yes I've got various versions of it.

HH: Yes, well I think that's right because he took a great dislike to Freebody and they fell out over their cattle.

KH: The story that I've got is that the Freebodys actually planted one of their hides in Charlie Carter's hut, then brought the police in and put it up, actually charged Charlie, that he had stolen one of their horses, killed it and taken the hide off. Some people say that Charlie went to gaol a couple of years for it. This would have been back in the 20s.

HH: I believe that that was part of the story that came out, but I can't remember the details of it to be truthful. He did tell us the truth of what happened and all about the story. I know there would have been a shoot-out there if they ^{had} come back after him again. He decided to go and stay there at the Tin Mines irrespective of where the Freebodys or anyone else was. That was his home and going to be.

KH: Even by the time you met him he would have been in his 70s.

HH: Oh yes, he was a very old man. I went in first with a Mr Donald McGuffick^e, he took me in on this side from Grosses Plain up to the Lookout and then Pigeon Springs and then the Lookout, and Stockwhip and Brode's Camp and that's where we camped. This old man, Donald McGuffick^e, a big fall of snow came, and you'll see in one of those photos the tent where it crashed and the poor old man was almost stiff and dead and he couldn't hardly talk or anything. I remembered about the police, they said if you found a dead body or someone died, you mustn't touch them, you'd have to come back to Jindabyne and notify the police. I thought well it's 30 or 40 miles, I can't do that. I thought I'd strap old Mr McGuffick^e, while I could bend him, over the top of the horse and take him back, and I'd at least have the evidence. Whether they believed me or not was up to them. I couldn't see myself riding 40 odd miles in and then another 40 miles to bring the police out and then bring the

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old gentleman out. But after all, it turned out, I got a fire going and gave him some tea, got him warm, he came around and survived. You can see where the tent crashed on top of us, the snow fall was pretty heavy - we got out then. He took me in and showed me all ~~that~~ bottom end of the Cascade and then of course, I knew all the other end from Straighty Pender from buying all the brumbies.

KH: What was the story with the brumbies?

HH: I let out 175 mares in amongst all the brumbies - four draught stallions.

KH: How did you come by all these horses?

HH: A big drought here, around Tabletop. It was about the time when the snow leases were being changed over and all these old men were being forced out of the mountains and they had to get rid of their stock because the snow leases were been reallotted and different people coming in and they had to get out with their stocks. Old Sanco Smith with his cattle, he had to muster them and sell them. That story is recorded in Mr McAdoo's article I think. I mustered all the horses and Sanco Smith gave them to me.

KH: Oh you mustered them from all different people around the district?

HH: No, in Tabletop, all from Sanco Smith.

KH: He had that many horses?

HH: Yes, he had all these horses at Tabletop and over at Currango, Kellys Plain.

KH: Did he used to breed horses?

HH: Yes, they bred horses.

KH: And he'd sell them then?

HH: Yes we sold 48 in one hit to the Indian Army - they went to India.

KH: Were there many people into breeding horses?

HH: There were a lot of horses bred in those days, yes.

KH: Sanco Smith was one of the big breeders?

HH: Yes, light gun waggon horses they were called in those days. They wanted these heavy clumpers for packing them, or pit horses, and they'd go down to Wollongong and be broken in and used in the mines. Little low nuggety coves, were strong and could get in the small pits in the mines. They call them pit horses.

KH: You gathered up all these horses and then let them go at the *Dead Horse Gap*?

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HH: No, not at Dead Horse Gap, I took them in from Snowy Plain and let them go in at the Cascade ~~but~~. I took them in from the bottom end and of course they went right through the mountains, kept working out and then I was able to muster them back out the other end where I had a snow lease, down near Penderlea. So I had sheep and cattle in there as well as 175 horses, back 30 miles further deeper in.

KH: Did they inter-breed with the brumbies?

HH: Yes. But I cut their tails off so I'd know them. You couldn't get close enough to see the brand but I could see their tails. All I had to do was to muster them to get to the lead and the brumbies would run through and try to hold my own horses up that were trained. Once you got in front of them you could flop them back with a whip. Not many people could do it, but that's what you had to do.

KH: So you got most of them back again?

HH: I got a few foals; but I lost about 45.

KH: What about the top of the Big Boggy, there's a hut called Teddys, were you ever up in there?

HH: Yes, there's a big brumby trap up in there. Teddy McGufficke and those chaps put it there. But that's - the head of the Boggy first - there was a lot of sheep taken up there from Greendale. Harry McGufficke had that and he and Mick Pender used to look after them and the McGufficke boys. He used to take these sheep up from here each year and took other people's sheep on agistment and that helped pay for the lease and the expense of keeping them there. Then in latter years that was taken away from the sheep and Mr Charlie Taylor and Jardines got the lease and they ran cattle there. Nankervis were in behind that again, they had all the Cascade area and around the back of Dr Foremans at Kossie. They will tell you how many cattle they had, but they had a terrific amount of cattle and they all came up from the Upper Murray and Tom Groggin was their base.

KH: Do you remember that brumby trap been used? Were you involved in it?

HH: No I wasn't ever involved in that. I've run a few brumbies around the head of the plain and had a good many busters in some of those bogs, hence the name - they're very boggy too.

KH: Yes, it's very wet country.

HH: I've seen a lot of the horses there and I've run a lot of the horses there because I had to get mine out of that country. I don't suppose there's anyone knows much better than I, all the high points anyway

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because I was shown with old Straighty Pender. All the other end I was shown by old McGuffick^s. They knew all that country because they were there as boys and grew up - they're old men. That was the only reason why I know so much about it, is because I was shown it by those old men and of course Leo Byatt. I used to go out day after day with them and I'd help muster cattle and he would show me the different peaks and points and I was interested in those things. Well before Thredbo Village, in 1948, we went down and used to catch fish out of that river, enough for our meal and take them back up to the Dead Horse ^Hut and cook them at night. We were there two nights I think

END SIDE 1.

TAPE 1, SIDE 2

KH: Did you ever meet a guy called Ted Winter? He was a ski tourer.

HH: No.

KH: Did you meet very many in those early days, in the 40s?

HH: Very few. All the time I was there on this trip in '48 we saw two bushwalkers and they were the only two we saw. That was the year that Mrs Tom Mitchell and her husband and two other people brought the first landrover over the mountains. They came from the Murray and the night we camped at Whites River ^Hut, we went on up to the top of the Range and we came across these tracks, and we couldn't work out what they were. They were heading along the main tops and then they went down, they came to the river at the top of Foreman's hut and they crossed then and went up to the Chalet. So when we got to the Chalet we found out what they were. Mrs Mitchell and her party had brought these jeeps over about the week before and that was the first. She used to write the stories - or a lot of the books and stories at the Chalet and she was a very great friend with Mr George Day. She'd go and relax there and he would take her out brumby running and show her the stories. In one of the pictures that she's got - George told me this and you can verify that - he caught a brumby down at the Cascade outside the hut and it had a bang^{ed} tail. It was one of mine. He said he had to cut the tail off it. When she wrote about the story that they cut the tail off it and made it look like a brumby - that it was a brumby - but it was one of mine that he caught.

KH: Yes, I've seen that article, it was in one of the Ski Year Books.

HH: Well that was one of mine. He'll tell you that I think if you ask him. You ask him to verify that about Mr Adams and he'll tell you.

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Not many know that - ngone.

KH: Were there any other episodes where you were involved with a search or a life/death situation? You weren't involved when Charlie Carter died?

HH: No, there was other people - McGuffick^e. Interesting you may find, the border between New South Wales and Victoria is still not surveyed. It was Laurie McGuffick^e and I know this is correct - his brother died when he was in there with the two surveyors, they were Charlie Martin and his other brother and he packed them in. He had the job of taking them in there and they started from the head of the ^{Indi}, what they call Forest Hill and they were working on the survey, had gone as far as they could and a message came in, I think a Mr Jim Pender brought the message in to them that Laurie's brother had killed himself or murdered or something or he died. Laurie went out and he was to bring fresh supplies back in a week's time for these two surveyors. I know he got on the grog and and forgot about these two others after the wake and they stopped in there and finally had to walk out. These two Martin boys, they were the head surveyors around ^{Monaro} here at the time - they are old men now, or one of them is still alive, in Sydney. He told me that was how they got left in there. That survey was never finished. If you look at a map, and you get these maps now, I lent some of them to the Snowy when they first started and there's a part of the bottom end of that map with no details much on it at all, running into the Snowy River. It's only an imaginary line.

KH: What was the story about Duffers Gully?

HH: I don't remember, I've seen the ^{boiler}... just on the edge of the mountain ash and I know that Wards were the men - the bullocky - his team took it in - all this company. There's also copper sheets in there still. I've never found them, I've never looked for them even, but I know that they are there.

KH: Was there bits and pieces of the ten stamper battery?

HH: I believe so. Greg Crawford, he's 70 now, up at Adaminaby, he was in the timber industry and they were going to go in and get that boiler because they knew it wasn't used very much or used at all. It was taken in by that man I found out the other day. Ward was the bullocky who took the ^{boiler}.

KH: It wasn't Tom Yan?

HH: No, Tom Yan didn't take that in. Murphy was the bullocky that took all that stuff into the Grey Mare mine - 22 bullocks.

KH: Back in '49 or '50?

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HH: Well yes.

KH: All those stampers and fly-wheel and everything?

HH: Yes, Murphy was the man who took that in I believe - 22 bullocks. And the telephone lines are all to Farm Ridge.

KH: Did it ever go through to Grey Mare do you know?

HH: Yes there's a telephone line through there now.

KH: To Grey Mare?

HH: You can see it there in patches going under the Bogong. It's right there, I saw it the other day. But Farm Ridge always had a phone on it. All that run was known as Spencers Peak and those Hedges boys all had that.

KH: Back towards the east isn't it?

HH: Yes. There's so many little yarns that you hear in pieces, you've got to be sort of prompted to remember them.

KH: You called Jargun^al the Bogong?

HH: Yes, or the Grey Mare - it was knowⁿ as those three or it has been knowⁿ to me as that.

KH: Were you in that country very much?

HH: No, I've only ridden through it. I took cattle there 40 years ago and Sanco took his cattle out and were sold and in front of the Boobee Hut was the biggest mob of cattle that I'd ever seen in my life. There were 3400, that's a fairly big mob, and there were 18 men involved. What had happened, there were 1950 that Arthur Cochran had brought from Queensland and they were travelling through to be sold over on the Upper Murray. Sanco Smith had 1150 and we arrived right on dark and put them in because Mr Cochran's cattle were suppose^d to be at Farm Ridge and of course when we put them into the paddock they were boxed with his. We no sooner got our horses unsaddled and went up and was having tea and heard whips cracking and noise and dogs barking and there was another lot put in there - 450 - they belonged to the two Miners boys - Kevin and Max Miner - they're both dead and gone now. When we got up next morning there was a hell of a row with Mr Cochran and these Miners and old Sanco's sons. Anyway it was a matter of sorting them out - it was very simple when it was all worked out. The 1900 cattle that had been travelling for miles and miles and days and months were more or less all together in one end of the paddock and these cattle that we had, the 1150, were all back on the fence, wanting to get back on to their run at Tabletop where we'd mustered them from, ^{Four} Mile, Kiandra, Kellys Plain, all that area, right through. Then the

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Miner's cattle were down from Adaminaby.

KH: They were all facing in the direction they want^{ed} to go?

HH: Yes, all wanting to go back home. So the boys were up early before daylight and down trying to sort their cattle out and they had them out before you could say Jack Robinson and away they went. We never saw them anymore. Then we went, we had the smallest mob, so we were the next ones to start and then the big mob followed us on.

KH: 3,900?

HH: No, 3,400.

KH: That's a very big mob isn't it?

HH: Terrific. I went up into the Territory expecting to see bigger mobs and the biggest mob I ever saw up there was 1500.

KH: That seems like a lot. I suppose its pretty rare.

HH: Very rare, you'd never see it again.

KH: This is in front of the Boobee?

HH: Yes right in front of the Boobee hut. They were in that paddock in the front of the Boobee Hut. It was a rough night and Miss Cochran was the only girl in the party, that was Arthur Cochran's daughter and she was going over - she was courting the agent - I can't think of his name now, that she finished up marrying.

KH: Ruby Cochran?

HH: No that was the old lady that had the cattle^{at Yaouk}. This was Arthur Cochran's daughter. She was going over to marry this chap, or she was courting this chap - they eventually got married - Murrell.

[Tea break]

KH: The thing I have been working on is the huts but I'm also becoming very interested in people in general, to do with the Snowy Mountains. What I try and get to in some situations is some of the stories and yarns that people remember. Not necessarily the bare bones of history, but the colourful bits and pieces, some of the stories you might remember. But we might come across some of those. You were just talking about Hains hut, when was that built?

HH: 1947.

KH: That's when you built it?

HH: Yes. Unfortunately answering your story, if you'd had been with us the last 4 or 5 nights, you would have heard the funniest stories of all times of the mountains and all the characters of Monaro. If anyone would have had a tape recorder and got them, well they would have history

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- they would have some of the funniest jokes, some you wouldn't be able to - you'd have to put a pencil through them, but that didn't matter because that's all we did.

KH: Did you have one or two people who were also older residents?

HH: Seventy was the oldest man - Ross Hain and John Agnew, the solicitor in Cooma who knows the history of the running of the Snowy Mountains, has defence of all the stories that old characters have put over, all the cases and all things that have come out. Bill Parson is the accountant and all the land transactions were done of all the area from the Snowy through the private people - all those things. It's a bit hard for me to relate at this stage and I'm not going to try to touch on those.

KH: There may be some that ^{will} occur to you during the course of the next half hour or so.

HH: Well Hains Hut - the reason for me putting it in - I had the lease for seven years the first time and then they were thrown open again and if we were good tenants we would get them for 14 years, the next tenure. I might add that all that country was owned by very few people and they were under 99 year leases and they were all fenced by those big companies, the Australian Estates, Lampe's, Wards, Robertsons, Montagues - all the big people who were down from the Rock and in that Riverina and other places - Wagga area - had those - the best of the country tied up. And then the Labor Government came in and they split them up, took them away from them towards the end of the 99 year lease, when it was just about finished and they put in ^a round about 360 or so small ~~cookies~~ from Monaro and Gundagai and Tumut and around that area. It got rid of the big people and the small men came in and enjoyed ^{it for} the rest. Then the Snowy started and then they started to phase different sections out when they were building and not wanting stock in, while they were doing their project and finally the National Park was taken over and that's actually what's happened.

KH: There was some resentment wasn't there amongst the local people?

HH: A lot of resentment.

KH: Against the big land-holders ^{from} the west because they had most of the cake.

HH: They had all the cake and all the cream as well. They pioneered that country and subdivided it and the unfair part of it all is that with the conservationists, the Snowy and the National Parks, they should have compromised - it will possibly come - I might be a great optimist, but when they realise the dreadful tragedy that has happened to Monaro and how much its going to lose its name of good stock, cattle and sheep

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through the mountain runs being taken away, some day it's going to effect the economy of the nation, in a small way possibly or in a bigger way than people realise.

KH: What sort of compromise would you have liked to have seen?

HH: Well some sensible approach. Instead of letting the National Park develop into a terrific fire hazard, eventually you will see in years to come, not only the land will burn, but all those buildings and structures that they've put in - Perisher, Thredbo, the whole lot will be destroyed. The same that's happened - three different fires that I know has happened at the Chalet. The Hotel Kosciusko has been burnt down, what difference is Perisher or Thredbo - there's no difference whatsoever.

KH: A few lodges have already burnt.

HH: The lodges will all go when they start. When the opportunity is there. I'm not trying to be an optimist, they wouldn't have enough water to put out a block of toilets with a fire fighting unit let alone one big hotel or motel or a unit, I'm certain of that. I'm not a fire man but I know you cannot fight a fire without water and they're not provided for that. The fire fighting equipment is not there. That's only my thought. But getting back - I've lost the land - it might be a good thing as far as I'm concerned, it's not the answer to it. The country has gone into a wilderness and the scrub has taken over. You can ride practically from one end - we've just finished five days ride and we saw four kangaroos at Providence and they come over and are being fed on and off at the camps by the people with their scraps and they've become tame. We saw very little bird life and no wild life whatsoever. You can walk through a lot of that country and you'd be amazed what little you see when you start to work it out. We know that there are wild pigs in Currango and now they're moving around.

KH: Was there any emus when you were out Black Jack way?

HH: There were emus many years ago but I haven't seen them. We never saw any sign of them this time in any of the country or any wild pigs or anything. We were very close to a sow and little ones here at Happy Jacks. They trotted up the track in front of the power line the last day, but that was all, we didn't see them. Even the bird life is noticeable ^{that} there's very very few. You've got to come down here on to the plains to see them. The point is, I'm not against the National Park in any way, I think it's a wonderful thing for the younger generation to have such a wonderful park. The way the world is changing, accommodation today - \$40 a night - well that's ok for a lot of people but there's a lot of people who cannot afford it - so they've got to take to bushwalking

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and bushwalking is coming in.

KH: It certainly has.

HH: It's like our local shows are going to come back because people cannot go to the big cities and afford all that money - accommodation night after night. They haven't got the money to go and spend away in the big cities. The country shows will come back - that's their only entertainment.

KH: Some locals seem to feel quite happy about the National Park because on one hand it's providing longer employment, like the fact that people go skiing generates all sorts of jobs in Jindabyne and Berridale and elsewhere.

HH: There's no doubt about that. That's the other way to look at it, employment. We notice all the boys that are running it all have degrees and there's no end of work of blackberries, St Johns Wort - we noticed the other day the ranger pulled up in his car and had been picking it and saying that he'd found quite a lot - that's not the end of it, there will be plagues of rabbits come, plagues of wombats or plagues of other animals that could possibly be a problem at a later date. But the fire is the biggest hazard they are ever going to have. And control. It's just building up year after year to one big furnace.

KH: You reckon.

HH: My word, you can see it. They should have allotted certain areas for light grazing, not heavy grazing, we know that we have got to conserve the water. Their theory, what we were told, that there would be plenty of electricity and plenty of water - well just the opposite has happened. We've got the highest electricity rates in the country in our own local town and we've got the shortage of water. So those theories have not worked out. But light grazing, with the second term of the allotment of those snow leases, each block was advised by one of the old head men, a Mr Ted Brassil was one of the men on the panel of conservationists and everything else and they allotted each block 1000 sheep or 2000 sheep according to the size of the block and the quality of the country, to the best of their knowledge and they did not overstock.

KH: This was after 1944.

HH: Yes. That was sensible grazing. Whereas the big people would come in on a big drought and they would bring in 8,000 - 12,000 and put them all in the one run and eat it out, hoping that the drought would break and then take them back and sell them at a big profit. In fairness to everyone I think the mountains would be much better controlled by

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four-legged animals grazing quietly, making tracks, keeping the country down under control, more like a garden, neat and tidy to a certain extent than two people on two legs polluting all the streams and rivers, which they're doing through Thredbo, Perisher, Guthega, Island Bend. I think that's a fair comment. The stock when we had them there did very little damage and they'd been grazed there for possibly 70-80 years prior to us going there. We were the second last people to have Dr Foreman's lease. He used to run 8,000-10,000, we were allowed 4,000 sheep and that's how it was controlled. I think that should be the way it should be controlled now. I would like to try and make my point very clear, that I can see, back in '44 and the conservationists of today in 1982, are two different groups of people - they proved it to themselves. I saw, as a young boy, all these experimental plots going in, Providence, Rules Point, Long Plain, Happy Jacks - all different types - soil erosion, paddocks fenced in, no stock allowed in those paddocks, in small little paddocks, 12 acre plots, pine plantations. I've seen now, after 40 years, those pine plantations at their stage, in little clumps growing at Happy Jacks, Sawyers Hill, and all those other little plots that I've just mentioned. I don't think, I've been told that the National Park is now employing people to go round and cut out apple trees and all the other trees that are not suitable to the environment that they want, such as the pine trees and all that. The willow trees that have been planted along the side of the roads, right away over on the Murray and I think there are two different types of

KH: I think some of those early plantations were trials, they were to see which conifers did best in Australia. Now I think, some of them are in fact multiplying and getting away as it were or young seedlings spreading. But their policy was, in regard to those planted trees, on one hand in places like Yarrangobilly village or down at the caves, they're recognising the deciduous trees and the value of them and they're keeping them. But in other parts of the Park which are more wilderness, which are more natural, they're trying to remove them. But they've got a devil of job trying to get rid of them all.

But to go back to huts and things, Hains Hut was one that you built in '47 and then some years later you gave that over to fishermen and bushwalkers and others?

HH: Yes, 1968 I think.

KH: When I first came, you told me about the three chimney story. You were talking about Farm Ridge and you were talking about Goandra and Witzes'. Would you like to go back to that one?

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HH: As I was at Farm Ridge the other day, all these things came back to me. The Goandra one, which I had a lot of time and stayed a lot of nights at, the old cookhouse and the little old hut they first had were Lampe's - they had that all built. I knew those Lampe boys and Mr Lampe, the old man, personally. He wanted me to become a jackaroo on his place in Coonamble, as I was only a boy who had just left school. I was working on a place called Emby. I worked for a Mr Fisher and he lived to 101 and I was the only man who ever stayed on Emby for two years. Old Mr Fisher and I were very good friends, he had three sons and I worked with them. Mr ^{Fred}Lampe heard that Mr Fisher had a good jackaroo and of course he tried to get me. He asked me if I'd go out and have dinner with them one night at Neebia, so I did. What turned me off going to Lampe's place was, that he had half a dozen candles on the table at night and when he served the meal and everyone was sitting around this big table, he cut the leg of meat up and the potatoes were put on the plates and pumpkin and sent down and passed around to each one and he decided then that the job was more or less over, you just had to eat it. To save time or economy he asked that the lights be blown out and they blew the candles out and I thought what a tight old bugger that is.

KH: You had to eat in the dark?

HH: Yes and I thought well if that's his way of saving economy I thought I best not to work for him, he might be too hard.

KH: Was this at Goandra itself, at the home property?

HH: This was at the home property in Coonamble - a long way away.

KH: Way up there. So you went there

HH: So I didn't go and work for Mr Lampe but I can show you photos there, in that album, of Mr Lampe coming down here to Cooma and he stayed here at this home - Harlow - and photos of him down there at the woolshed. I became quite good friends with him many years after and I finished up getting Zinc Range which was a part of Goandra and it was the main paddock and the best of their country in Goandra.

KH: What was his christian name - Lampe ?

HH: Fred. He had a daughter Joan and he had sons - four sons I think - Oscar - can't think of the other three, but I knew them well.

KH: It was a very big lease wasn't it?

HH: Yes. He had right out on to the road, the Four Mile, Glascoff's Yards, you turned in there - people from Gundagai owned that, Glascoff's, and then you went over into Goandra, there was a little old road in there

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if you could get in by horse and cart. After that motor cars went in.

KH: He put the big homestead in didn't he?

HH: That was the 20s I think. It was quite a nice house and the big woolshed. When they moved out Caldwell's syndicate - Carl Massey and McCalls from Bombala, some of the returned soldiers from the Second World War were in with that syndicate and they ran the Goandra area.

KH: Was that woolshed ever used for full shearing or just for crutching?

HH: Only for crutching. There was no shearing done there other than for odd stragglers.

KH: Lampe would drive his sheep overland from Coonamble.

HH: They were most^{ly} trucked to Cooma or to Tumut from Coonamble. All rail trucks in those days and there was no transport ... and they'd walk them from Cooma out or from Tumut up the Talbingo Mountain. The drovers - that's where all those yards, breaks they called them there. Each break - each night - ~~thousands of~~ sheep used to come there and to the Australian Estates.

KH: That was Currango?

HH: Yes and they would have up to 120,000 sheep there.

KH: Just Australian Estates alone.

HH: 7,000 sheep and I know they had over 700 horses because a Mr ^{Clapton} Clapperton was their general manager, Mr Ted Brassil from Wambook, he was the manager who used to look after it and they'd send up sheep from Wambook as well, wherever they came from their places all over the Riverina, wherever they had places in the drought, they'd send them up. They had a very big set of yards and woolshed there and horse yards - very big cattle yards.

KH: At Currango?

HH: Yes - the cattle yards were over - you may have never have seen those, they were over on the other side of the plain - there's an old place called the Old Currango.

KH: Yes, I know Old Currango.

HH: It's over there at the other end. Before Tom Taylor and that were there, there's a little chap called Squeaky Dan McGregor.

KH: Why was he called Squeaky Dan?

HH: Well he was only a little man and they originally came from Jindabyne, McGregors and he used to do a lot of the trapping. In those days there were thousands and thousands - hundreds of thousands of rabbits and the rabbit was called the 'poor man's friend'.

KH: You could eat him?

HH: Yes, you could eat him, but they didn't eat him, they were after those skins. There was Skinny Blake, used to trap in Y1 and lived

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down in Kellys Plain and back in where my hut was - and that was the reason for putting my hut there, you couldn't get any trappers to ride from Goandra over, it was too far, trapping down the river. Of course the rabbits were not supposed to travel any higher than about 5,000 feet and they stick to the gullies and all around the sides of the hills. They'd come up to within 5,000 feet and that's about as high as they burrow. That's pretty right too you'll find. The first year I was there with my hut, I put two boys in, both dead now, Mark Russell had the butcher shop in Adaminaby and his friend Russell and myself. They caught 12,000 rabbits ...

KH: 12,000 rabbits! In what time period?

HH: In the winter.

KH: In one winter?

HH: The next year 10,000, the third year 8,000 and the fourth year 6,000, and the fifth year 4,000 and we kept them down at about 4,000.

KH: What years were they?

HH: Well straight after '47.

KH: What size country - what country was that in?

HH: Well there was about 2,000 acres in my block but they were all down the river. Old Dicky Townsend, the bookie from Goulburn, he had the Gulf at the time.

KH: Yes, there's a hut there, Townsend's hut.

HH: Yes, and that's where this old Squeaky Dan used to trap on all this side of Currango on the wall. There were others too, there was Noel Sefton from Tumut.

KH: After the War?

HH: Yes.

KH: 12,000 skins in one winter!!

HH: Yes.

KH: This is all trapped.

HH: Lanes traps - Lanes rabbit traps.

KH: You didn't use ferrets ^{and} nets.

HH: No bloody fear, it would be too cold for them.

KH: That would be over 5 or 6 months?

HH: No, only over 2 months.

KH: Really, you must have had a lot of traps!

HH: In the summer time we'd poison again, you wouldn't know how many you got besides that - that was we got - it would be nothing to get 50,000 rabbits.

KH: The country must have been - it must have been a living carpet.

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HH: These National Park people have got to see that rabbit plague yet and they'll have no hope in the world of controlling it without a terrific amount of staff.

KH: How many would you set a day?

HH: You'd work a hundred a man - that's about as many as you could work.

KH: You'd be carrying those with a horse?

HH: You'd pack them, you didn't have to pack them, once you got them in on to the site, you'd just take a lot and set 20 or 30 on one burrow. The burrows were just one after another all the way down the sides of the hill. You'd only work a line straight down and then when you ran out of traps you'd move them - after you'd caught and hunted the rabbits from there, you'd move them to the next lot of burrows.

KH: You'd kill them and skin them!

HH: Skin them, peg them all out and dry them.

KH: How many would you do in a day?

HH: Whatever you caught. You'd catch at least 80 out of the hundred traps. You'd go around at night before the frost, take them out, reset them, any that had gone off. You might get 40 the first night set, you'd get 60 or 70 the next, in the morning.

KH: How much did you get for them did you say?

HH: There were four skins to the pound and in 1951 they went to a pound a pound and that was the dearest the rabbits had ever got and that was a lot of money. That's how they got the name 'the poor man's friend'. The majority of people, the working man, in the summer time, would not kill those rabbits. That's why you had a job to get rid of them in the summer time because they wouldn't kill them for you. You'd have to wait until the skins were of some use and then of course, they were used to make felt hats.

KH: Davey Crocket hats?

HH: No ordinary hats, the Stetson hat and rabbit rugs and the other part, in the olden days, way back before that of course, the little white tail was used as powder puffs for the old grandmothers.

KH: We started this whole sequence when I asked you about the three chimneys, we didn't get very far into that. You'd gone to Farm Ridge, you said that all the three chimneys, Farm Ridge, Goandra and Witses were very similar and built by the same guy. You're not sure?

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HH: I think they could have been, I'm not sure of that, they might have been built at a different time. They're all the same design, if you have a look at them, the same sort of slaty rock was used and the mud of course. When I stayed at Witses hut, the chimney was exactly the same as what the Farm Ridge one is and the Goandra original old oven where they baked the bread, that's a similar stone. That type of slate or basalt, it seems to be the same weight and same size, kitchen or oven they used.

KH: Was the baking oven still in operation at Farm Ridge when you first went there?

HH: No, and it wasn't in at Goandra, it had finished before I ever got there.

KH: Goandra was the little kitchen down the back, with the old chimney, that was still standing was it?

HH: You could still use that, when I first went in there, back in the 40s.

KH: And the homestead too of course?

HH: Yes, it was quite good all the time. I remember when the ^{Caldwells} bought the butter churn up from Ando - somewhere or other - they used to put all their gear in it and lock it in - they bought it from ^{some} dairy. It was on the back verandah there for years and years - they used to lock all their personal gear in it. Butter was made in it down the coast or wherever they got it from and they brought it up and set it on the back verandah at the old hut. The biggest rhubarb that I've seen has grown on it - and it's been there for over 50 years and it's still there because I had a feed of it in 1980.

KH: At Goandra?

HH: Yes, beautiful rhubarb. The whole thing was eaten out by those wingless grasshoppers and the rabbits when I was there and they hadn't touched the rhubarb plant, so they don't like it. We took a lot of it and took it away and boiled it up one night, had it for breakfast next morning, out on the Kiandra plain.

KH: You can still remember the old homestead at Witses?

HH: Yes. It was there and the old leaning shed alongside it, it was pulled down - it fell down here a few years ago now - the final pole dropped onto the ground and let her down. But Clarræ Butler built that out of the old hut - and his brother.

KH: Yes, Clarræ is one of them, he lives in Canberra I think.

HH: Yes Clarræ had it, because he and Belman owned it and they built that after - I had mine well before ...

KH: You had that lease?

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HH: Yes, we know it backwards because we used to use those yards - our sheep was mustered into their yards - that's what we call Blanket Plain, that hill up on top - or Blanket Plain hill and Blanket Plain is that square paddock where you come over and drop down into the Nungar Plain. That's where my knowledge, when the 100,000 sheep were snowed in, Mr Cliff Rose, Harry McGuffick, Jimmy Pattinson, the great Australian skier and I, had the first rubber-tyred vehicle, or spring cart. We saddled our horses up and went as soon as the snow started and we got up to Adaminaby at least. It was very heavy, so we stayed the night there and then Jimmy Pattinson came in with us, at the Alpine it was getting pretty heavy and we decided that Cliff Rose and myself would go into Goandra through Boggy Plain, Harry McGuffick and Jim Pattinson would take my horse and cart which we couldn't get in through Boggy Plain. It gets very heavy up on ^{top of} Boggy Plain in the snow drifts. We took our skis with us on our horses and they followed the main road and got in to Kiandra with a lot of difficulty, into Jimmy Pattinson's place. Three or four days afterwards I rode from Goandra over to Kiandra to see how they got along and got some of my gear out of the cart and the snow came on again for the second time and of course they were all trapped in there. Two men who were staying in Goandra at the time, they had a lot of sheep mustered into the different paddocks. We mustered more and I think we had over 4,000 sheep and that was enough for a mob to take out. I steered them out and came out with them and I told them that they couldn't get up Boggy Plain because of the drifts and everyone was moving - there was 10,000 sheep that were in there and they were all heading for Boggy Plain. That was 10,000 and if we arrived there with 4,000, that would be too many to hold the yards - we couldn't box them together. I was told by old Mr Sanco Smith that if I dropped over one ridge, into the Nungar, there was always about 4 to 5 inches of snow less, over from Tantangara. He said if you get caught any time keep dropping down into Nungar and even if you've got to come into Kellys Plain you'll get out of it again, which I did. I steered these sheep of ^{Caldwells} - Ossie and Alan - met me on foot with their own stock and mine and Dalhunts - I was looking after at time. I said well we're going to Witses Hut and we're going to come out on the Nungar and I'm going to bring them out at Providence. They didn't know the way and they said they'd walk back to Boggy Plain and help some of these other people with their stock. Well we didn't get quite as far as Providence that night, we stopped at what they call Gang Gang ^{Mountain}. It was too heavy for them to travel and dark,

so we stayed out the night with them and by that time there was about 18 inches of snow and you just couldn't take them any more. They were snowed in and bogged and that was it. So we waited until daylight next morning and we got our horses out again and we rode tracks backwards and forwards and we got out

END SIDE 2, TAPE 1.

TAPE TWO, SIDE 1

KH: What did you do, you took one of the horses

HH: One of the horses, had a horse collar and put it on the chain, we just got an old dry log, hooked on to it, as much as she could pull and that made a road, made a track. Once you put them in a track they've got to stop in it. They just pad^{ded} it down and then it gets wider and wider and becomes like a big road after a while. Once we got over the heavy drifts and got down half a mile under the hill again it started to lighten out and the weather was warming, so they'd break it in their travel.

KH: What time of year was that?

HH: Oh about the end of May, near the end of our lease time.

KH: What state was the hut at Witses?

HH: It was pretty delapidated, the chimney had all fallen down.

KH: But it was a slab homestead?

HH: Yes, slab on the sides, you could still sleep in it.

KH: How many rooms?

HH: Only the one that I remember and the big old fireplace. When I was first introduced to it, Sanco Smith's boy, Jim was his head stockman, the older son - we were mustering cattle in there after all the stock had gone out. It was July when we were in there. We boiled our billy there one day and then we rode from there down on to Trace's hut near Kellys Plain - it's gone - over Blanket Plain and then on to Kellys Plain.

KH: It was just one room, the old hut? I was under the impression that there was really a substantial homestead there at one stage.

HH: It wasn't any bigger than from here to that television when I was in it anyway. There's only those slabs - the best of them were used in that other hut that Clarrie built. Belman was in with Clarrie - from Providence.

KH: They've got country up the Gungahlin haven't they - Belmans.

HH: They're a different family. Reg Belman lived at Providence and had his run at Providence. Clarrie Butler owned this place joining us here, he got it as a ^{soldier} settlement block adjoining Clyde and Robert Hain. But you talk about snow - we were snowed in again up on Long Plain. We met a very great character up there, Clive Miller, an old chap whose got a little place - an old stockman who used to work for Currango and Miss Cochran. He came down checking the telephone lines there one night and got caught in the snow. It was about when this pig turnout, that I was explaining to you. Anyway the boys were good enough to be able to take him back, his horse cleared out or something when he was checking the telephone line, they ran him back over to Coolamoin Plain, he was staying at Coolamoin Plain at the time and that was the first time they'd ever seen Coolamine homestead. Not long after, in that same year, towards the fall, we got snowed in. The boys had to learn all about it, they were old enough, and they were two exceptionally good stockmen and they learnt the hard way. Every year they used to want to come in with me and daddy to have a look at the hut and learn, they were good musterers and they knew exactly what we wanted. The three of us, we used to be able to put them together as quick as anyone because we understood one another. I saw Robbie at one particular stage, the last time we came out, we'd got our sheep out of a little place near Port Phillip Gap, we had a very rough lease there, and we mustered them and had them mustered just when the snow came. We got a little bit of warning, we reckoned that it was on, so we went up and just had them mustered, there was about a foot of snow. Fred Fletcher used our huts and we used their yards, they came ^{a day or two} afterwards, and they had to muster theirs. We had ours mustered so we started off. I said to the boys, well there's a short cut from Rules Point across to Witses hut, we'll take a risk. As soon as it's frosty we'll start them off. When we went to get our dogs the next morning, I had one tied up on a chain with a horse rug over the fence, right at Rules Point gateway, so the sheep would ^{not} go over. I couldn't get him off because the little dog chain was frozen and the little dog was frozen to the ground. I had to get my pliers to cut the chain and let the dog go - that's how cold it was. Anyway we headed for Witses hut through our own country, we knew our own block and I went around with the landrover to Tantangara where the old town was and waited there for them. When they were late I thought I'd better run on and see where they were. I came right into Witses hut and I got there at 4 o'clock and it was pelting down with snow and it had been on all day. They couldn't

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get them any further and I said to them 'Well they've got to stop in the yards and we'll take you out, you'll have to ride out, back to where I've left the caravan and you can come back in the morning and get them if they're still - if you can get in'. So we took the risk of not having the landrover snowed in and the sheep snowed in.

KH: You couldn't do very much about the sheep could you?

HH: No, they wouldn't travel any more. We just put them in the yards and left them there. They came back and we got there about 9 o'clock, back to the caravan on the Tintangara Road. I got a fire going and by the time they got there, they got warm and went to bed. They were up before daylight, 4 o'clock, rode back, got back near the yards at daylight that morning and just as they were going up Blanket Plain here's 30 odd of Johnny Rudd's cattle. I told them if they saw any cattle about to get them and take them back to the yards and they'd be right, they'd get the sheep out. So they drove the cattle back to the yards, opened the gate, turned the cattle loose and they just followed their tracks over Blanket Plain and they cut enough tracks and the sheep followed out. I saw Rob come over one drift and the horse went down over the drift, out of site and all you could see was this man sitting on top of him, his head came out on to the heavy snow again. Once they got on to the frozen snow they could travel, you get them up on top and they're right. That next night they caught me up at the fire of course, I was there looking after the fire when they came with the sheep and they said 'What's happened dad'. All my backside of my pants and underpants were completely burnt out and I hadn't even felt it because I was backing up to the fire. All that saved us was the DMR or whoever was in there, had a big storage diesel tank of diesel and it wasn't locked. I just kept getting four gallon tins of diesel out of it and kept throwing it on this big log and kept the fire going. It would go out and it was very hard to keep the wood up to it. I'd just get a bucket of diesel and throw on it, soak into the wood and keep it going. That night, Pat Mine's, they had all their cattle snowed in at the Pockets hut. Well they came along at nine o'clock and we were just on the road at Tintangara, the light of their landrover came into the back - I'd been running up and down while I'm waiting for the boys to bring the sheep up the Nungar creek. I was running up over the hill, down Gang Gang, cutting the snow with the landrover and I had a track made with the landrover, up and down, with chains on the front of the landrover. As it fell I'd go about every hour and run down. I said to them, 'I've got the track all cut and ready' and when they came there we just put the sheep on it

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and let them go. We got down to Providence at 12 o'clock that night and we were the only ones that ever got out of that area - Fletches and all were there for fifteen days or 10 days afterwards - no-one came through.

KH: Did they lose many sheep?

HH: No. We were the first to get out. Pat Mine's and her husband came through with the cattle and they said theirs - were snowed in at the Pockets hut.

KH: Apparently that Claperton^p guy used to use the Pockets sometimes.

HH: That could have been right. Getting back to Claperton^p, he was there and he saw me rope 98 horses one day. He was there with Mr Ted Brassil and the other man who was there helping us as well, he worked for Australian Estates, was Vin Johnson. I think he lives at Boorowa, he's got a property over there. I used to do all the roping, coming into the yard, we'd choke them down, the Smith's boys had the contract of marking the horses - branding them. We marked 98 there one day.

KH: That's a lot, that's pretty good is it?

HH: I don't think many have done better.

KH: There's a story about Sanco Smith's sons killing himself, hanging himself.

HH: Yes, that's correct - at Bugtown^{Bugtown} Hill. Well I didn't meet the boy, I didn't know the boy at all but I know what it was all about. I don't think I should ever disclose that possibly - personal reasons I think. Something to do with someone over in Kiandra. Did you ever hear the story?

KH: Well I hadn't heard the full story, I only heard that he didn't have a very good relationship with his father.

HH: Yes, that was one of the things, he^{ld} fallen out with his dad, but something went wrong over at Kiandra and it was through that I believe that he hung himself. Jimmy showed me where it was, at the gateway, right on top - Robinsons owned the country, a place called Bug Town. You went up the hill from Bug Town to Nungar Plain and then down to the Gulf which Circuit's^t owned and then around down to the river where the Tintangara Dam is. Before that dam ever went in that was the first place I met Mrs Tom Taylor. She had a horse - I admired that woman all my life because I know some of the things that she has done.

KH: What was she up to then?

HH: She was in a horse and sulky and I'd defy any man who ever had driven a horse and sulky down that dry river at the time - the river was running but it was low enough for her to get over these rocks and the sulky was up 2½ feet in places over some of the big rocks. She was leading him and easing him over - that's how they used to go into Adaminaby to

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get their supplies.

KH: From Currango?

HH: Yes, they'd have to go across the river and come down the dry side over the rocks and up that steep pinch towards the Gulf.

KH: They didn't go out via Port Phillip firetrail?

HH: No, only if they were going over to the other place, to Yarrangobilly. They used to go over there a lot, but they'd go to a dance over there. If they were coming to Adaminaby they'd come in this way. That's where I met her.

KH: What else did she get up to?

HH: Well she had a horse called Chubby and when they had a send off - everyone wanted to speak highly of them and everyone had something to say - I was always nervous in my younger days, but I couldn't help say how I admired this lady. I asked Tom if he could tell me the name of the horse that she was driving the sulky so I'd have a little bit of a story to make up. After everyone had spoken, Mr Leo Barry and all the le\$sees and a lot of his friends, I thought I'd say something, that I thought they were wonderful people and everytime I went to Currango I was always very welcome, a wonderful cup of tea and they looked after me very well. I couldn't speak highly of the hardships that Mrs Taylor, that I'd seen her driving this horse and sulky over this rough place, it was the first time I'd ever met her. It was a good many years before Mr Leo Barry or anyone else knew them. He was the head speaker, and he said he knew them for so many years, and I'd known them for so many longer. I was only a young boy compared to Mr Barry. I said I believe ^{that horse} now is in a certain place and I've got my doubts whether I'd like to have a cup of tea in Currango and of course, she looked up and laughed and she saw the funny part of it. Chubby got bogged in the well in front of the house where they used to draw the water from and died in the well.

KH: Oh dear.

HH: That was my little story and comment.

KH: Now they get all their water from a spring up the hill, they've got plastic pipes from one cottage to another.

HH: I'll always remember the little yarn about Tom. He was always talking about bureaucrats and all these different people - I could never work them out. One funny story that I heard him mention was that these people from Tumut got drowned in the lake down in the front of their house and he said when he went down to have a look, it was only 15 yards away from the bank where boat sank. He said, I can't understand them, they

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only had to jump out and go down to the bottom and just walk straight out. That was Tom.

KH: What about - you mentioned Delaney - I don't know very much about the history of Delaney's hut. You mentioned an old man Delaney before, was he the one who built Delaney's hut?

HH: I don't think so. Mr Eric Delaney was the one who used to live here at Frying Pan and he had a cattle run up at the Nine Mile and he used to box his cattle with Mr Aub Russell and Sanco Smith. The Delaneys from Buck&nderra are different Delaneys again.

KH: Who had the hut that's just off the Snowy Mountain highway, that we know today as Delaneys hut? It's a weatherboard hut.

HH: I think it's called Chalkers' hut. Just on Connors Hill?

KH: Yes, this side of Sawyers Hill, across the plain, this side of the plain, a few bends back.

HH: I think it's called Chalkers' hut, what I knew it as.

KH: Just off the highway on the right?

HH: Yes, just tucked in on Connors Hill.

KH: That's Delaneys Creek isn't it.

HH: Yes there is a Delaneys Creek there. It's possibly the one underneath the Alpine Hill or just on the side of it there, in front of it, it was burnt down. I was only there once. But Mackeys used to be there when I was there. There's so many.

KH: What we know as Delaneys is very much there, you can see the roof of it.

HH: It's still there?

KH: Yes.

HH: Well that was called Chalkers' hut. There's quite a little bit of history - I took these people from Sport and Recreation into that. I thought that we might be able to use it in an emergency. There's quite a lot of history in that hut - written up on it. Just check on that for your own benefit - Chalkers I think you'll find.

KH: Do you know when it was built or anything.

HH: I don't know, it's a very old one, it's been there a long time.

KH: Who were the Chalkers?

HH: They were on the Plain here which was called the Six Mile Plain, going into the old town of Adaminaby. They lived near Mr Mackeys, they had Chalkers lease there. A rough lease that run into what you call Tantangara now - we called it Governors Hill.

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HH: There was another hut just in front of that, about half a mile, on the left hand side, around the hill there. I was only there once, but it was called Mackays hut then - Mackays had that lease - at the back of the Alpine.

KH: Neville Lockers father?

HH: Yes, they would have been involved in that, that's right. And the other lease that run from there up to Sawyers Hill was owned - I remember the fencing being done on that one of course. Two brothers had it from out here at near Kelton *Plain*.

KH: Do you remember the old Sawyers Hill hut?

HH: Yes, it was used as a staging place. Freebody used to drive the mail coach to there and when it couldn't go any further that's where they left it. Old Hughes and all that used to ski out and get their mail from there, the coach used to turn around and go back.

KH: The same Freebodys who were down at the Tin Mines?

HH: No, they were a different Freebody. The son here, his father, which may be interesting too, his father, was running the film place, the theatre here in Cooma for many years. There were four Jack Freebodys went past Pine Valley down here, where our front gate is, within an hour of one another.

KH: Four Jack Freebodys!!

HH: Yes.

KH: Alright I give up on the Freebodys.

HH: Yes, that right, there were a lot of Freebodys - there were four Jack Freebodys, so you can get confused with Freebody stories. There's a Jack that lives down here at Pine Valley, they've lived there for 19 years, Roy Freebodys father. There's this Freebody who ran the mail coach and it ^{was his} son who was looking after the film projector in the theatre and there's another old Jack Freebody out here that used to argue with Carter.

KH: Is he still alive?

HH: No, his son is.

KH: The Freebody brothers who were involved with Carter, they're dead aren't they?

HH: Yes.

KH: But one of the sons is still alive?

HH: Yes, he's over here, joins us - on Dick Johnson's place, just near Coolringdon. He used to live out there - Freebodys. So that ties that up.

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KH: You just touched on something else a minute ago.

HH: Not Hughes - the mail?

KH: Yes. So the Freebodys took the mail up to Sawyers Hill ~~Hut~~ and then they would pick the stuff up on skis. Did you ever know Bob or Bill?

HH: I knew Bob. He got a lot of horses out, on skis, for me once. He lived there - his house was next door to the hall and if you'd like to see the bugg_y that I got out of the hall up there, that's where Charlie Bell used to play the violins - the music up there. Neville Locker has a beautiful bugg_y that came from Tumut and Palfrey got it at Kiandra for some function and then they lent it to me for some function and I gave it to Neville and Neville has got it down in his museum. It came out of the hall and was originally Bob Hughes. I've got a scrap that used to tie the wheel of the sulky of Bob Hughes, in my bag in that lorry somewhere. I took it with me and didn't use^{it}. It's a wheel, you put the strap around the wheel and around the rein and when the horse walks off it, just ties up and you can just back back.

KH: Do you remember Bob Hughes hut out at Four Mile creek?

HH: No. I was there. I know the Four Mile well, I mustered all that country and the Broken Dam.

KH: You know Broken Dam hut?

HH: Yes, and there's a hut you'd never see - Tabletop hut. No-one ever ...

KH: The ruin is still there?

HH: I camped in that, it was standing when I first went in there as a boy.

KH: Did you ever camp in the Broken Dam hut?

HH: No.

KH: Do you remember the hut at Broken Dam?

HH: Yes I remember it, but I never camped in it. We used to go back and camp at the Nine Mile.

KH: The one that was on stilts?

HH: Yes, I used to camp in that and the old one. Before you go up the landing there's a steep side up to Tabletop. The little hut was there and the big sheep yards. They came from the Boobee and Happy Jacks, all up here, that was the first night out. One cove arrived there one night with 4,000, he got up to get them the next morning and they were all stringed out of the yards and 2,500 had gone. They all went into the big Four Mile which is way down, right way back down to Rocky Plain. The whole

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lot of them got boxed and they never got them back until these coves mustered later in the year. They were going back - Dicky Huger and old Mick Russell used to look after the Boobee, Far Bald Mountains, all that area.

KH: Did you ever camp in the Four Mile Hut?

HH: No.

KH: Was Bob Hughes ever there when you went there?

HH: No I never saw him there. I didn't know him when he was there, he was in at Kiandra when I knew him.

KH: The hut is right next to the old Four Mile diggings?

HH: Yes.

KH: Did you ever go down to the Elaine Mine?

HH: No.

KH: Blom^ofield Creek?

HH: No. I would have been mustering and wouldn't even take notice of it.

KH: It's right down steep.

HH: We were in every steep corner - the horses ran everywhere and the cattle and the sheep.

KH: Was there only one hut at the Nine Mile?

HH: There was only the one when I was in there. All the diggings were further down, around.

KH: There wasn't one that was on the way out to the Sugarloaf?

HH: I never saw it, we used to go out that way. Where that Sugarloaf is, they used to go across there, down to the Fifteen Mile, down the Tumut River, we used to call the cattle, all we used to do was to salt them in the summer time and call them. What didn't come this week, we'd do the same thing next week.

KH: How would you call them?

HH: Just bellow.

KH: Like a cow does?

HH: Yes. That was how we got them out of that country - week after week - you couldn't get them all in the one week. You just take what you want each week, go back the next week and get another lot, kept thinning them out.

KH: You would have stayed at the Brooks hut or Happys?

HH: Brooks hut wasn't there then, Happys was there.

KH: Brooks wasn't there in the very early time. I think it was in the 40s.

HH: I stayed in Happys hut. Lenny Boots used to look after it and had a lot of sheep - for whoever they worked for - someone down near

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the Rock.

KH: Montagues?

HH: Might have been - no someone else - Waugh I think. Lenny Boots used to look after the thing. He took a bloody pony of mine and never ever brought it back - for his kids. I had my sheep in a place called Blackfella's Spur, in Boltons Hill. Blackfella's Spur runs down into the Tumut River. I brought them in from a big drought from Providence - old Mr Ted Noel sold me the sheep for about 8/6d but they^{were} worth about 4/6d. Smith's boys told me that if I brought them up to the Nine Mile, they'd see that I summered there and I could put them out on Blackfella's Spur because they had it as a run for cattle. So we took them down the Nine Mile, and we took them straight down a creek in front of the Nine Mile and we got them over on to Blackfella's Spur. If anyone had ever been there, whether you walked there, or anyone else, you'll know what a hair-raising experience it was getting sheep^{through} there.

KH: I've never walked it.

HH: Yeah ^{Geordies} Spur, down Temperance Creek. I've got a story, if I can find it I'll send it to you. You might get a little extract out of it, where the horses took off just on dark and Rex Fisher, a friend of mine from Coonamble, set after them on foot, after they'd gone, and he caught them right away up on the top coming towards the Nine Mile. I caught him up nearly at 2 o'clock that night in ^{my} pyjamas. One horse-I'd been down fishing and when I came back, when I got near the camp I could hear this bullock bell ringing and he said 'The horses are gone Herb'. I said 'Alright, what have you got tied up' because I made them tie a certain amount up. They said 'There's two left'. I said 'Saddle one of those up for me and I'll get into my pyjamas'. I was all wet from the fishing and I thought I'd be out for the night. So I jumped into my pyjamas and when I caught Rex Fisher, he had them held up waiting for help and it was 2 o'clock that night. We rode them back down once we got them headed and we got back nearly on daylight.

KH: Were there any miners still around? Did you ever meet anybody who was fossicking?

HH: No, not when I was there.

KH: Did you go to the Grey Mare at all - 49-'50 - the last time when they took that machinery out there?

HH: No I've never been to the Grey Mare and I didn't get there this time. I got within 10 miles of it. If I'd ridden down 10 miles and

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to the Valentine Falls - that was a part of our trip this time, planned - we would have had to stop another day and everyone had to back by Sunday. So we couldn't do it.

KH: I've skied down there and walked down there. Did you ever get across to Wheelers hut or Pretty Plain?

HH: I've been to Pretty Plain because I went to Pretty Plain with Tom Taylor - Musical Hill. That's where he used to call the dogs from, the dingoes.

KH: Did he, with a whistle or with his own ...

HH: No, he called them. But he and Charlie Bell used to be able to call them. Harcourt Reid, he was another man who was the dingo trapper in there that I knew well.

KH: Harcourt Reid, no one's mentioned him! There were a few dingo trappers around weren't there. It seems that most of the locals have had a go at dingo trapping at some stage or another. Charlie Carter used to be a dingo trapper too, Tom Taylor, a guy from Tumut I interviewed last year.

HH: I met the old chap from the Murray too. He had about 15 dogs camped on Tom Groggin, he had his camp there - beautiful dog skins, but I couldn't buy them from him because he had to put them in for his bounty. They were catching them up at the Indi and up at the Tin Mines. I've seen a lot of dogs in there when we've been in there brumby running.

KH: I've heard dogs in there.

HH: I've had them follow me for days, in there mustering the horses. You very seldom see them, they were very difficult to see. Bill ^{Classen?} Glassen and Harry Learmont and all these chaps - there's the little Tin Mines - have you been into the little Tin Mines?

KH: I've been to where the mining area is.

HH: That's down the creek, the Tin Mine creek, where all the basalt rock is all piled up. The opposite way, heading for the Big Pilot, if you go up the little Pilot Creek, the water running back towards the Ingeegoodbee, the head of that water is where the little - there was a shaft and a little wooden construction ^{on} a little flat and that was called the Little Tin Mine.

KH: How far off the track?

HH: Might be 2 miles. There was quite a lot of working.

KH: Where was Charlie working when you were there, was he still working any holes?

HH: He was near the hut at the time, the horseyards there, he was

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working those when we were there in '48.

KH: What getting alluvial tin?

HH: I don't know, he didn't show us anything, he was very secret about those things, you didn't ask any questions.

KH: He had holes all over the place!

HH: Yeah well he could have done. Nobody ever mentioned anything like that. Something might be of interest to you, talking about that Hughes man. He lived there when I used to go through Kiandra first, near the dance hall, then there was the Yens and then the ^ePatrick^s, the Pattinsons, but before all those was the Broadheads. They were there for 32 years in the Post Office. They left there in 1915.

KH: Is that the lot that went to Big ^Badja?

HH: His brother, Bert. He's the one that wrote the story in that 100 Years Book. There was Harry, Jim and another brother and Dan. Dan was the man who worked for my father for about 20 years. He worked for me for 19 I think.

KH: Dan Broadhead?

HH: Yes, then he worked for Woodstock for a while and then finished up working for George Hain and died. He was the bullock driver for the mills, when they were at the Alpine. They put in the first water race and that was where the first skis were made for the Hotel Kosciusko - 50 pairs ^{were} made.

KH: From Alpine ash?

HH: Yes, they used to tear the palings off the fences at Kiandra and use them. That was the first skis that were made. They came back to Cooma and settled. In 1915 they left and went to Wagga and then they came back to Cooma in 1919. The daughter is still alive - Anne's eldest daughter - Vera - gave me that information and I thought well it's some use. Then the police station was brought by Wally ~~Reed~~ and he was the man who started the Ski Flyer off, the first air service to Cooma.

KH: ~~Was~~ he involved with gold mining at all?

HH: No, nothing to do with it. He made springs in Riley Street.

KH: There's a Reids mine - gold mine - off the Kings^Cross Road, near Schaeffers mine!

HH: They were the Reids from Adaminaby.

KH: Do you know what's happened to them at all?

HH: No.

KH: Do you know of any poems that haven't been written. I heard Pinky Harris recites a few verses occasionally. People like Jack ^Bridle,

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they remember bits and pieces. Are there any that you've got in your head that you can remember. I'm looking for things that have never been recorded, they're only in people's heads.

HH: The best one to see is old Athol Delaney. That's the son of one of those Delaneys at Buckenderra. Athol - you've generally got to get him pretty full, but he would possibly do it. He's a *quiet* old cove who lives at Berridale. He comes out and joins us at Buckenderra and I see him a lot. I could arrange for you to meet him some day.

KH: Has he made up the verse himself?

HH: It's about all the old mountain men and it's quite good. When he's full he'll still go on and recite it.

KH: Did you have any golden rules ^{about} when you had to bring stock out of the mountains?

HH: Yes, good question. I used to always go in and if it was possible to study, through learning it from the old man Dan Broadhead, they'd know every quarter, every new moon, every movement of that moon, whereas I never worried about it as a young boy, I couldn't understand it, I didn't know what it was all about. But I did find out something. In a full moon, when you work it out it's commonsense. On a full moon the weather is generally good, stable, and that's when I used to pick it and I'd go in. I'd look and delay it a week if it was possible and I'd work to that full moon.

KH: June or May?

HH: It didn't matter when it was, we had our leases and we had to be out by the end of May. So it was as near to that full moon as when I used to go.

KH: That's when you do your mustering?

HH: No, we'd work to a full moon if it was possible knowing that the weather should be right or take a risk that it would - either side of that full moon would be pretty clear. You would either be prepared to work late and have a ^{chance}. But the first sign, is the first fall of snow - get one fall, then two falls, and then the next one - look out. You must be out by the 21st May ^{at Kiandra}, it's the deadline.

KH: You had to out?

HH: You had a good risk of ^{being} caught.

KH: That was the golden rule.

HH: Yes and Bill ^ePatrick would tell you that and the recordings of all the statistics of snow falls and the most snow that ever fell in Kiandra in an hour was a foot - in one hour. Bill told me that.

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KH: Yes, I've heard of him. What about - any golden rules about when you could take your stock up?

HH: You were governed by the condition of the country here, but you'd go in as soon as you could. You'd go up and have the fences all ready, take your stock up and do the fences while you were there.

KH: Did you go as early as October?

HH: We weren't allowed in before the 1st November.

KH: On the *Main Range* it would have been different wouldn't it?

HH: The old saying - Mr Jack Adams used to say - you had to be out by the 21st March, from that top country.

KH: Two months earlier than the others. That was a very short season wasn't it, 3-4 months, in December and out in March.

HH: Yes, but they used to take risks and that's where you'd get caught. That's where they got caught with all the cattle - the McPh^es and all those - they ^{lost} 600 head of cattle in one hit. Old Bob and Dave McPh^e - my father used to own Hain and Co. store and as a little boy, I used to go to school then, I was ^erared in town and out here for the weekends. They'd come in with their bullock teams and I used to love to get into their bed. It was made of two wooden poles and bags under their load of stuff that they loaded to take back home. They'd bring supplies in, or whatever had to come in and ^{they} were selling either wool or whatever and then they'd take back a supply of food to their place. Where Buckenderra is today, the old road, used to go down to Adaminaby. In my time I saw all the horse teams and the last of the bullock teams and then I saw all the ^{first of the} motor lorries come in. So I've seen a wonderful change in transport.

KH: Dan Broadhead was one of the last bullockys?

HH: Yes, he was still operating a team for Lichfields in '48. He used to drive them from Cooma out to Wombat Mountain.

KH: Tom Yan was going pretty late too wasn't he?

HH: Yes, Tommy Yan and if you'd like me to tell you a story about Tolbar, the same time as I took those sheep in, we were naturally looking after them and Tommy Yan had a bullock team at Kiandra and had a contract to put some fencing posts down into ^{Geordies} Spur, on the opposite side of Boltons Hill, down into Temperance Creek. They wanted some rails for their sheep yards at Happy Jacks hut. He went down into the Tolbar and got his team jammed up, and his cart, jammed up in the timber and couldn't get it out. He came back that night and told Dan about it and Dan said 'I'll

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get it out for you'. Mick Russell and all the people come down to see this great old bullock driver, who I had working for me, get Tommy Yan's bullock team out of the thing. He said 'If you have the bullocks over there at 9 o'clock, I'll be there Tom'. So Tom went there and everyone else went there and what he did, Tom had driven them in and couldn't get the cart turned around, it was locked up against a tree. So Dan Broadhead said, 'You get away Tom and I'll get them out for you'. He yoked two up to the pole and that's all he put in. He got the others and he drove them straight in in front of them and got the bullocks turned around without the cart and he hooked - I think there were 10 in the team - he had 8 tied to one another - yoked to one another is the word - and he hooked those two ^{on to those that} were in the pole, they're facing out this way. He had the wheel or the hub of the axle of the cart up against a big mountain ash tree and when these eight bullocks pulled out, it pulled these two and the shaft of the cart around and took the bark, because it was locked in against the tree and it stripped the bark of the mountain ash around and acted as a ^{er} leverage and the cart just spun around. I think he may have cut one tree out so that this offside wheel came around and just turned on its own - it had the load of rails on and he couldn't get it turned around with the bullocks.

KH: I talked to Tom, he's dead now.

END SIDE 3, TAPE 2.

SIDE 4, TAPE 2.

HH: The time the 100,000 sheep were snowed in, was the same time as the Cooma train was snowed in, between Coom^a and Nimmitbel^a.

KH: Was that 1946?

HH: Somewhere about that time.

KH: I think '46 was one of the biggest years ever.

One story that I've heard is when Ken Breakspear skied most of the way from Cooma Railway Station into Alpine hut.

HH: Well that would be right because the next year - two years after - '48 was another big fall. '46 was the great big one in the mountains, the next one it came down here.

KH: What did you say earlier, there was 3 feet of snow here?

HH: At that front gate. I've given the photo to Lindsay Hain the other day to do a talk on the Royal Hotel. He's got it, I can't show it

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to you. The grader men were outside the gate with their lorries to clear the road to Kiandra.

KH: It sounds like Dead Horse hut was quite a base, quite an important sort of place.

HH: Only for those people from the Murray, no one else.

KH: There was a bridle track up the Crackenback river!

HH: In the early days, the sheep came in that way, up onto the Kossie, they didn't come around. They came up that Crackenback track ...

KH: And then up to Merritts Spur, somewhere up there.

HH: Yes, next to the high top. Before the ^{Summit road}:

KH: There was a bit of a track up, the ^{Summit} track, when Wragge went up there.

HH: He came back that way. They took cattle up there, the McGufficks^e were the first to take cattle up there and the Penders.

KH: They'd go up the Crackenback river!

HH: Yes, Thredbo River. They had a hut - No. 1 hut - it was about four creeks down from where Thredbo Village is today - No. 1 hut. Pender used to live in it but old Mr McGuffick^e, Jim and Bills' father. They'd take up - the Roses used to take up all these sheep - Straighty Pender and even my brother Ron Hain, Cliff Rose - these younger boys - now they're 70, they were only young boys taking sheep up then. That's where they used to go and up Merritts Spur.

KH: Did they cut a track up there, that's pretty steep country, very dense.

HH: It was cleared by the stock. Tracks everywhere - all that's all grown up. Like the Southern Cloud, when we were in here the other day, the trees are 50 years old again. It's hard to believe. Dr Bullock, he built a hut there on the river and then Colonel Rutledge came in and was allotted a block. I was camped in a tent there for two summers because I had what they call Big Root, it's that big hill in front of Dr Bullocks' house.

KH: Where the big rocks are up the top?

HH: Yes, Big Root they call it. It runs up around the head of the Little River - Little Thredbo - down there, then runs out to the Chimneys and then out to Adams Monument.

KH: Yes, where Teddys hut is and Wombat Gully.

HH: Yes. I had cattle in there and sheep. I camped down on the Thredbo River ...

KH: When did you have cattle and sheep in there?

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HH: About '39 or '40. Denny Harvey and old Dan Broadhead used to look after them. ^{Camped in a tent.} Rutledge wasn't there then but Bullocks hut was there.

KH: Yeah Bullocks was built in '34 I think.

HH: And old Straighty Pender built the toilet over the shaft for him. Dr Bullock got him to build this hut - build the toilet after they'd built the hut in the summer. He only used to come up in the summer time. He said to Straighty ^{he was very good with an adze,} that mountain ash he could make it to fit or shape anything - he asked him to build a toilet. When he came back the next summer he said to Straighty - 'Straighty, I didn't want you to go to that much trouble, that beautiful toilet you built ^{me}'. He went up and found ^a shaft, he built the toilet over the shaft and when the Dr went to the toilet, he worked it out, he couldn't hear anything, he went outside and picked up a rock and went back with his stopwatch, dropped the rock down and he reckoned it must have been 30' feet deep and he thought that Straighty had gone to all this trouble digging this shaft. When he asked him about it, he said 'Well Straighty I didn't want you to go to that much trouble'. He said, 'I thought a bullock would want a pretty big hole to go ^{to}'. And that was right.

KH: That's nice. I heard a few stories about Straighty Pendergast. He stands out as one of the characters of the mountains.

HH: He was a funny man.

KH: I asked someone why Bullocks was so formidable, why they had such big walls in it, why was it built so strong. I think it was one of the Golbys suggested, that it was built that way so it was 'Pender-proof'.

HH: Pender-proof - that was right.

KH: But apparently Straighty got ^{him} back and one summer just before the doctor came, he put a dead wallaby down the chimney.

HH: Yes, smoked him out. Yes they fell out. When Dr Bullocks two little boys were not very old, he took them out for the summer. John Crossman, Cliff Rose and the article clerk, Mitchell at the time, he came up there and we took our holidays at ^{Christmas} time - there's wonderful fishing in there, they called it Sallywood. These solicitors owned it and they gave us permission to go up and stay there for the Xmas holidays. This John Crossman worked in the Commonwealth Bank ^{no} Commercial Bank at the time and anyway we had our four days holiday and he had to be back for the bank to open. We thought we'd take him over to the Hotel Kosciusko and put him on the mail. Bill Caldwell was the mail man and used to leave about 2 o'clock. We left in time, we thought, to get to the hotel and

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catch the mail, but instead of that we lost our way and we rode away down the river to where the hatchery is. We knew we were lost so we followed a ridge and came on to the road. By that time the bus had gone through so we rode on up to the hotel and stayed there the night, Mr Speet was there. Cliff knew him, as an old skier, and he said 'Mr Speet we've got no money, we'd like a bed and we'd like to put the horses in the stable and if we could get a bit of grog we'd like it, we've got some money for some grog for the old fellow we've left back in the hut'. That was Mr Ernie Generat. So Mr Speet said, 'Oh yeah whatever you want'. He got two or three bottles of scotch, a couple of bottles of rum for the old cove, it was quite a big sum of money involved, with bedding and everything. He said, 'I'll send you up a bullock, Mr Speet, to pay for this'. He said 'Well see that the bullock's fat because that's a pretty big bill'. I'll never forget that. So the next morning we went out to get our horses, they were in the stable and there was an old Pommie Englishman there, with a cap on and all dressed up, staying in the hotel. He was anxious to see who owned these ponies. They were in the stable without a rug on or anything. He said 'Are you boys stockman, or what are you doing'. He asked all the questions. We said 'No we're going over to this fishing hut'. He said 'What are the ponies doing, don't you let them out at all'. We said 'No they're just going to be ridden now back some 10-12 miles and just fed on natural grass'. He said, 'Well the only time that we would let them out would be to take the rug off them for a kick and a fart'. We finally left then and Mr Speet gave us a chap named Bob Coleman, who was working there, and he showed us the track back, the short cut over Pretty Point down to a ^{big} hole in the river, just below Bullocks hut we came out.

Anyway I hope I've helped you in some way.

KH: Yes, that's good, I think that will do for today.

END TAPE 2.

CONCLUSION.