

Fanny Pattinson
'1938'

Interviewed by Klaus Hueneke
1st July 1982

*Transcribed by
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Tape 1 of 3
Side 1, Tape 1

This is an interview with Fanny Pattinson, 1st July 1982 in her home in Watson in Canberra. Its a beautiful day, the sun is streaming into the living room and we're set for a little chat.

- KH We've already written down some of the things about your parents you might just like to repeat.
Do you remember at all when your parents got married?
- FP No.
- KH It would have been in Australia though, wouldn't it?
- FP Oh yes, yes.
- KH You told me that your father came out from Lincolnshire in England?
Do you know how much education he would have had?
- FP No not really.
- KH But he learnt his trade as a blacksmith?
- FP Yes, from his father.
- KH Is there a distinction between a wheelwright and a blacksmith?
- FP Yes, a wheelwright, they had to be qualified to do..... in those days they had horses and sulkys and they had to be able to repair the wheels, the iron wheels and spokes and all that sort of thing.
- KH So being a wheelwright was in some ways, required more skills than being a blacksmith?
- FP Yes, though being a blacksmith, he made his own shoes from iron, so it was all connected in a way.
- KH Your mother never worked, apart from being a mother and a wife?
- FP I think she did. I think she was a housemaid, before she was married as far as I can remember.
- KH And this would have been in Bombala or in Adaminaby?
- FP Adaminaby.
- KH So she lived most of her life at Old Adaminaby?
- FP At Dry Plain, out from Adaminaby, on a farm.
- KH So she left school at the age of 14?
- FP Yes they all left school early in those days and I know she did work at one stage at the old Four Mile Hotel near Cooma.
- KH That's gone.
- FP Its where the Monaro Historical Society is.
- KH Yes where Neville Locker is - and so she would have lived-in at another homestead?
- FP Yes.
- KH She would have gone away from home?

FP I don't know what age, because I can remember her saying that they used to come from Dry Plain to Adaminaby to dances - they used to ride.

KH You told me that your mother was born in 1890 and your father in 1882 and he was born in Lincolnshire in England.

FP Six months journey by boat when they came out.

KH He came out with his brothers and sisters?

FP And his mother and father.

KH And they all survived the journey?

FP Yes.

KH People died of diseases on some of those ships too, didn't they? Because of scurvy and other things?

FP Yes. In the old home that was in Adaminaby, you know the old three storey place that was built for my grandparents as a boarding house.

KH They had it built and they had it as a boarding house? They had a boarding house at Adaminaby for a long time?

FP My Grandparents did - my father's people.

KH Oh, I see, then he learnt the trade of blacksmithing?

FP His father was a blacksmith, yes, he (her father) learnt it in Australia.

KH But he mainly ran the boarding house?

FP No. Grandmother ran the Boarding house. Grandfather was a blacksmith all the time.

KH They would have been quite well off, wouldn't they?

FP Well, I presume they would be reasonably so.

KH They'd have two incomes in a sense, wouldn't they?

FP Yes.

KH I didn't realise that, I never saw Old Adaminaby, I never saw that three storey building.

FP See, they only shifted it, Paddy Kerrigan the boat chap, he had it moved up a little bit and its now only two storeys.

KH So it's still there? That would date back to before the turn of the century wouldn't it?

FP Yes, dad was four when they first came out, then they came to Adaminaby, because I think Grandma had a brother there.

KH He'd already come out before?

FP Yes.

KH I see, so they would have come to Australia because there was already a member of the family here? But do you remember why they would have left England?

FP No, I haven't a clue.

KH He had an established job, he had his trade - You don't remember? I suppose the thing that would have attracted him to Australia was other opportunities perhaps the fact there was already a member of the family here.

FP Yes, he probably wrote home and said how much they liked it, and so forth. My sister in law who is in England at the moment, has started a family tree and is finding more details out about things while she's over there, but I'm not real sure why they decided to come out.

KH Did your father or any other relative go off to the first world war? Would you remember anyone from Old Adaminaby going off to war?

FP No I don't remember, that was before... I was born at the end of the war.

KH Oh yes of course.

FP I had relatives in it, but of course I don't remember.

KH You may of heard of this, do you remember any of them suffering injuries or so that they were nursing in the twenties?

FP No, I can't remember, only one I had an uncle, he wasn't injured only the buckle on his belt saved him, hit the buckle on his belt. He was at Polygon Plains and the Somme Valley.

KH In France. I noticed in the war memorial - I was there with my daughters the other day, a number of items laying there said, this particular piece of equipment saved the lives of some men.

FP Yes that is what happened, or so he told us.

FP I don't know what became of it over the years, but he kept it because he reckons that's what saved his life, the buckle on the belt.

KH Well, we might go onto your schooling. Would you have attended any sort of pre-school or kindergarten or anything like that?

FP They didn't have any such thing in those days. Straight into public school - first class.

KH That would have been when you were six?

FP Actually I was nearly seven - seven was the age when you had to go to school in those days, we didn't have far to go - we were only across the lane. I was the youngest of the family so you picked up quite a lot before you went to school.

KH You had three brothers and one sister, where did you come in terms of.....

FP Yes - I was the youngest.

KH So, no preschool and you started primary school when you were six and you went to the Old Adaminaby Public School

FP That's right.

KH Would you have had a choice of schools?

FP There was a convent school, that was the other only one.

KH That was catholic - so you wouldn't go to that one, you were Church of England. So yours was a government run school, Government employed teachers and so on. Wasn't subsidised?

FP No.

KH I was talking to Jack Bridle, and he went to a school near Adaminaby, he went to subsidised school.

FP No this was a public school, you had a principal and two assistant teachers.

KH And there wouldn't have been any boarders there, it was just a day school?

FP Yes.

KH Did you have to pay any fees?

FP No - everything was free. Books, pens, pencils, all provided, it really was free education.

KH Did the teacher ever board with you at any stage?

FP No they boarded with my grandparents. After they died, the people who bought them out used to board the school teachers a lot too.

KH Would the schoolteachers have paid them for the board?

FP Yes.

KH Of course you know that with the subsidised schools the teachers did the rounds, staying at the different homesteads that wasn't the case?

FP Oh no, they were paid, the government paid their wages and they paid their own board.

KH The kids who went to the school, they would have been local kids? From the Township?

FP Some of them lived out of town, and rode horses in or horse and sulky. There were no close little country schools near them, they came in. They received a subsidy for that, so much per mile, to come to school.

KH Even though they may come in by horseback or ride a bike?

FP No, horse or horse and sulky.

KH And they drove their own sulky?

FP Yes, the older members of the family could all drive.

KH The subsidy was a Government subsidy?

FP It wasn't very much I don't think.

KH That would go to the parents, wouldn't it?

FP So much per mile.

KH What was the furthest that any kids lived from the school, Fifteen miles?

FP No they wouldn't be that far..... They might, eight to ten.

KH Beyond that they went to some other..?

FP There were quite a few small country schools round about, you know the subsidised ones as we said. I don't know if correspondence lessons in those days, I don't know what happened.

KH Do you remember any people who were your particular friends at school?

FP Oh yes I had plenty of friends - some of them from outlying farms and some of them the local townspeople.

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

FP Yes, *well*,... so called lower class, I suppose.

KH You weren't lower class.

FP So called middle class, I presume. Ones you weren't supposed to play with anyway, they weren't very clean or right up to the mark.

KH They were a bit scruffy.

FP Yes. (laughing)

KH Had barefeet?

FP Not clean, personally clean.

KH Had lice perhaps?

FP Yes. Our parents were very particular there, always had to be spotless. Of course you couldn't get out of it at school, but they were not the type you mixed with after school privately, you had your own particular mates, and so forth.

KH So your school was very close - you could walk to school?

FP We went home for lunch.

KH You called it lunch, not dinner.

FP Lunch we used to call it.

KH Did you? Its just that Cecil and Jack, Cecil Piper they called it dinner.

FP That was more the accepted thing - because later on when you had to go home for dinner... Our place was rather funny because, some days I went to work at 12 o'clock so I had to have an early lunch before I went to work. Dinnertime it was, because you had your 11 o'clock

Playschool and then you had your dinnertime, so you went home for your dinner, if you didn't you had to take your sandwiches to school and sit in the weathersheds to eat them.

KH You could just about go home for playlunch too, I suppose?

FP Yes I could have only you weren't allowed off the grounds for that.

KH Do you remember which subjects you did at school?

FP Maths, English, History, Geography - that about covered it for those days I think.

KH Reading I suppose, Arithmetic, Writing, Composition.

FP Oh yes, a lot of English, some of the teachers, they were bits of fanatics you know.

KH Did you have any favourite subjects?

FP I don't think so, I liked all of it, I loved school. I didn't have any problems.

KH Are there any things you were you best at?

FP Spelling and Arithmetic and Composition and that sort of thing

KH History?

FP Not particularly, didn't like ancient history much, but just the same you learnt it, all your dates and everything off parrot fashion.

KH Can you remember any of the textbooks?

FP You might still have some?

FP No, No, I wouldn't have. No I think most of your books were provided at the school and you used them at the school, you left them there, you never ever had to buy anything. They were all just provided. An atlas was about the only thing you ever bought for yourself.

KH So you didn't have to buy any exercise books, either, things you wrote in?

FP No, provided, you bought some for your extra things. Oh no everything was provided.

KH Do you remember liking most of the teachers, or were there any favourites?

FP Oh yes we had a few favourites, occasionally there would be one you didn't like. There was one local lass came back as a teacher. She was just so cranky, I don't think anybody liked her. You always had a few funny ones.

KH The ones that you liked - do you remember why you liked them? What were.....

FP Nice personality and very fair and good teachers. But then again there was a few that were very good teachers.... I can remember one teacher who came, I mean, small country towns were very.....um....

KH Isolated?

FP No, old fashioned and narrow minded and this teacher came, and because she smoked ... in those days, a woman smoking was a terrible thing, she wasn't very popular with the parents. Because she smoked, and I think she might have occasionally had a drink.... but she was a very good teacher and the children all liked her.

KH It was often the teachers who would bring in new ideas from outside, they would come from the city...

FP Well sometimes they did, then again you'd get the others. There was one, a real horsey woman she rode a horse from Bombala to Adaminaby when she came here to first take up her post. I can still remember her, she was a big raw boned sort of a woman.....

KH She would have come by ship, from Sydney I suppose, down the coast.
 FP Oh no, in those days I think it would have been the trains. It wasn't that early, its just that she was very fond of horses, and she had her own horse. Instead of coming by the conventional mail car she rode her horse, which was a fair step!

KH Most of the others came by more traditional transport?
 FP Oh Yes, of course when I was small there wasn't that many cars around.

KH Did any of the teachers come by car? This would be the 1920's.
 FP No.....or I suppose in the late twenties..... No, I can't remember any of the teachers owning a car, there may have been a mail car that they came on from Cooma, or they may have been shifted there by truck, to have their furniture brought..... but in the early dayswell I don't know, when I was small there weren't that many cars about.

KH Old T Model Fords?
 FP Yes and Chevvy's - the chap who owned the local garage - garage and picture theatre, well, he had one car that you could hire.

KH So the teachers mostly came with a coach... or a mailcar?
 FP Yes.

KHand they would catch the train to Cooma?
 FP Yes and then come out.

KH Do you remember Anzac Day being celebrated at all?
 FP Oh Yes. At school you always had your own Anzac Day service at school and then there was always the.... Oh I can't remember when I was real small, I can remember the front part of the School of Arts was the Anzac Memorial they used to always march and have a ceremony there, a church service of course first.

KH Did you have to practice marching?
 FP Oh yes!

KH The drums... some of the kids playing the drums?
 FP Oh no, we never had anything like that.

KH Someone to make a beat?
 FP Yes we had a piano at school, but I think that was probably about the only... although some of the boys played the violin and another one played the mouthorgan. We did a lot of marching, we had marching and exercises every morning, we always formed lines and marched into school and that sort of thing.

KH You had lots of marching?
 FP Oh Yes. You had a maypole, maypole dancing.

KH Did you! That's gone out.
 FP Yes, you wouldn't hear of it now.

KH What was that in order of? What were you celebrating?
 FP May Day I suppose, the first of May.

KH Oh May Day!
 FP We had the maypole, and streamers and we used to practice the dances for weeks, months, I suppose, getting ready for it. Empire Day was another big day of celebration.

KH Crackers?
 FP Oh course you did.

KH Anyone get injured at all?
 FP Noooo!! too much common sense in those days (laughing) -
 You saved your pennies for months before and kept them in a tin

A tin that had biscuits - and you all had your own tin and you saved your crackers up for months before Empire Day and you built your own huge bonfires.

KH What each family?
 FP Yes, mainly.

KH You didn't have a big communal one?
 FP No, you might have one, your family and your cousins and your friends mostly - my father was a great walker and he used to go up into the bush mainly and build one there, or else drag all your bushes home into the back lane or in your own yard and build a big bonfire. It nearly always snowed by Bonfire Night.

KH Did you get any snow here?
 FP My word!

KH It nearly snowed here the other day!
 It seems a cold time to have a bonfire..I suppose it's good once the bonfire's lit.

FP It was always the 24th May, not Queen's Birthday.
 KH Oh it wasn't changed for a holiday?
 FP No you had it on the day. You had all your traditional songs, you had a big day at school.

KH You sang at school?
 FP Oh yes, my word!

KH What sort of songs did you sing on Empire Day?
 FP Advance Australia Fair and ..

KH Oh the good nationalistic stuff!
 FP Yes the traditional songs.

KH Would there be any other days when you had any other special celebrations? Would you celebrate Easter in any way at school?
 FP No that was mostly done at Church, Church and Sunday School. Empire Day we always got a half day holiday. You had the traditional songs and marching and all that in the morning and you got the afternoon off to go and build your bonfire!! It was built, but you had to finish it off and make sure you had dry leaves and everything, so it would burn well.

KH You'd go up into the bush sometimes to have it.
 FP Yes, up the back there was a paddock there, we used to call Cassidy's paddock, belonged to people by the name of Cassidy, we could build it there or we could build it out in the laneway, drag everything home by yourself and build it in your own yard.

KH You wouldn't have had any old tyres to put in?
 FP Oh no, you wouldn't have anything like that! Mostly all bushes and trees, dry stuff, a little bit green so it would last longer.

KH Oh yes. Do you remember people being punished with a cane, at school?
 FP Oh yes.

KH Were you ever punished?
 FP Oh no, I can remember plenty of boys that were though! I don't think the girls normally got the cane, the boys did.

KH Across the backside, or across the hands?
 FP Yes, hold out your hand, and (smack)... however many cuts you got.

KH Six of the best?
 FP Yes my word, some of them deserved it too!

KH Was six of the best unusual?

FP No not very unusual.
 KH So was.....
 FP That was an accepted thing.
 KH Much free-er than now, now its almost banned.
 FP Yes, there was never any fuss about it, the parents knew that if the children got the cane they well and truly deserved it, and that was it.
 KH What sort of things would they have got the cane for?
 FP They'd muck up in school or wouldn't do their work properly, and when the teacher went out of the room they'd start throwing ink bombs and things like that.
 KH Did you have little bits of blotting paper stuck to the ceiling?
 FP Yes, and some of the boys would tie the girls long hair under the inkwells and the girls would go to get up and their head would jerk back...it was cruel really! They'd often get the cane for that and give cheek to the teachers, they'd get warned, then they'd be asked questions and give a smart answer. So they'd stay back after school and kept in to do the work they wouldn't do, and finally it would come to the stage... out would come the cane.
 KH Were any of them caned for smoking or anything like that?
 FP I don't think so, I suppose a bit of it used to go on.
 KH Smoking wasn't one of the big deals then?
 FP No, no such thing as drugs or anything like that... they'd fight! They got caught fighting sometimes.
 KH That was frowned on? They fought in the playground.
 FP They weren't supposed to fight in the playground, they were brought in and had to explain why, and instead of one picking on the other, and taking their part, it just depended what it was about, or just a bit of outside thing brought into the school. Even the girls used to fight.
 KH Were they punished? What happened to them when they were fighting?
 FP They used to leave it until they got outside the school grounds, it was left until they got home to be punished.
 KH So girls were never caned?
 FP I don't remember girls ever getting caned. They were kept in more than anything.
 KH Were you ever kept in?
 FP Sometimes at lunchtime if you didn't have your English finished you'd have to stop until you did it. We had one headmaster that we got a bit of a set on for that reason, he'd have grammar about five minute before it was time to go out for dinnertime, and he'd make you stop then until you'd finished it. We used to feel sorry for the kids who had to walk a fair way home for their lunch, and of course if you were late back to school you got kept back after school to do the work that you missed.
 KH School would have started at half past nine and finished at three?
 FP Half past three.
 KHand an hour for lunch? (if you didn't get into trouble)
 FP Yes.
 KH Would the ladies teachers have also given the cane?
 FP No I think only the Headmaster.
 KH You had a headmaster and two lady teachers?
 FP Yes.
 KH The Headmaster was always a man?
 FP Yes. I think they always were.

KH If you were punished in some way did you tell your parents?
 Or would you keep it to yourself?
 FP I suppose so, if you were late home you'd have to explain where you were, and you'd probably get into trouble again if you'd done something wrong. You'd probably get into more trouble at home than you did at school if you were late home "Why were you late, and why weren't you doing your work"? and so forth.
 KH The parents would mostly side with the teacher?
 FP There were a few who didn't, but the little devil, in any case would have deserved it. I remember some of them used to come up to the school and "go crook" because little Teddy got caned and he probably needed three times as much as he got. Some of them used to complain, I remember one teacher sayingone of the boys mucked up in school once and she told him not to do something, he wanted to go out, and she said he couldn't go because it became a bit of a habit, you know, "Please Sir, may I be excused", or "Please Miss, may I be excused", some of the boys in particular. Anyway she borrowed a skipping rope from one of the girls, she was going to give him a bit of a trouncing up and he hopped out the school window and she hopped out after him. After a bit of a chase she finally caught up with him and she did trounce him too, with the skipping rope folded up. The mother came up to the school about that, there was a bit of a stink over it. She, of course, wasn't within her rights, she should have sent him to the headmaster. There were odd little cases like that, but as a general rule there wasn't very much controversy.
 KH What about games in the playground?
 FP Yes we had tennis and basketball and the boys had football.
 KH What about marbles?
 FP Well everybody played marbles, girls and boys.
 KH Or hopscotch?
 FP Hopscotch, yes that was another one.
 KH Any other games? any particular games, like the girls would play, like now they play 'lastics' and you would have had skipping I suppose?
 FP We had skipping and jacks, and basketball and hopscotch, and I think we we might have had volleyball, or something similar to that.
 KH Did you ever play British Bulldog, that was around then?
 FP No I don't know it.
 KH Did you play a game of tag?
 FP Tag...
 KH You play it on an open field, and you have one person in the middle of the field and you have to run across and if they catch you, touch you, you're also in, and then those have to try and grab someone else.
 FP Sheep sheep! come home we used to play similar to that. You had one for the wolf, and say sheep sheep come home, and say, can't, what are you afraid of? The wolf. The wolf's gone to Devonshire and won't be back to see you sheared, so sheep sheep come home, and then you made a wild run, and if the wolf caught you, you were outit would be something the same I suppose.
 KH It was a nice little rhyme. Were there any other like that, the rhymes you remember? There would have been lots I would have thought. My girls come home with things all the time, you know playground jingles.

FP There were plenty of them, I just can't think at the moment. Mainly we played competitive sport, we played tennis, and had interschool sport with the convent school for tennis and basketball and football. I think that was the only three competitive ones that we had with the other school.

KH There is another game where one person faces one way, and the others are behind him or her and they have to try to advance, whilst every so often this person looks around and if he sees anyone move they are out.

FP Oh yes, that's right, what did we call that. You had to move and if he caught you, you were out. I forget what you called that.

KH And if you touched that person you were the next person to be in.

FP Yes, we played that, Oh and Oranges and Lemons.

KH There is a rhyme about that isn't there.

FP Oranges and Lemons, the bells of St Clements.

KH When will you pay me...Oh its a nursery rhyme.

FP Yes! But it was the same thing, and you held hands and the others used to go through that way and you put your hand down and they were out I can't think how that...

KH Said the da da St. Damiens or something like that, then chopper chopper...

FP Yes! and your hands would go down.....and if you caught the person in your arms, well that was out. Marbles, I used to wear my knuckle out playing marbles, much to Mother's disgust, she used to make me put a pad over it in the end, cause you used to get cracks in your knuckles and wear your fingernail out when you were shooting, used to play for hours.

KH Did you have a Gould League of Birdlovers?

FP Yes we did.

KH Did you belong to that?

FP Yes I belonged to that, we also had a Junior Red Cross.

KH Did you? Did you have debating?

FP Yes I suppose we did when you stop to think of it, but only within the school.

KH You didn't have competitions?

FP No...

KH The sport you played with the convent school, did you visit Cooma or any other towns for sport activities?

FP No, not very much, I think in later years they did but I can't remember ever going, just with the other schools, we'd go down one week and the next week they'd come up to ours.

KH Were there cadets for the boys?

FP No, no.

KH Did you ever take your lunch to school for a change, or did you always go home?

FP Yes sometimes, if Mother happened to be going out for the day, I'd take it but it wasn't very often.

KH What would be in your lunch, sandwiches?

FP Sandwiches, cake, fruit, always took fruit, we had our own orchard because we had cherries, plums and apples, pears, mulberries and gooseberries and you always took your port with your elevenses as we called it. And those who didn't have any fruit, I always used to fill up my port with apples and distribute them around amongst the others at eleven o'clock, because we had early apple trees that came in.

KH Did you ever swap your lunch?

FP No I can't remember doing that because I don't think I'd be there often enough. We used to sometimes, in the winter time, I had a very good friend who lived on a farm and her sisters were very good cooks, we used to often swap piece of cake.

KH Swap a piece of cake for a piece of fruit or something like that?

FP Did the school have a tuck shop?

FP No nothing like that.

KH Do you remember the other things you got up to after school? Especially in the summer you would have had two or three hours of daylight, or more.....

FP Oh yes, well sometimes we'd play tennis on the school courts being so close, you see we were allowed to go and play tennis there. We went visiting, we'd go down to my cousin's place and there would be three or four children there and we'd just play amongst ourselves. When we were small we played Mummies and Daddies, traditional, you know. Small kids games, you know, we played rounders, that was another game we played at school.

KH Like softball?

FP We had a wooden bat and tennis ball, and we used to run around. We played cricket too come to think of it.

KH Girls and well as boys?

FP Yes, girls used to use a softball mainly though. The boys were a bit wild with the hard ones.

KH You played with the boys?

FP Yes, I had three brothers so I was used to playing with the boys.

KH Did you have a local swimming hole? Did you go swimming in the afternoons?

FP No, no, you weren't allowed to swim, if you went down you had to walk three miles to the river, so you very seldom went there.

KH To the Eucumbene?

FP Yes, so you didn't go after school or anything like that. Weekends sometimes, or a picnic, a Sunday School picnic, but it was mostly paddling. Few children could swim but, very few.

KH Could you swim?

FP No.

KH Never learnt to swim?

FP No.

KH My grandmother - she never did.

FP Tuck the dress up and get in for a paddle, that was about all you'd do.

KH Would you have had a horse?

FP No, I never did, my eldest brother always had horses, in fact I might have been the only member of the family that didn't learn to ride actually. My sister had a pushbike later on, I didn't.

KH Did you have a tricycle?

FP Oh! I can't remember that far back (laughing)

You had the usual things when you were small, teasetts and dolls and games, and we spent a lot of time reading, we were great readers in our family, we didn't have any TV for entertainment in those days. We played cards and games and read and went visiting a lot. We had the silent picture show and sixpence of a Saturday.

KH When you were young?

- FP Yes and the movies came a bit later on. Saturday nights were the only time though that they ever had them.
- KH Were the any distinctions between primary school and high school they were all in the one school weren't they, so you just went on.
- FP All in one, you just went from one room to another. The small ones were from first class to third and then you had fourth, fifth and sixth and then you went up to the Headmasters room for your Intermediate. Only the three rooms in the school.
- KH Did you ever have any jobs that you can remember, after school? Did you ever find a way to earn a few extra pennies?
- FP Yes, polish my brother's shoes (laughing)
- KH When he was going out?
- FP My eldest brother he used to pay me to polish his shoes for him, that's the only thing that you got paid for that I can remember.
- KH How much were you paid for that?
- FP Oh, I suppose a sixpence would be the highest you'd ever get. Sometimes if it was getting near Showtime and you'd been very good he'd be working, of course, he was ten years older than me, so you might be lucky and get a shilling, mostly you got a penny or threepence, you never got any more than that.
- KH A shilling would have been a lot!
- FP A shilling was a lot of money! If you had a shilling you could go to the show. You were rich, goodness me, what you couldn't do with a shilling!
- KH That would be like a dollar, maybe even two dollars now?
- FP The amount of things you could get for it -

End of tape, some conversation missed.

Side 2
- Tape 1

- FP You might have to go up to the woodheap and pick up some chips say to light the fire.
- KH But, the boys did the milking?
- FP Yes.
- KH You would have had a cow? So the boys did the milking.
- FP Dad or the boys. One or the other. We had a cow and chooks and a garden.
- KH Your parents would have known the teachers, wouldn't they? But would they have known them very well? Would they have had very much to do with the teachers?

- FP Yes in a small community you always got to know the teachers, if there was ever anything on at school any particular day, the parents always went to be with the children and maybe other special days. The school concert of course, that was a big turnout and there was always
- Any parents that were interested in the school knew the teachers fairly well. We generally knew the Headmasters' well, because they lived just down... the Headmaster's residence, well, there was the school, then the tennis courts and then there was a residence. We were close neighbours then.
- KH When you were getting towards the end of your schooling, when you were doing your Intermediate, was there much discussion as to what you might do next?
- FP No, you did the best you could, you were lucky if you could get into a job in a small country place like that, very few went away to school, people on the land, farms and that, their children sometimes went away to boarding school. Majority of them, I don't remember any of my friends went away to school. They did their....trying to think.... some of them must have gone away, because some of them went as far as their Leaving Certificate.
- KH Your school only went to the Intermediate.
- FP Only to Intermediate.
- KH If they'd go to the Leaving they'd have gone to Cooma or somewhere?
- FP I don't know, one of my brothers went to Sydney for a while and stopped down there. I don't know whether they had, I suppose they could have, they had bigger schools than we were.
- KH Was there anything that you can remember that you would have liked to have been, like if you could have gone on, or did you have any sort of secret dreams of what you might like to do after school?
- FP Its so long ago I can't remember (laughing)!
- KH Would you liked to have gone away to a city - for instance to Sydney?
- FP Oh no! I used to go to Sydney for holidays, but we didn't particularly like the city, we liked to go there for holiday but we wouldn't have liked to have lived there. Too used to the country, I suppose. It was quite a good type of life. We used to do a lot of walking, my father was a good walker - he used to take us out to the old Kyoæ copper mine. Sunday in particular, he used to work Saturday. Sundays he generally took us out for a walk in the afternoon. You wouldn't see the young ones of today doing it. Miles and miles and miles we'd walk, we'd go down to the river fishing and when it came time to be getting wood, you'd walk up to where you were going to get the wood with your father and he'd cut the wood and you'd stack it in a heap and get the horse and cart and bring it home. We'd like the bush flowers. We'd pick bunches of wild flowers - there was no restriction on picking wild flowers in those days. The first wattle was a great event, the first one to find the first wattle out and bring some home!
- KH And you were fifteen when you left school?
- FP Yes, fifteen when I first started working in the Post Office.
- KH And you had the Intermediate Certificate.
- FP No. I didn't! Because I had ill health at that time, and I was off school for some months and I could have gone back and gone for the Intermediate, and I got this offer for the job at the Post Office

which was quite a good position. So I took that, it was temporary at that stage, and one of the girls left, I think she got the job in the Post Office itself, then they wanted another telephonist and that meant two temporary girls, the other one was a bit older than me, so she got the first job, then a couple of months later I got the position there and I was there nearly until I got married.

KH Your parents didn't mind that, working as a telephonist?
 FP No. It was considered quite a good position. Far better than, well my sister was a shop assistant in one of the big stores, and thata lot of the young just girls had to go to work... well there was the police station and the bank, they quite often had a maid, or the hotel of course.

KH Making beds or helping in the kitchen? They earned less than you?
 FP Oh yes! In those days when I first went to work, I had a cousin who was, well, she was sort of a nursemaid, looked after children and also did housework and she used to get four shillings a week at the police station. Another used to work for the bank manager and she got about six shillings but she did all the cooking and everything.

KH So you were earning fifteen shillings...
 FP Around about that.
 KH You were doing very well! That's an enormous difference, you were earning twice as much. Would you have been on some sort of an award or something?
 FP Oh Yes, yes! It was, I remember once in the pay we got over three pound, it would probably be over the Christmas holidays, and it was a big wage, out of that you 'd save enough money to go to Sydney for a holiday and so forth and etcetera. You had to have a new frock every time you went to a ball.

KH The ball would be once a year wouldn't it?
 FP Oh no, we had lots of balls. Particularly, the show ball and the race ball and the Church of England had a ball and the Roman Catholics, the footballers probably had a ball. Oh my goodness me! Sounds like life was a ball!

KH Yes, and dances, there was a dance nearly every Saturday night. Sometimes you'd go to a ball on Friday night, work on Saturday and go to the dance on Saturday night and probably have to be up at seven o'clock to be at work on the Sunday morning! On the Exchange you had to work early and late, you worked late shift one week and early shift the next week. The late shift you worked until, you didn't start till twelve o'clock and you worked from twelve till half past two and then you went on from five to ten at night.

KH Was that far away from the house? You could walk there.
 FP Oh you walked there, you had no other way, you had to walk. I wasn't permitted to walk home alone at night, if I worked to ten o'clock. My father or brother always came and picked me up, and sometime, a bit later, my grandmother moved to about a couple of doors from the post office, so I used to wait there if I happened to get off early, because we had one boss, was very good, he'd often come and let you off before ten o'clock. When he was away on holidays you had a temporary chap you know, and if he didn't have anything to do, he'd come and let you go early. Cause you never knew so I used to go to my Grandmother's and wait there til they come and picked me up. But you still walked!

KH How did you get the job, just by word of mouth? Did somebody mention it that they were looking for somebody? Did your parents know the Postmaster?
 FP Yes, you knew the Postmaster because you had to go and get your mail in those days, but well, I knew the Postmaster, my brother-in-law was working in the Post Office at one stage, but he wasn't there when I got the position. I think they used to pick the ones that did reasonably well at school. I suppose it just happened to know them and it was offered. I didn't go looking.....

KH You didn't have an interview?
 FP No. I knew the Postmaster. You needed your birth certificate and sign a declaration because it was a Government position.
 KH They would have trained you?
 FP Oh yes the girls, the other girls on the Exchange, the higher ones they taught you what to do. The Postmaster would tell you some things which you had to do.

KH So with the Postmaster and yourself, there would be..
 FP There would be a Postmaster and a Postal Assistant, and sometimes there were two girls on the Exchange. Then that might be over the busiest period and then if you had to go and deliver a telegram well the Postmaster or the Postal Assistant would have to answer the switch while you were away.

KH I remember you telling me a story about that before once, there was something exceptional happened when you were delivering a telegram one time?
 FP Some of the men around the town used to get the tips for the racing from these tipster ones, they'd send it by telegram in code, and you'd have to deliver those telegrams the minute they got there because they'd want to work out their code so they could have their bets on the races that afternoon! It was a general thing of a Saturday morning as a rule. Some of them, Gee, you'd have to walk two or three miles with them, they'd be way down the other end of town. There were no mail deliveries, everybody went to the Post Office, you had boxes with initials on them, and everybody went to the Post Office to collect their mail.

KH You never learnt to ride, when you delivered telegrams...it was always walking?
 FP Always walked.
 KH You didn't have a bike provided by the Post Office?
 FP No, not in those days, you plain walked, no matter how far, that was within two miles distance probably from the Post Office. After that if they had the phone, or it would be put in the mail, couldn't deliver them...I think it was within a two mile radius.

KH Just the town.
 FP Around the town area.
 KH The shift that you worked, the hours again? You started early in the morning?
 FP On your early shift you started, during the week, it was seven thirty to twelve noon and from one to half past two. Early shift, yes then when you were on the late shift, the late shift girls came on at twelve o'clock and let you go off for lunch and you went back at one to two thirty. The late shift you went on at twelve noon to two thirty and then you went off for two hours and back at five to ten. But, on Sunday it was a straight shift. When you were on

early shift you worked from seven o'clock to three, and you were on the late shift you worked from three to ten. During that time, when you were on early shift, the girl that was on early shift had to clean up the Post Office. When I first started the switchboard was in the Post Office and later on they opened up another room and had that just for the switchboard, but you had to clean both rooms then and the fireplaces, and polish their counter, and wash the inkwells black the fenders of the open fireplace and clean the fireplace.

- KH Did you have to work every Sunday, or did you have a Sunday off?
 FP Now and then you got a Sunday off, perhaps when it worked out that there were five Sundays in the month. Not very often. Sometimes we would have to work till ten o'clock on the Saturday night, if there was something you wanted to go to.
- KH Did you have any sort of benefits if you were sick, would you still be paid?
 FP Yes I think we must have been, I can't.... I know you got paid for your holidays, a fortnight was all you got in those days. You got your fortnight's pay and your fortnight's holiday. That was about the one big pay that you got.
- KH Were there any changes in the equipment that you were using during your time there? Like the switch equipment and so on?
 FP Yes, when I first went there they used to have the old morse code for the telegrams, cause we didn't send the telegrams. Then after that we received the telegrams over the phone, did away with the morse code, and I think the switchboard was a bit more up to date. Yes it was, because when I first went there you had to put your plug in and pull down your key and ring the handle, later on you got one that you could just use your key on the switchboard. There was nothing automatic or anything, and you had all party lines and that sort of thing 'cause you were out in the country, it caused a bit of commotion at times!
- KH So you'd certainly hear about what was happening in the community?
 FP Oh Yes!! You could (laughing).
 KH You could! Well I suppose that was part of the ethics not to do that.
 FP You weren't supposed to listen in, and other party lines weren't supposed to listen in on the other people either, but they did. I had a friend, was on the exchange at Kiandra and these people had the Post Office in those days too, after his mother died, his sister, the father, and Jim kept it on. He had a friend who used to ring up a girlfriend of mine and she was on a party line. We used to have some fun, because if you weren't busy you'd have a word with them too. Jim might have a word with him up the other end.. and I still remember one day this lass said to me "you got turkeys at your place?" I said no.... "Oh it must be old mother so and so " she'd say, and you'd hear the phone go down straight away. There'd be one or another on the party line having a listen to what was going on. I don't think they were a real satisfactory idea of a phone.
- KH Could you actually hear a tingle when someone else picked it up?
 FP Oh yes,
 KH Did you know someone was listening?
 FP You wouldn't hear but you could hear them breathing, you'd know and they'd know, you see because each person on that party line

- had a different call signal. Some of them used to answer everybody's sometimes they'd hang up sometimes they wouldn't.
- KH I could imagine children being very curious about what other people were talking about.
 FP There were some women worse than the children!
 KH Yes Yes!
 Do you remember being promoted? You would have been there for five years or so? Do you remember being promoted during that time to a higher salary level?
 FP Well you got a slight rise in salary each year, that was about it. You were all more or less on the same level, the girls, even if you were a senior and there was a younger one underneath you, you more or less did all the same work, no difference.
- KH The men, the Postmaster would also work on the switch sometimes.
 FP Oh occasionally, yes when the need arose and the Postmaster who lived in the residence sometimes instead of having a night boy they used to do the switch themselves. There was a bell that went into the residence in the night, there would only be more or less an emergency that you'd get late calls for.
- KH Did you say they had a night boy?
 FP No, the Postmaster used to do it as a rule instead of having somebody on at nighttime.
- KH Because I remember you telling me, was it something to do with Sanko Smith's eldest son or something?
 FP Oh Yes!
 KH You were in there and it was an emergency or something?
 FP Yes I was there when they rang up that night. I was only young he rang up and he was on a party line, and he rang to try and get onto the number and it was engaged and he rang a couple of times and in the end he just said straight out that his son had hanged himself up and could he get onto them. It was a bit of a shock but anyway the Postmaster came in just after that, and I suppose he could see I was a bit upset and said what was wrong. I told him, so he took over then and I went home just after that. See he normally wouldn't have come in to take over till ten o'clock but some were very good bosses and if they weren't doing anything and were just at home, they'd just come in. There was one chap that was there as a relief Postmaster and his wife used to be a telephonist, so she usedn't to mind at all. She used to come in and do it and we used to often get off at eight in those times instead of ten. We often had things like that, you know. It was quiet most of the time actually.
- KH And you left that work because you got married? You then had a house to look after, you wouldn't have thought you could get married and continue working there, that wouldn't have crossed your mind?
 FP Oh no, no. I went to Kiandra you see.
 KH I see you went away from Aaminaby. Kiandra had a bit of an Exchange too, did they?
 FP Yes they had a few subscribers in those days in the old places out around. Goandra had a phone.
 KH That was a different line?
 FP Goandra used to be connected to Kiandra in the first...
 KH Coolamine too, was Coolamine?

FP No they were connected to Adaminaby all through the ^{Gulf} and Circuits and..... I don't know about Coolamine, I don't know if they had the phone on.

KH Yes they did. Currango, Coolamine.....

FP Oh yes Currango came from Yarrangobilly that ^{is} where they were from.

KH OOh! Rules Point?

FP Yes.

KH Then Gooandra was..

FP No Gooandra was from Kiandra, strangely enough.

KH Coolamine is a long way...

FP It is, but the line went through that way.....

KH And down Long Plain....Rules Point, Long Plain.

FP Yes that's where it went, and they were connected to Yarrangobilly Village.

KH Oh Yes.

FP The ^{Caves} and Rules Point. The Post Office was down at Yarrangobilly and they had party lines from there. Oh and terrible, three parts of the time out of order, when Molly only had the phone on from Currango from there, every time it snowed just about the phone would go out. Because it was privately maintained, you'd have to go along the line yourself for miles, and if there was a tree over it or anything, or the line was broken, you'd have to fix it yourself. The mechanics would come and do a certain distance, they'd come from Tumut.

KH The poles along the Port Philip trail are still there, across the Gap the posts are all there.

FP Yes when Molly was on there for years and years and years before she got it on from Adaminaby.

KH Would you have belonged to a Union, or anything like that as a Telephonist?

FP No.

KH Would anyone there at the Post Office? Would the Postmaster?

FP I don't know, we didn't belong to one anyway. Could have been something to do with the Public Service Board.

KH Do you think the conditions under which you worked could have been improved, or were you quite happy with them? I mean, would it have been very hot in the summer?

FP ^{Oh} well it could have been, but you know all we did was open up the windows and let the breeze blow through. There was no, we didn't have electricity.

KH Not in the Post Office?

FP No, we only had an ordinary kerosene lamps.

KH Kerosene lamps? The whole of Adaminaby had no electricity then?

FP No! We had just ordinary kerosene lights and Aladdin lights, and Oh the shops had, in the main street, had electricity because they had their own generators, but the houses didn't.

KH Oh yes. When did electricity come to Adaminaby?

FP When it moved out to the new town!

KH Really! The old town didn't have electricity?

FP No they didn't have electricity, they didn't have water laid on, they didn't have sewerage!

KH And when was the town shifted?

FP Ummm.....

KH 1950's wasn't it? '56 or something?

FP '50 something.

KH No electricity eh? Gee, Cooma would have had it a long time ago.

FP Oh yes I think Cooma did I can't remember when they had but Adaminaby didn't. The shops had it because they had generators, their own plants.

KH You didn't mind the soft light of the kerosene lamps?

FP We had an Aladdin light we took, kerosene, but you had a mantle, tall glass very soft light, but very temporary things if you walked across the floor and it got bumped it would flare up. But they were very good lights, very good light for reading and close work and that sort of thing. Otherwise you just had ordinary kerosene lamps. When you went to bed you had kerosene lanterns, you could have had a torch or that sort of thing. We had tank water, we were very fortunate because in the dry year you tended to get real low, and the Police Station had an underground well and our place was, that was the school and then there was a lane and our block ran down to the next back lane and across that lane was the Police Station, and we used to carry water from the Police Station when the water got too low.

KH You would have had no piped water?

FP There was a town well just across off the main street, they could go and draw buckets of water from that. Pump it up and draw it up and use it. There was no water laid on.

KH Did you have to wear a uniform doing work or did you wear whatever you liked?

FP Yes you just wore your ordinary clothes. They had an open fire for warmth that was all, so you rugged up pretty well in wintertime.

KH That was at the Post Office you had an open fire?

FP Yes. At home you had an open fire and wood stove for cooking. Well everyone had open fires and fuel stoves for cooking.

KH Slow combustion stoves?

FP No just ordinary fuel stoves.

KH So really, you weren't unemployed, you went from school into a job and then from a job to getting married?

FP Yes that's right. I was quite fortunate in that respect really. Some of the young people, some of them just lived at home, some went away.

KH In the thirties, before you moved to Kiandra before you got married were most of your brothers and sisters still living at home. Cause your oldest brother was ten years older than you.

FP Yes he was married, and my second eldest brother.. after the war he came back to Canberra and got a position in Canberra.

KH After the second world war?

FP But before that he lived at home and worked at home. Lived at home and worked! My youngest brother went away quite early, he went to theological college.

KH Oh did he, took up ministry? Stayed with it?

FP Yes.

KH So there was really you, your sister and your second brother at home in the thirties mainly. Were there any boarders or.... ?

FP No.

KH Your Mum and Dad and three children?

FP Plenty of relatives came to stop.

KH Just for a short time?

FP Oh yes. We had one auntie and uncle in particular who used to come in for weekends, they lived down at Dry Plain and they'd come in Saturday and have the night and go again on Sunday.

KH Were there any permanent casuals, people who came every Christmas?
 FP Yes, Aunties and Cousins and things.
 KH Did you ever employ anyone to do any gardening or washing?
 FP Yes Mum did have an old lady who used to come to do the washing.
 KH Ironing?
 FP No, I think we used to do the ironing ourselves. When my mother became ill we had we used to do both the washing and the ironing, she wasn't employed, she just used to do it for us.
 KH She didn't get paid?
 FP No.
 KH You fed her or something.
 FP No, no, she was just a friend used to come and collect your washing and take it home to her home and wash it and iron it and bring it back.
 KH That was very nice.
 FP Oh yes, wonderful people.
 KH Very generous, amazing!
 FP People did that sort of thing in the country though.
 That's what I was going to say to you too, the butcher came around and took your orders, on his horse, delivered your meat with his basket with a white cover over it. You went to the shops for your groceries mainly.
 KH Did you have your own room or did everybody.....
 FP Sister and I had mostly had the one room.
 KH You shared, and the boys would have shared too?
 FP Yes.
 KH So, you would have had three bedrooms altogether, parents had one, living room...
 FP Kitchen and Lounge room.
 KH Kitchen and Lounge room, and you ate in the kitchen?
 FP Yes it was it like a kitchen-living room, we had an open fireplace in it as well as the stove and we had a lounge room with an open fireplace. Had another big room, ^{which} served more a less as your laundry store room at that stage, there was the preserves and extra table when it was hot sometimes you ate out there. If we had anything special we had a big round table in our lounge too where Christmas time or birthdays or that sort of thing you'd always use that.
 KH So the lounge room was by and large for special occasions or would be used for other times too?
 FP Oh yes well you did, but you didn't eat in there, only on special occasions, we more or less ate in the kitchen, but if you had a lot for a meal which we quite often did, being a young family. That was one entertainment, your friends came and you had a meal and played cards or something like that you know and danced on the kitchen floor.
 KH Do you know when the house was built?
 FP No.... I couldn't tell you that, probably when Mum and Dad got married.
 KH That would have been in 1900 - 1901 or so? You were born in 1911?
 FP No! I was born in 1919.

KH Oh sorry! How'd I get that, 1919, your brother would have been born in 1909, they would have got married just before that probably. 1908 or so.
 FP Um.....
 KH In 1908 your mother would have been eighteen.
 FP In 1908 was when they were married, that's right. The house would have ^{been} built about then, I suppose because I think it must have been built when they were first married. I remember there was a room added too. It must have been when I was tiny. When I was quite a little girl I used to sleep in the cot in Mum and Dad's room, then there was another room built on out the front which turned into the boy's bedroom.
 KH Was the house modernised in any way at all in the thirties?
 FP No, no really, we just had that extra room. I don't know when we had the extra room built on actually, but that was the only extra room and the front verandah, the bathroom, and various other, also the back entrance. Instead of being a closed verandah it was a big room which as I said was also your back entrance.
 KH Do you remember anything about the furniture or the standard of the furniture.
 FP Beautiful old cedar furniture in the lounge and bedrooms.
 KH Like sideboards and tables made of cedar.
 FP Heavy carved cedar. The lounge room was more or less like a lounge and dining room combined, it had this huge cedar dresser with a great big mirror in it, carved, and the table was a huge thing. It was a great big round cedar one with the middle leg with the feet coming out of it. I'd say it would sit anything up to twenty.
 KH Gee, a banquet!
 FP There was an old, what did they call the old fashioned couch one of the old type ones that you pay a fortune for now, the antique ones. We often think now if we had the things, because it entailed so much dusting, everything had to be kept spick and span and you know what those carved things were like. How the dust would catch, they got dusted and polished. We often say now they'd be worth a fortune, but unfortunately the house was burnt down. There was only my father left and he used to spend the summer, when his health got bad, with us, come up to us in the summer and come down to Canberra to my sister in the winter time and one winter, not long after he'd left to come down to here for the winter the house was burnt down, and it had all the old fashioned furniture in it.
 KH Did you have wardrobes in the bedrooms?
 FP Yes, wardrobes and dressing tables and in Mum and Dad's room there was one of the old fashioned iron bedsteads with the curtains at the back of it.
 KH High ones with curtains all round?
 FP I think they might have done away with that but it still had pink silk curtains down from the ceiling down like the old four poster ones. Very big wardrobe and dressing table and the old fashioned washstand with the handbasin and jug, there was always one of those in Mum's room, not perhaps the other rooms. We had wardrobes and chest of drawers and dressing table in our room, but it was just wood, we didn't have any of the old iron beds. A rocking chair which I think probably belonged to my Grandmother in the lounge, big chairs.

KH What about hot water, say if you wanted to have a bath?
 FP You had to heat your water.
 KH In the bathroom?
 FP Yes we had a bathroom, but you had to either heat your water in a Kerosene bucket on an open fire or else heat up the copper and carry your water to the bathroom. That was your hot water. We had a big fountain on the stove, a big iron fountain and iron kettles for hot water otherwise.
 KH Didn't have a chip heater?
 FP No. Never had a chip heater.
 KH And washing clothes?
 FP We had a copper and washtubs.
 KH So it was mostly boiled?
 FP Oh yes all your sheets and towels were boiled, my God.
 KH They were all white wasn't it, white sheets?
 FP White sheets and pillowslips and tablecloths!
 KH Starched I suppose?
 FP Starched, yes
 KH Refrigerator, did you have a kerosene refrigerator?
 FP No never had anything like that.
 KH An ice chest?
 FP No.
 KH No deliveries of ice or anything?
 FP Oh no, we didn't have anything like that.
 KH Did you have a wireless at home?
 FP Yes we did in later years, when they became more popular.
 KH Do you remember the year that you got it?
 FP No, I couldn't tell you.
 KH Was it some time in the thirties?
 FP My brother bought the first wireless.....end of the war.
 KH Did you have a phone at home too?
 FP No. *went down to*
 KH You *went down to* the phone and worked the phone, and didn't have a phone at home.
 FP No never had one.
 KH Did other people in Adaminaby have one, a phone?
 FP Oh yes, quite a few, quite a lot that didn't too. All the outlying farms had phones and the business places of course did, and some homes.
 KH Would fifty percent have had phones?
 FP No I wouldn't think so!
 KH Maybe thirty?
 FP More like it.
 KH The land that was around your house, was it several acres just a little house block?
 FP We had two acres, maybe five...two I think, quite a big area because we used to grow potatoes and a vegetable garden and we had an orchard and another big paddock at the other side of the house, we had a horse, and we had chooks and a cow of course. The cow used to go out on the common, but we would leave it in the paddock overnight for milking next morning.
 KH And stables, or something to milk in?
 FP Yes we had a shed. A big shed there, down the bottom of the big paddock where the sulky was. We used to roller skate there when we were kids.

KH What was that?
 FP We had a big shed and we used to have roller skates, and we used to roller skate in this big shed when we were kids.
 KH What did you have a concrete floor?
 FP No we had a wooden floor.
 KH Oh! You did some roller skating?
 FP When we were kids!
 KH That would have been unusual?
 FP Pretty old type skates with probably just iron roller things on them. We had billy carts.
 KH Yes, soap boxes.
 FP With wheels on, down in the paddock on one side of the house it was rather steep had a bit of a hill in it. Used to ride the billy cart down that, I know.
 KH In the thirties, say on a typical sort of day, what time would you have got up? I suppose you would have got up quite early if you had your seven o'clock shift or your half past seven shift?
 FP Oh yes. Get up about six o'clock, it was a bit hard in the winter time when you had go on work at seven o'clock. We'd get up and comb your hair, damp your hair, comb it all up and by the time you got to work it had icicles in your hair! Cold!
 KH Yes! Your mother would cook breakfast and your father go out and work?
 FP I don't think we used to have cooked breakfasts, oh well we might have porridge and toast. Dad used to go to work early sometimes. It depended you see, some of the country people would bring horses in early in the summertime he might go to work at six o'clock to start shoeing before it got too hot. He didn't in wintertime, he didn't go so early.

End of tape 1
 Side 2

Tape 2
 Side 1

KH But the rest of the week mostly Mum and yourselves?
 FP The boys were pretty good in the house too, you know brought up to do things.
 KH Were they?
 FP Oh yes always taking a hand.
 KH It was mostly porridge or toast for breakfast?
 FP Eggs, we had.
 KH Bacon?
 FP No but we had meat for breakfast, I sort of can't remember, the boys may have done, and Dad when they were going to work. Mostly you had toast and eggs and porridge or something like that, and then you had your cooked dinner in the middle of the day as it were when you came home from work. One reason why Mum... you always had some thing hot again for tea too.

KH Did you?
 FP Oh yes.
 KH You had three hot meals.
 FP Well, sometimes in the wintertime. Summertime we'd probably only have salad for lunch.
 KH What did your sister do?
 FP She worked in the general store.
 KH Serving?
 FP Yes.
 KH And your second brother?
 FP Well he had a varied sort of a career, cause he was away in Sydney for a kick off. He used to work in an office for Wunderlich's at one stage when he first left school. Then he came home and he, they worked at the mill, timber cutting at the mill at one stage. He was caretaker at the School of Arts, various jobs. Eldest brother he used to do things, rabbiting in the winter time, did a lot of things. Clearing, cutting and burning and that sort of work. He didn't particularly like that sort of work that's why he never went back after the war, he worked here.
 KH How about after dinner, did you play cards?
 FP We played cards, or read, or had visitors or went out. Parties!
 KH Parties?
 FP Oh yes, used to have parties.
 KH Just young people?
 FP Yes, card parties sometimes.
 KH What did you play, 500?
 FP Yes. Euchre and 500.
 KG Euchre?
 FP Yes.
 KH Anything else?
 FP Mostly 500.
 KH Did you ever go to another house to listen to the wireless?
 FP Yes, we used to go over to the Headmaster's place to listen to the cricket at one stage, sit up to two or three o'clock in the morning listening to the cricket when the test matches were on.
 KH But usually you'd go to bed much earlier than that?
 FP Oh yes.
 KH You'd be in bed, by ten?
 FP No, we were never very early ones, going to bed. Oh well when we were young, we went to bed early, but as we grew up we used to sit up by the fire reading, play cards, and then perhaps a cup of tea. A Cup of milk or cocoa, mainly. We all read, we'd read all night if we would have been allowed. Anything and everything we could get our hands on we would read. Any kind of journals or books.
 KH Who did the cleaning inside in the house? I suppose it was the daughters and your mother?
 FP Oh yes, Oh the boys could do it too! My word they could! They could polish a floor as good as we could!
 KH And they had too?
 FP Yes. My mother didn't get very good health, and you know, my eldest sister, she was a few years older than me, but the boys all had to take their turn, and they always had to help with the washing up and they would have got all the wood in. Mum and my sister always

did the washing and I used to help when I got home. Ironing, cooking, preserving and jam making all you things you did in those days. Sometimes we used to go out in the country to friends places, we had parties.
 KH You'd walk?
 FP Walk, yes, then later on we had a friend who had a motor car, a big oh what was it? Chrysler I think, one of those old ones with the little dicky seats in the middle. He could pack quite a few of us in. Used to take us out to a woolshed dance and things like that.
 KH Did you have any other form of income? Did your parents have any investments or inheritance?
 FP No. Not as far as I know.
 KH Was your father in charge of ^{the} use of money, or did your mother do that? Who would be the accountant, whatever?
 FP I'm not real sure. I think Dad did his own books, as far as I know because he had to send away for orders for iron, for work. I suppose Mum handled the household things. You didn't pay much attention to those sorts of things when you were young.
 KH No, No. What about yourself? You would have bought most of your clothing and shoes in Adaminaby, would you?
 FP Well you did to a certain extent, but you shopped by catalogue quite a lot too, from Sydney.
 KH That was fairly reliable?
 FP Very, you could write away to the firm. You could get the catalogue, you could pick out whatever you wanted and send for it and get it back by post, very, very seldom that you had to send anything back. Didn't meet with approval or just wasn't exactly the right fit. There weren't so many in a way, but you could even buy your shoes through the catalogue and they'd fit! Nowadays you have a job to try to get them to fit when you try them on and everything.
 KH What about furniture, where would your parents have bought the furniture?
 FP Oh...
 KH You wouldn't be able to buy that in Adaminaby, would you?
 FP Oh no I don't think so.
 KH You'd have to go to Cooma or even further.
 FP Cooma or Sydney!
 KH Food, that would all be local, what you didn't grow yourself, you'd buy in Adaminaby.
 FP Yes, you had general stores, butcher shop, baker shop, cafe and fruit shop.
 KH Did your parents buy anything on Hire Purchase?
 FP Oh I wouldn't know, but I don't think so.
 KH All cash.
 FP I'd say so, yes.
 KH What sort of clothing do you remember you were wearing, in the thirties as a young lady about town?
 FP Well, frocks,
 KH Hats?
 FP Yes wore berets and hats in the summertime.
 KH Gloves and stockings.

FP Gloves and stockings, yes I don't ever remember going without them to be quite truthful. I didn't wear slacks, I think I only ever had about two pairs of slacks in my life. You had warm clothes in the wintertime you had warm frocks and warm skirts and jumpers and cardigans, blazers and overcoats. You wore an overcoat a lot in those days because everybody wore them.

KH Three quarter length or full?

FP Full length, mainly because it was so cold! Wore a thicker stocking in the winter time.

KH Did you buy new clothes a lot!

FP Yes as often as possible.

KH So a lot of your money...

FP When I was younger, I didn't you know, you had to, when you were a child you had the hand-me-downs from your sister and that sort of thing, but once I started working, oh Yes! I don't think we paid board, but we used to buy things and take home, you know if you went down the street and you saw something you fancied, you'd buy it and take it home if it was cakes or biscuits or fruit or that sort of thing. When we went to Sydney on holidays we'd buy something in the clothes line for Mum or something if we thought she'd like it in the house, we'd buy that, say like a dinner set or something like that. I certainly never paid board when I was working.

KH You didn't?

FP No.

KH With regard to deliveries, you mentioned that you had meat delivered? Bread you baked yourself I suppose?

FP Oh no!

KH Bread delivered too!

FP Yes.

KH Milk you had yourself, butter delivered or bought?

FP You bought your butter except that sometimes in the summertime, sometimes we had two cows and if you had cream left over you'd make butter. Cause you had to scald your milk to have clotted cream because you had no way of keeping it otherwise. You kept a certain amount of fresh milk out for junkets and eating and that then you scalded the rest of it and set it out overnight, and skimmed your cream off and had clotted cream. You used a lot of cream, if there was any left over then well you'd make some butter. It was mainly used for cooking if you made butter I think as much as anything.

KH Vegetables, you mostly had your own?

FP Well we had some of our own, and then you bought what you couldn't grow you bought. We had a greengrocer's shop, there were a couple. Also there was a greengrocer and fruiterer who used to run round. He might come up from Batiow or other places where they grew more things and later on they'd come up and do the rounds, sell door to door.

KH There were cloth merchants too weren't there?

FP There were a lot of cloth merchants.....

KH Molly talks about The Sikh and hawkers?

FP When I was a kid I can remember one, he was an old Indian chap Hindu Singh, I think we used to call him. He used come round in his horse and cart selling stuff.

KH He went out to Coolamine I think?

FP Yes, probably did, went everywhere! Then there was another chap he was a New Zealander, he was a hawker that came up and came round here quite a bit opened up a store in Old Adaminaby and stopped! You always got travelling salesmen, used to come around sometimes.

KH Brooms and cutlery and... *crockery?*

FP More clothes and materials and things like that.

KH What about someone who sharpened things.

FP Oh Yes, sharpening scissors and knives and things, used to be an occasional one of them.

KH This routine of having things delivered, it went on through most of the thirties?

FP Yes I think it cut out in the end you had to go down to your butcher, one stage some of the stores would deliver too. The *Rosster's* store right down on the bottom of the town, they used to deliver. A man used to come round and take orders at times too. You see, with us, Dad's shop was in the main street, his blacksmith's shop was in the main street, it was only just across from him there was a little shop that sold greengroceries and things like that, and the baker wasn't far down and when the bakers gave up delivering, he used to if one of us wasn't in the street, he'd go down and get the bread and bring it home if we needed it.

KH What about rabbit's, did you buy rabbits?

FP No, if you ever wanted a rabbit, you trapped them yourself.

KH Yes of course! Still, thousands, or hundred of rabbits around there?

FP Used to be plenty of rabbits up in the bush. Not that we ever had that much. We never had too many rabbits, didn't like rabbit much.

KH Didn't you like rabbit?

FP I liked rabbit, but some of them didn't. I don't think Dad used to eat rabbit.

KH Did you keep chooks?

FP Yes.

KH Did you have your own eggs? You'd slaughter a chook occasionally? You made your own jams?

FP Oh yes jams and pickles and sauces.

KH Did you *preserve* your own fruit too, apricots or cherries or?

FP I don't think Mum used, we used to bottle cherries and make cherry jam. Those little Kentish cherries you had to stone them.

KH You don't get much left over either!

FP You had to top and tail gooseberries, and make jam and chutney out of them. Mum did a lot of that sort of thing, not too much preserves but you know a lot of jams and pickles and chutneys.

KH Did you do any bartering, did you change, swap anything.

FP Well yes, not exactly, if you had excess of stuff you always gave away to neighbours, friends and relations and if they had excess you'd get things back, I know when my Auntie used to come from the country she used to bring things in. Being on a farm, they'd have things that we wouldn't have.

KH What about fish? Would the boys go out and fish?

FP Oh Yes, Dad used to fish a bit and the boys did too.

KH So you'd have the occasional meal of fish I suppose?

FP Yes.

KH Did you go out and eat? Was there, there would have been a cafe in Adaminaby?

FP Oh yes there was a cafe.
 KH Did you go down there to eat at all?
 FP No not really except people, relations of ours, we used to go down particularly on Saturday evening, we liked to give them a hand and we might have tea there, and you might have supper before you went home. They used to stop open until after the pictures came out and people would come in for cups of tea. You never particularly went out and paid to have a meal. It was more that you went to people's homes for meals and people to your home for meals. We didn't go out much.

KH Did you ever go to Cooma for a day?
 FP Oh yes occasionally.
 KH It would be pretty unusual though?
 FP Well when we were small I can't ever remember going. When we were kids the dentist used to come out to Adaminaby about once a month or something. But, later on we used to have to go to Cooma to go to the dentist. We used to go in shopping occasionally, but you didn't go far. There wasn't really any way of going when we were small unless you hired a car to go in, you'd go in on a mail car but that meant you had to stop the night and go back the next day. There was no way in, unless you'd hire a taxi.

KH What about the Melbourne Cup, you mentioned the cricket and Empire Day and things did you....?
 FP Never heard anything about the Melbourne Cup when I was young to be quite truthful, although used to go to the races, I just can't remember anything about the Melbourne Cup to be quite truthful.

KH Weddings you would have had, they would have been big turnouts?
 FP More or less the whole town went, well, seventy five percent of the town would go to the weddings. The local show of course, that was two days, two very big days out. Used to get a holiday from school for one day, second day of the show. I think everybody went to that.

KH Christenings?
 FP I think they were more private affairs, the christenings. You had big days at church like harvest festival.

KH Did you! Harvest festival, what at the end of the harvest?
 FP I can't remember what time of the year it would be, must have been in the autumn, because there would be fruit. It might have been summertime, because there would be fruit and big sheaves of oats and things like that.

KH All sorts of produce from the garden.
 FP All sorts of produce from the gardens, it must have been *in the* summertime.

KH You'd have your apricots and cherries by January, February, and your apples would start about March, April.
 FP Yes that would be about the time I think, I was trying to line it up with Easter.

KH Easter, April, might be late February, March.
 FP Yes. That was a very big time at the church.
 KH Did people drink alcohol then?

FP Yes some people used to, always, but not everybody. We used to have alco's around the town that would get drunk and used to frighten the life out of the kids. Never any harm except that they'd wander around in the DTs a bit, you wouldn't go outside the door if we heard they were out around about.

KH Were there drunks in the town, people who were alcoholics or really sort of addicted?
 FP I suppose there would have been a few, but I mean the general run, not every family drank, sort of thing, wasn't such an accepted thing as what it is today. I think at our place we might have something for Christmas and that'd be about it, and when I was a kid I don't think, except there was always brandy in the home in case you needed it for medicinal purposes.

KH This harvest day was it combined with the show?
 FP No, it was entirely to do with your church, it was harvest festival at the church. Everybody took everything and everything went into the church, all in the back of the church, you had all these fruits and preserves...

KH They were given to the church?
 FP Yes, it was sold afterwards for the church. Decorated with flowers and everything we could think of.

KH Did you have a show in Adaminaby?
 FP Yes, my word we did, we had a two day show!
 KH Did you!
 FP My word, I tell you the place has slipped! (laughing)
 KH Yes I don't think there is one now!
 FP No.
 KH Its Cooma now.
 FP The first day wasn't great to go from the child's part or the people just to go, the exhibits were all judged and there would be some ring events like trotters and things like that, cattle and sheep, but you had to have your entries in by a certain time on the Thursday and the pavilion wouldn't be open until late on that day or open the next day. Just the same they had a two day show, had side shows and everything! They had quite a good show cause they had the district farmers and people from Berridale and around like that.

KH Kiandra I suppose.
 FP I don't think anybody ever put anything in from out there! (laughing)
 KH Oh but they'd come.
 FP Oh yes they'd come if it was only to ride the bullocks and that. Yes they come all round, a great highlight in your life.

KH There'd be a dance?
 FP A show ball. One of the big balls of the year.
 KH How many people would go to the ball?
 FP Hundreds, because they'd come from all round, ~~outlying~~ Jindabyne, Berridale even some, if you got the music from Cooma, you'd even have people from Cooma. In the summertime all the stockmen up around Kiandra, lot of young chaps used to go up looking after stock from down country they'd all go down to it.

KH Ladies all in long gowns, very formal?
 FP Oh my word, goodness yes, you'd have to have your long gown, wouldn't dream of going to a ball without it.

KH Elbow length gloves?
 FP Didn't always wear the gloves, but always had the long gowns. Flowers in your hair, and tizzied up. I remember when I was a kid I had cousins that used to come in from country and stop at our place to go to the balls. The old iron crimpers that they used to get for their hair, they used to stick it into the coals, heat it up and put it in their hair. Had to wipe them first to get the black dust off, the soot and stick them in the hair, had to be terrible careful that they didn't frizz the hair. Oh my god I used to think it was the funniest show ever. I was allowed to sit up and watch them get dressed! (laughing) Oh dear!

KH Did you ever go to the coast or anything, like a bigger thing where you actually went away for a holiday for a week. You might have actually gone to Sydney or something?

FP Well the first time I can remember going to Sydney was when I was ten years old. My mother went down to look after her sister's little child while she had another baby. My sister and I went too we had a holiday down there that time. We went to Bega once with a cousin to some relatives down there. But we didn't normally go away, like the whole family for holidays. The only holidays you had- Dad usen't to be working, used to be over the Christmas period, I don't ever remember him taking a holiday to be quite truthful. Not that I can remember, unless he did when everybody was smaller - he may have done then, as far back as I can remember I don't ever remember him going away on holidays with the whole family.

KH If you had a party or celebration at home, would you have alcohol then?

FP No.

KH Just cups of tea?

FP Soft drink.

KH Your family on the whole was fairly light on the use of alcohol?

FP Well when we were young. I don't know that my father ever drank, when he got older he would have a sherry or beer shandy, just one, that would be about it. The boys as they grew up and started going out they'd have a beer and that sort of thing, but if he had a twentyfirst birthday party or something like that you might have something. Particularly sherry or beer, but not a great lot you know. We had beer for my twentyfirst birthday, but I was married then of course. We had it at home.

KH It was pretty expensive I suppose.

FP Yes it was.

KH In terms of magazines and newspapers, did you have anything like that delivered, once a week or more?

FP Yes, well I don't think we had delivered, I think we just bought them at the newsagency.

KH Do you remember what sort of newspapers or magazines?

FP We used to buy Sydney papers, Sydney Sun I think it was, and we used to have a paper in Adaminaby in those days! Adaminaby Advocate and you always got that while ever it was printed and I don't know whether we used to buy the Cooma Express, I can't remember about that. I don't think we bought it all the time, but maybe used to buy a Sydney newspaper and we used to buy the Womens Weekly. From whenever it started I think we used to have that.

KH Well there is one room in Coolamine plastered with Womens Weeklies, that was done in the forties, so its been around a long time.

FP Oh yes its been long before that. We used to buy books occasionally.

KH Adventure stories.

FP We always had children's books in the house. Dad had very big books that had been brought out from England, big English Journal things with all the old.... Punch and those sort of things-from England they were about that thick and about that square, and paper as fine more or less like ricepaper! There was a lot of things we'd get them out and have a go at them. I think there was a library in the School of Arts, we used to get books from there, and I suppose the same as you would do now, we used to swap books with friends. Borrow I mean get a loan of them and give them back and same token you'd loan yours.

KH You did a lot of reading?

FP Oh yes loved it, don't read as much as I used to, but I still read all the time. Everybody in our family were readers, you see in the long winter evenings you didn't have anything much else to do.

KH No, and once the wireless came...

FP Yes we used to listen to serials and...

KH Was it not restricted in any way?

FP No, everybody, there was all the different shows, right back to Dad and Dave, we used to listen to Dad and Dave, Jack Davey and all of those they were very popular.

KH But that was in the fifties, wasn't it, but what about the thirties?

FP Before that I don't know what, there used to be serials which you always listened to, I couldn't tell you what they were now. You listened to whatever was going on the wireless, you know. If it was only a musical programme, everything.

KH Any quiz shows then?

FP Don't know. The earliest quiz shows I can remember are those John Dease ones.

KH Are there many things where you went separately, where your parents didn't come, I suppose some of those parties that you mentioned, some of the card nights and things I suppose you did as young people.

FP Well, yes, although a lot of them were community ones where parents and everybody went. When we went to friends parties, we went on our own.

KH Was there ever anything on down at the Pub?

FP No the pub was always there, but no.

KH It was mainly the men that went down there.

FP I don't ever remember being in the pub at Adaminaby until well after I was married, years after I was married.

KH You might go into the lounge?

FP We might go there, we used go occasionally and have a meal. Not when I was a child or anything, but later on growing up, as you said you either went to the dining room of the hotel or the cafe if you were going out with anybody for a meal. No it was strictly mainly for travellers or the boarders or the men for the bar. I don't even know if there was ever a ladies' lounge there to be quite truthful. If there was I never ever saw it anyway.

KH Did you have things that you went to as a female that was just for ladies, like did you have a ladies' club, like now they have ladies' auxiliaries?

FP No Red Cross was about the only thing.
 KH That was just for ladies?
 FP Yes mainly. We'd have street stalls for them.
 KH They'd be run by the Red Cross.
 FP Red Cross and church used to run them too and different auxiliaries in the district would run things like that, all the churches had street stalls and fetes. No we never had any clubs. The only thing I ever belonged to as a junior, was junior Red Cross, didn't have Guides.
 Not that I can remember.
 KH Not even if you didn't belong to them, if they were in the town you'd probably belong?
 FP I don't think they ever had them.
 KH You had Sunday School?
 FP Oh yes we had Sunday School! Church.
 KH What about YWCA?
 FP No.
 KH Nothing like that? Were there any activities that your parents didn't know about? Like later on after you left school, like smoking and drinking?
 FP No.
 KH Or just in general, was there stealing going on amongst some of the younger people that the adults didn't necessarily know about?
 FP I think with a certain type of them there would have always been a little bit of that, some of the young boys used to, maybe they smoked and drank a bit. They did, some of them, I know, but not in the lot that we used to kick around with, we weren't allowed a terrific lot of freedom. I wouldn't be allowed to go to a ball unless my sister went until later on when we got boyfriends. I used to go to the pictures on Saturday night by myself, because the rest of them were probably going to a dance or something. In the early stages I wasn't that keen on those sort of things until well, a good while after I started work of course and you got to know all the young boys and who you went dancing with and everything about the place.
 KH Would you have felt closest to your mother in your family?
 FP I don't think so, not really. Our Father was very quiet, gentle sort of person. Any discipline that went on, Mum was the one that did it. I think I can only ever remember my Father hitting me once, and that was because I deliberately did something I was told not to do. I think that was the only time he ever punished me! I don't know if I got pasted, though, some of the rest of the family reckoned I didn't get punished enough, I don't know. Spoilt rotten.
 KH The youngest!
 FP I was the baby, spoilt rotten they reckon!
 KH You didn't really feel particularly unhappy as the youngest member of the household.
 FP Oh no! We were a very close family.
 KH Your brothers and sisters too.
 FP Oh yes the whole lot of us. If anybody did it to one they did it to the lot!
 KH You didn't fight like cats and dogs with one brother?

FP No we all got on very well actually. My sister reckoned I was a bit of a damn nuisance at times. Sometimes she had particular friends and sometimes she was made to take me with her when she went to play or to these girls, they might want to go riding the bikes and they wouldn't be able to go because I was tagging along. They had a big shed and big pine trees at this one girl's place, and I wasn't allowed to climb these trees, according to them anyway! They'd get up there and eat apples and throw the cores down at me. They used to give me, give mesometimes thinking I wouldn't want to go next time. I usen't to either, but it just depended if Mum had anything on, or they were going to something that the family weren't invited, well you see the sister had to look after the younger ones. Used to think you were a bit of a darn nuisance.
 KH Bit of a drag?
 FP You didn't see it then, but you do now, you did later I should say.
 KH Was there anyone, of your parents, were they both fairly equal in the running of the household, or decision making, or was one more powerful than the other?
 FP No I don't think so, they sort of worked together pretty well. If Mum said you couldn't do something, well Dad would say that's right too. There was none of - if Mum said you couldn't go somewhere you couldn't do something and Dad would say Yes you can! - there was never any of that, whatever was decided, it was always the same.
 KH You got punished once, but did the boys get punished more than that by your father, did they get the strap or anything like that?
 FP Occasionally I suppose, but I don't remember anybody getting a great lot to be quite truthful.
 KH What was the worst thing you could do to anger your Father?
 FP Disobey your Mother! (laughing)
 KH So he'd back your Mother up? When you were punished by your Father what would he do?
 FP Hit you with the razor strop.
 KH What across?
 FP All round the legs I think. You know they used the old cut throat razors, and that long strop always hung behind the kitchen door, and you got threatened with it sometimes, but you didn't very often get it, I can tell you.
 KH Was your Mother particularly strong on any manners or behaviour that you should adopt. How were you expected to behave towards adults for instance?
 FP Very respectfully, I can tell you!
 KH More respectfully than now I suppose?
 FP Yes, if anybody, if there wasn't enough seats to go around, the child never got a seat, the elderly people were always treated with great respect and looked after, waited on, you had to get up and do everything for them. If there was a cup of tea, they always got theirs first, you got yours and were sent outside if it was fine, you didn't sit inside with the adults for afternoon tea. The children all got something and they were playing outside, they were all fed, but I mean you kept a child's place. They were reasonably strict.
 KH You had to address people as Mr and Mrs?
 FP Oh yes, yes.
 KH Couldn't use Christian names?

FP No, I don't think we did use.... some people I've known all my life and they are still Mr and Mrs.

KH Is that because they are older than you?

FP Oh yes, good bit older than me. Like I'm friends with, one of my friends at Adaminaby, her parents are still living they are both, oh the father's ninety something and the mother's well in their eighties well I don't call them by their full name, but they're still Mr and Mrs Connie which was I always called them and I still call them Mr and Mrs Connie. People like that you never..... its funny Jim was brought up like it too because we had a friend at the village who was older than we were, and for years and years and years, you know her, Mrs Quinn, Ivy Quinn? I always called her Ivy, right from when I first met her, but Jim had known her quite a few years before me and he always called her Mrs Quinn, and it was years before she could get him out of calling her that! It was because he had been brought up as a child to call her Mrs Quinn and its a bit hard to get out of the way of it. He did after we'd been living at the village for a good while.

KH What were the things that were most stressed in the terms of your behaviour and your manners?

FP Table manners and you always had to be a lady.

KH Not swear I suppose, that would be awful wouldn't it?

FP Oh goodness me!

KH You'd be punished for that, if you swore!

FP Yes.

KH You'd try these words out behind the school fence?

FP No I had a brother that swore, and my Mother always blamed the baker for that you see, when he was a little fella, the baker used to deliver the bread to the house all the time then and he used to come in get on the floor and put my brother on his chest and teach him to swear. She said the first word he spoke was a swear word! Because this chap, we knew the fellow fairly well, and he swore all his life and I think that used to sicken us a bit. The girls never got a chance! I think you would have been very severely punished if you'd swore in those days. I'm afraid it doesn't go down the same way now.

KH Would the women swear at all? Would your mother occasionally say 'bloody' or something when she was really annoyed or cross, or blow this, she might use a mild.....?

FP I don't think so, I don't ever remember her swearing. Dad, when he got older, particularly when he was shoeing a horse that was giving him a lot of trouble, he might swear at it, but he never swore in the home. Never, and Mum never did either.

KH No, well, so that was frowned on?

FP My Mother loved to go out though. She liked going to dances and things, she wouldn't dance, but she would go and sit and talk to people and enjoy the music all night. She used to help with the suppers, you always got supper of course at those sorts of things.

Side 2
Tape 2

KH Now that we've had a lunch break and fortified ourselves with a cup of tea, we can go onto the section on communication. Do you remember if there was any major crisis in the thirties at all in the family which upset the apple cart?

FP No I don't think so, nothing I can recall, not in the immediate family.

KH No one was injured badly, or no-one was killed?

FP No.

KH No-one got divorced?

FP Nothing like that.

KH Nothing major at all?

FP No.

KH Did you keep on seeing your relatives on the various sides? On your Mother's side and on your Father's side?

FP Yes more so on my Mother's, because my Father's immediate family, his only brother settled in New Zealand and his two sisters in Sydney.

KH So they were a long way away?

FP Yes, we didn't see very much of them, only on occasional holidays.

KH But on your Mother's side....

FP Mother's side there was relatives all around nearly all the time you know, being closer.

KH You'd do things together with them?

FP Oh yes, every now and then, yes.

KH Or would you only see them at a special event?

FP No, some of the relatives lived in town, but you saw them very regularly, others lived out in the country and sort of came into Adaminaby and so you saw them fairly regularly too. Some moved away and you didn't see them very often, but there was always some of them about.

KH Did they help you in times of need, did you call on each other in times of need, like if someone was very ill? Or like that ^{lady} for instance, she wasn't a relative was she, that lady who did the washing for you, sometimes?

FP No, no she was just a good friend.

KH She just helped your mother and just took it and did it, was there much of that?

FP Fair bit, yes. She was an English lady and very particular with the ironing, used to iron all the sheets and all the towels. Every thing that went away to be washed came back ironed, all neat and all ready to just put away.

KH And with the act of birth and people had children then, was it mainly a doctor that handled the birth, or was there a hospital in Adaminaby?

FP There was a small hospital I don't know just when it started. Just like, there was only a Matron, and an assistant. It was sort of like a little private hospital.

KH Did the Matron handle most of the births?

FP Yes there was a doctor, well I think in that time there may have been a doctor there full time. There were doctors, and then we'd have a period that there wouldn't be any doctors and you'd have to go to Cooma, one stage there I remember in the thirties, there was a doctor used to come from Cooma once a week or something like that. There were from time to time permanent GPs there. I couldn't tell you when the hospital started or when it ended. Well, Betty was born there, that was in '42, so it was still there then, and there was a resident doctor then. When she left they were a long time without a doctor. When I was going to school there was a doctor there, pretty well all the time.

KH Did your grandparents on your Mother's side ever live with you?

FP No.

KH Who looked after them when they got older?

FP Well the Grandfather died when they were still out in the country. There was one younger daughter still at home and Grandmother always lived with her and they moved into Adaminaby later on and she lived with that daughter, even after she got married. She still lived with the youngest daughter of the family.

KH So she was looked after until the day she died?

FP Yes always!

KH That was the usual thing was it?

FP Yes I think so, there were no nursing homes in those days that I know of and mostly the elderly parents were looked after by the families.

KH Your relatives on your Father's side and Mother's side, they mainly didn't see each other because they lived far apart.

FP Yes, we saw the ones in Sydney, you know perhaps once a year. The uncle that went to New Zealand, we didn't see him for.....Oh, I had never seen him, until, well we were living at Kiandra and the children were quite big and he came out for a visit and I think that was the first time he'd been home for forty years!

KH That would be pretty unusual wouldn't it?

FP Never saw any of his family, some of whom are still alive in New Zealand.

KH What about affection, were your parents open about showing affection? Was affection openly expressed, wasn't something that just happened behind closed doors?

FP Quite affectionate, Dad always kissed Mum goodbye when he was going to work.

KH Would they have a cuddle?

FP Well yes, he'd put his arm around her.

KH Between brothers and sisters too?

FP Oh yes, very affectionate family.

KH Would you romp together? Wrestling type things together, that's a way of showing affection.

FP Yes always. Play games and tussle one another and a bit of a clout sometimes.

KH Can you remember when you discovered you were different to boys?

FP No I can't (laughing) its too long ago.

KH Too long ago? I think other people I've interviewed were surprisingly young they can remember that when they were three years old!

FP Well I know I was only young, but I wouldn't know how old. I think when you are a mixed family you do discover those sort of things earlier.

KH Your brothers might be having a bath or something?

FP Yes that's right!

KH So you'd notice there was something different about their body?

FP That's true.

KH Could have happened quite early I suppose?

FP Yes I think so.

KH What about with regard to having babies? Did you ever have...was it something you learnt from your parents? Did your Mother actually take you aside and explain things to you?

FP Well things were explained to you as you were growing up you know. Well I don't know. I know its not quite as open as it is nowadays. I suppose I knew all those sort of things when I was about ten.

KH But certainly before you started having periods?

FP Oh yes, yes.

KH Your Mother might have, or somehow you might have known about it.

FP Yes, that's right.

KH It wasn't something that came as a shock?

FP Came as a terrific shock? No, no. In those days they were sensible enough.

KH Would you have talked about this sort of thing with your Father, or just with your Mother?

FP I can't remember to be quite truthful, but I think having an older sister too helps.

KH Oh yes, how much older was she?

FP Six years older, that makes a big difference too.

KH Well yes, you'd be more likely to talk to her about it than your Mother I suppose??

FP Yes that's right in lots of ways.

KH Was that sort of thing... hmmm, having sexual intercourse and babies did you talk about that very much with your friends, school friends?

FP No not a great lot.

KH You never had any sort of great, I mean did you have any sort of big fads on boys and beginnings of kissing and 'daring' each other.

FP You had your boyfriends at school, on school picnics and some of the boys would sneak a kiss behind the briar bushes, but that's about all you know. It was never any discussion between, it might have been just between your best girlfriend or something like that, but not otherwise.

KH Would you have learnt anything about birth control? Anything you could do to be 'safe' as it were, to not get pregnant?

FP Not in the real early stages, I wouldn't think.

KH In the thirties?

FP Oh by then you would, yes. But, you know, not younger than that.

KH When you were a young woman what sort of things first came in in terms of birth control, in terms of not being pregnant? Did you have anything, versions of the loop or.....

FP No, I think there were some things, but we you know, there was never anything much in that line.

KH ^{My} Mother had something during the war, some sort of metal thing, a cone thing I think she used.

FP I think some people did, but there was nothing like that in our time.

KH Would you have ever used any form of contraception?

FP No.

KH Well, if you didn't know about it, if it didn't exist?

FP Well I think there were some, you know, but ^{it} wasn't generally used, I don't think very much in those days anyway.

KH Was there any knowledge of natural rhythms, you know, periods of the month when you were more fertile than others?

FP No, no, that really wasn't..... I think some of the girls who were of the Roman Catholic religion were instructed a lot in that and seemed to believe in it a lot.

KH There were magic days when you couldn't get pregnant, when you couldn't conceive?

FP I don't know when they were (laughing) they seemed to believe it. Some of them still do.

KH Oh yes, the Pope has edicts on it, natural birth control. Do you remember anyone at that period having a miscarriage, amongst some of the women older than you, or even your mother?

FP No I don't to be quite truthful, I mean there could have been plenty I don't know if things like that were kept quiet, but you didn't seem to hear of it very much, so it could have happened.

KH If it ever happened to some immediate relatives, you would have known about it, wouldn't you?

FP Oh, yes, we would have known about it.

KH But you don't?

FP I didn't know of anybody in myno I don't.

KH You know because they are interested in it particularly as a comparison between today. What about abortions, any reference to that sort of thing?

FP No not in my young days.

KH Like if a girl fell pregnant and it was an unwanted pregnancy, I suppose they got married?

FP They just got married or the relatives just took them away somewhere. Mainly they got married. Some people were very young, fifteen, sixteen and they seem to get married.

KH Do you remember any young girls going off to Sydney or somewhere and having a baby adopted?

FP No I don't.

KH Would abortions have been..... I don't suppose abortions would have been performed in Adaminaby? You'd have to go away to have an abortion to Cooma or Sydney?

FP To Sydney.

KH It would very much be an illegal thing I suppose.....

FP I suppose so yes.

KH Even now its incredibly controversial.

FP Well it is, isn't it, yes! There has been ^{more} controversy about that than anything else in a way. I suppose it could have happened too.

Because people would talk about people sometimes, but there would have been nothing ever come out of it, but then you wouldn't know, they could have been away and you wouldn't have heard about it probably. As I said sometimes a girl would probably have gone away, gone to work with an Auntie, well, you know, the gossips would put two and two together, but it was never anybody that I ever knew or heard of.

KH What about homosexuality?

FP Never heard of it in our days to be quite truthful! Never, I don't think I ever heard of it for years and years after I was married.

KH What in the fifties perhaps or til you came to Canberra?

FP Oh no before that, because there was a cook at the ^{Chalet} one stage, a man, he was a 'homo', but he got arrested from up there. I think he got arrested for stealing in the first place, but it came out afterwards in his trial. We knew about it before then, but that was the first actual case of anybody I ever knew.

KH Was that after the war?

FP Oh yes.

KH Late forties?

FP It was when Palfrey's was there, it was later than that.

KH Fifties, early fifties, Harvey Palfrey?

So there were perhaps professions where homosexuality was more common, was it more prevalent amongst cooks than stockmen for instance?

FP Never ever heard of it at all, to be quite truthful.

KH Well what did you think it was?

FP Oh well you'd read about it and knew about it but ^{you'd} never come across it, never ever heard of it when we were growing up! I didn't anyway, it could have gone on in your own town probably, although not too much in a little place you'd soon be found out there.

KH You would have known about men who were perhaps more female in their inclinations, or who had a softer voice maybe or couldn't seem to grow a beard?

FP Oh yes, we used to say.....

KH Pansies!

FP Yes, they weren't poofs they were pansies!

KH Males have all sorts of different characteristics. There would have been some, even as a child who had leanings in that direction.

FP Yes, that's right!

KH What about female homosexuality, that would have been even rarer?

FP I think so.

KH When did you first hear about that?

FP Not while I was growing up, anyway, thats for sure. Probably think when you start to read the later novels you came up against.

KH In the last twenty years?

FP Oh no before that, you know like, I'd be well and truly grown up I'd say.

KH With all your reading you would have learnt a lot about other people's habits.

FP You did, yes, though those sort of things weren't written up as much in those days either.

KH No! It was hush hush wasn't it? This Cook at the hotel was he galled, was he? He was caught for stealing, was he punished for being a homosexual?

FP Well I think he was, because it involved a young boy, not a grown up person, a young boy. I think, I know it came as an awful shock to them.

KH The parents?

FP No, the people who employed him, because they had been missing things at different times, and having a kiosk, they just thought they'd been lifted and then they were away at one time and things that had never been put out were gone. I've just forgotten how they got onto it in the first place, something to do with, he went to South Australia for a trip, and whether he took this young boy with him. I've just forgotten, he got caught up with anyway, there was piles of things he had stolen, money and goodness knows, he was a real bad egg when it came out.

KH You would have known him too, wouldn't you?

FP Oh yes, yes. Cooking there for a good while, he was the chef, real temperamental sort of fellow you know.

KH I suppose he wouldn't have come back to Kiandra after that?

FP Oh No!! They never heard of him again.

KH Would they have been ostracised then, I suppose, anyone who was a homosexual?

FP Well I think they were a bit, because nothing was frowned on a lot more - it was the early days.

KH You didn't own a car in the early thirties?

FP No.

KH But you occasionally had access to one, you were picked up to go to tennis or something?

FP Yes, we went to balls and things in a car. Nineteen thirty, let me see, my brother would have had a car, no it would have been after that. Might have been in the nineteen thirties sometime, can't remember.

KH Just before the war?

FP Yes he was.....

KH Did you ever talk about class, when you mention the ruffians, the untouchables, what about the upper class, the 'squattocracy' anything like that you were conscious of?

FP Oh yes we always said you know, we'd known a family on a station out from Adaminaby, who were very wealthy people, very well educated and travelled, an extremely nice family and there was no, well, they were really normal everyday sort of people, although you know that they had been used to mixing with I suppose the very best. The girl went to a finishing school in Switzerland and the son was finished off at Oxford or somewhere like that. But to meet them they were the same as you and I, and yet there were a few others, they'd sorta got a bit of money and thought they were somebody, and we used to often say you know that they were the snobs, the ones who thought they were somebody. It didn't make any difference, well we mixed with everybody, actually. There was no class distinction as far as that went, rich people came to our church, the wealthy people.

FP We had morning tea once when we went out to a church service near their home, we knew them quite well. There were just certain types that you didn't mix with.

KH You knew they were different, and they knew you were different!

FP Well they would have mixed with you alright, but there were a certain lot that we weren't allowed to.

KH I see, those who were untidy, or? in that sense you had three sections, you had those who were poor, considered dirty, and a sort of middle layer, and the very well off, the big landholders.

FP We had a few of those, there was quite a few people with big properties but they were all quite nice people, some of them were bits of social climbers, and they would if they got the chance. One family in particular, Osbornes, rich people in this area too. Another chap, a squatter in Lancashire in the war, they had a nice big property and they were quite nice people, very well educated and travelled people, but very nice. A few locals had been on the land all their life who look a bit uppity. Around Old Adaminaby there was some quite big properties, but of course they got split up and under water. KH: Did anyone in the household, like your Father, belong to a political party?

FP No.

KH Australian Workers Union, Country Party or National Party?

FP No.

KH Not much...

FP Nothing political at all.

KH Didn't attend political functions or?

FP Nothing.

KH Not trade unions either? No politics, no unions?

FP No, Dad worked for himself you see.

KH There was no professional organisation for blacksmiths?

FP No. If you were out of work, you were out of work, and if you were sick, you just made up for it otherwise, just worked away yourself all the time.

KH What about voting, when it came to voting, who did your parents tend to vote for, do you think?

FP I'd say Liberals.

KH Your brothers too?

FP I don't know about them, they did, I know one brother always did, I wouldn't know about the others, because they were away more.

KH Would they have voted for the Country Party, the National Party, in the early thirties before?

FP I couldn't tell you. We weren't very interested, because you couldn't get a vote until you were 21 and it didn't mean anything much to you.

KH Do you know why they voted for the Liberals, rather than for the Labour Party?

FP No, I couldn't tell you. I know my father might have always been a Liberal. I couldn't swear to it when he was young, but what I knew of him.....

KH Did you ever talk about politics, or Prime Ministers, like Joe Lyons?

FP No, never, no. Don't think we would have known who was Prime Minister to be quite truthful.

KH Pig Iron Bob, did he come into things?
 FP During the war.
 KH But not before?
 FP No.
 KH State politics, who the state premier was?
 FP No there was nothing like that, Jack Lang, we all knew about Jack Lang. But I think that sort of stuck in your mind because of the opening of the Harbour Bridge. That was made a big thing of.
 KH What did they think, was there any sort of discussion, ever comments about Jack Lang, whether they liked him or disliked him?
 FP No. Not that I can remember. We weren't a political family whatsoever in any shape or form.
 KH What about at the local level, at the Shire Council, did you know much about who was aldermen, or who was the Shire President?
 FP Oh yes because it was a local Adaminaby fellow that was Shire President for years and years, chap off the land there.
 KH Who was that?
 FP G. W. Mackay (Mackay) and later his son from Dry Plain was President for a good long while.
 KH Has he got two sons?
 FP The old chap or?
 KH There would have been two sons?
 FP No that would have been there would be father and son and father and son again. From the old chap down, his son and then his son, I think.
 KH I was just thinking about Mackay's (Mackay's) hut up in the mountains, the Mackays had a grazing lease.
 FP That was a different Mackay, a relation but a different branch. That was Dave Mackay's I think.
 KH I can't remember their names, it may have been Dave. I think there were two brothers involved there.
 FP Yes there were brothers.
 KH Did you ever attend any functions at a local sort of Shire Council level? Did you father ever go to any special openings where the Shire President might have been there?
 FP Oh I'd say so, anything that was to do with the town. He was a member of the GUOOF Lodge and they had representatives at different things. I can't remember, but I can remember seeing, we had a photo at home, something, I can't think what it was, but the town band was in it and a lot of the town notarians and that sort of thing, but I can't think what it was for now! I know Dad was in that. Any public function, he used to join in things like that.
 KH This GUOOF, thats an order of Good Fellows?
 FP Grand United Order of Odd Fellows.
 KH He was a member of that, and they had a club building?
 FP No they had their meetings at the School of Arts, always.
 KH Sort of like an Apex or Rotary?
 FP Yes, a lodge, like Masonic and Buffaloes, same sort of thing. That's the only thing that I know he belonged to. As I said if there was anything, they always worked for the church and anything that was to do with the town, being a business man of course you were more or less in it.
 KH Can you remember the first time you had to go to the doctor?
 FP Crikey no I can't remember the first time.

KH Did you go to the hospital or did the doctor come to your home?
 FP The doctor used to come to your home in those days.
 KH So they made house calls?
 FP Oh yes, you had your family GP, and if you did have to go, if he had a surgery he was treating you for something you only paid at the end, you didn't pay for every visit like you do now. You went and if he said you had, say measles or whatever it was, he'd come to the house to see you, you'd only pay the one fee for the whole thing. If you had a broken arm and you had to go backwards and forwards to him, well still only a set thing.
 KH Cheaper than it is today?
 FP Telling me! It was cheaper all right!
 KH Did he come in a buggy, in a horse and buggy?
 FP I can't remember that.
 KH He might have had a car in the thirties.
 FP Well he would have done. There was one doctor that I know that I used to go to, when I was thirteen, he had his own motor car. We mostly used to go round to where he, did he have an office at the hospital or was his house, oh his house might have been round the same way. We used to go to his surgery, but I know he did have a car because I know if there was anybody, an accident or anything, out, he could always go to that.
 KH Do you remember Dr. Schaeffer. Dr Shaeffer from Adaminaby?
 FP No, I don't remember him, don't even remember the name.
 KH Had a big family, the Schaeffers.
 FP Oh there were Schaeffers around there yes, there were a lot, I don't remember any of them but I can remember there was a place called Schaeffers. Was it Schaeffers Hill or Schaeffers Paddock or something like that, but I didn't know there was a Doctor Schaeffer.
 KH What about, did you have a chemist in the town?
 FP Never!
 KH Who supplied the pills?
 FP Well your doctor mainly in those days, unless it was something he didn't have, you'd have to get it out from Cooma. He used to mix cough mixtures and he had a dispensary where he had drugs and tablets and things. They used to mix a lot of things.
 KH So he was the chemist as well as the doctor.
 FP In later years, you had to go to Cooma, like later years when there was a doctor there, you couldn't get anything, unless it was something they had on sample, or mix a bottle of cough mixture. You'd have to get anything filled in Cooma.
 KH Would you have had any home remedies? You would have had castor oil and things like that I suppose?
 FP All those sort of things, castor oil, and olive oil and camphor and camphorated oil and linseed oil, and linseed that they used to make poultices out of for boils.
 KH Oh they used linseed oil for poultices, did they?
 FP Linseed itself, it was the seeds of it.
 KH Flaxa!
 FP Mucky brown looking stuff and you used to heat it up and make a paste.

KH and it used to draw...

FP Oh Mum used to make things up. She used to concoct a drink out of yeast, lemon juice and sugar and that sort of thing. I think that might have been for boils and blood disorders. Always stacks of things in the home in those days, Bonningtons Irish Moss you could buy it at the shops everywhere, Aspros I think was.....

KH What was camphor used for?

FP All sorts of things, they used to put it on children next to their skin to prevent colds, a lot of people still do that.

KH What for?

FP A little cake of camphor. They used to make a little bag, a little muslin bag, put a cord around it and hang it on the children's chest. They reckoned it prevented colds and so forth.

KH Castor oil, you had to have that every day?

FP Oh no, that was only on rare occasions.

KH I see, it wasn't just given to you because it was good for you!

FP I hated having to take castor oil, they'd have to hold my nose and pour it down, then I had to take it, and then it used to make me sick so they gave up giving it to me in the end. I never gave my kids castor oil, I could never see any sense in it.

KH Oh well it was like the barber at one stage.

FP Yes everybody swore by castor oil! I think I might have given it to my kids once for some thing, I've forgotten now, but you know there are more modern things, it was a cruel stuff castor oil anyhow. Kill you I reckon!

KH You had Aspros by then in the thirties?

FP Yes used to have Aspros.

KH For headaches?

FP Yes.

KH But you didn't mix up anything yourself, like from herbs or any plants? Did you use for instance there's a shrub, black pepper that grows in the mountains that some people believe was good for you, if you made a drink?

FP No I can't ever remember anything like that at home. We always seemed to have patent medicines except as I said for the old things for poulticing. But of course they were stuff that you bought anyway, so, linseed.

KH So the most common medical things would have been colds and flu and things like that?

FP Yes. Measles, Chicken pox and that sort of thing.

KH Was there much Diphtheria or more serious things?

FP No that I can remember. The only case that I can ever remember that was serious was a little lass I went to school with and we went for a picnic and she was in the river and she wouldn't come out of the water and she got terribly sunburnt, and she got meningitis and died then. Kid about 12 or 13. That's the only serious case of anything that I can remember.

KH Any major health crisis in your family in the thirties? Anyone hospitalised or seriously ill, pneumonia, your Mother?

FP My Mother had ill health, but she had gall stones. Nelson had pneumonia, I was just trying to think when it was, could have been in the thirties, but he was nursed at home I know. We had a friend who was home on holidays and she used to come round and wash him and that. I wasn't very old at the time I don't know whether he was in hospital in Cooma? My brother had a bad fall off a horse and got badly smashed up. It happened at grandparents place out at Dry Plain I can't remember if he was nursed there or if they had to take him to Cooma to a doctor or what.

KH When people died, I suppose they were mostly buried?

FP Always buried.

KH All of you were Church of England?

FP Yes.

KH And you went to church once a week?

FP Every Sunday, twice mostly, sometimes three times by the time you went to Sunday School and went to church after that and then you mostly went again at half past seven at night.

KH Three times on the one day? What about when you were a teenager, you wouldn't go to Sunday School any more?

FP No, we went to church though.

KH Just the once perhaps?

FP Either eleven o'clock in the morning or half past seven at night.

KH Did you want to go?

FP Oh yes we quite liked it, I suppose we'd always been brought up to go and you know you accepted it because it was the right thing to do. Grandmother was a very, very strict churchgoer I believe. I was only a tiny little girl, when she died. Church was her law, very religious. We all brought up to go to church.

KH Were there certain things you couldn't do on a Sunday?

FP No.

KH Could you still play sport?

FP We weren't that strict! We watched the football or something like that, we weren't restricted in any way, we went to church just the same.

KH It was alright if a ball on the Saturday night went on past midnight?

FP Yes, it didn't very often in those days the balls were all Friday night and the dances, Saturday night dances cut out at midnight.

KH Were you very friendly with the local priest?

FP Oh yes always.

KH Would he call at home?

FP Yes they always did in those days. He'd come and have a cup of tea.

KH Do you remember him being called when there was a crisis or time of trouble?

FP No he used to call around if anyone was sick, but as far as I can remember we never had anything that serious.

KH There would have been catholics of course and there would have been people of different religious convictions in your town?
 FP Oh yes we had friends who were different religions.
 KH Do you remember any conflicts between people of different religions? Where religion actually came into.....
 FP Yes there used to be, very strict Presbyterians were bigoted against the Roman Catholics, they wouldn't have anything to do with their functions. I knew some, four girls in one family, their father was a very strict Presbyterian father, wouldn't allow them to go to any dances or anything, they weren't allowed to go anywhere on Sunday, only to Church. There was always a little controversy, even as schoolkids we used to fight sometimes with kids from Roman Catholics. We used to call the nuns the 'Magpies' and they used to tell us we were 'heretics' and 'heretics were damned'!(laughing)
 KH Heretics would go to hell.
 FP But we never had any serious confrontations or anything like that. Some of them in those days, the Roman Catholics were very much anti-social as far as any other religion went, they just didn't mix with the other religions in anything.

End of Tape 2
 Side 2

Tape 3
 Side 1

KH Going to the beginning?
 FP Its always a bit of a blank isn't it?
 KH So, it was certainly, as far as the Catholics were concerned they tried to keep separate, they would try to keep their children separate from other members of the community?
 FP Oh yes and the old dyed in the wool Protestants too, they wouldn't, there was never a thought that you'd go into a Roman Catholic Church, and the same with the Roman Catholics. I know even up to the time we were married, we had one very good friend who was a Roman Catholic, he was invited to the wedding, but he wouldn't go into the church. He went up to outside the church, but he wouldn't go into the church. I can remember even then I was quite hostile over that! Of course thats all altered now even in a small place they mix a fair bit, some of us didn't though.
 KH Oh yes some people are still very bigoted and they believe that only their religion is right.

FP Yes, thats right!
 KH So, as far as the Church of England was concerned or your participation in it, you didn't feel that you were extra special or that you would be saved.
 FP No, you couldn't help what religion you were born and brought up in we had some friends that were of all denominations really.
 KH So you didn't....there were other things far more important as to how you chose your friends.
 FP Oh yes!
 KH You might have discovered something about their religion later on perhaps?
 FP Yes well thats right.....
 KH Although you'd know what.....
 FP Everybody knew what everybody is in a small place, thats right. But when you got a bit older and you mixed with them and well, them I worked with some of with them, we used to laugh sometimes at some of the funny things. One girl I was very good friends with and she was a Child of Mary! I worked with her, I'm still friends with her, it didn't make the slightest bit of difference as far as being friends went.
 KH Is she still the same religion?
 FP No. Well she is and she isn't, lets face it. She married a Presbyterian and she was just wiped by her church of course! Excommunicated as the saying is and their family is all Presbyterians. I don't know if she goes to her own church now or whether she never bothers going or what.
 KH Do you remember any jingles, dealing with the difference, did the Catholic children sing certain things to tease other children, or did you sing certain things and tease them?
 FP No I don't think so.
 KH You know kids would often use that to get at each other, make up things?
 FP Yes I know, but I think thats about the only one we used to have a go at them at sport about "the old black magpies".
 KH What about the priest, the nuns were black magpies, what were the priests?
 FP I don't know what we used to call the priest, Father I think? (laughing)
 KH Nothing more derogatory?
 FP No, we sort of didn't have that much to do with them, only met them sort of just at sport and in your everyday life you mixed with some of them I suppose. Some of them, went to Roman Catholic school, weren't..... There was one family that I always thought were catholics, went to the Roman Catholic school, turned out they were Church of Englands, in fact one of the young members turned up at our school one day. He'd walked out on the nuns and decided he wasn't going to them any longer, and he'd been going to the Public School for a week before his parents even found out !! (laughing) I think the father was a Roman Catholic, but the funny part of it all was that the kids had all been christened Church of Englands, and yet they were all sent to Roman Catholic school!
 KH Yes you get those sort of.....
 FP Silly mix up! Ended up a couple of them went to Public School, the younger ones

KH Did you have much to do with people from other parts of the world, like Greeks or.....

FP No nothing, nothing whatsoever!

KH All old settlers?

FP The only ones were a few Chinese families, they'd been there as long as we had.

KH The Yans I suppose?

FP The Yans(pronounced by Mrs Pattinson as Yens) and *Booshangs*.

KH You kind of accepted them as part....?

FP Part and parcel of the place they'd been there that long.

KH What about Jewish people, or Germans?

FP There was one family, I didn't know the father, but they were Germans by the name of Braun, the father was a German yes, they were all Australian born, the father was born in Germany but he must have married an Australian, I think.

KH No Italians?

FP No.

KH What about the word "dago"?

FP No, not round Adaminaby there were none there. Cooma more, there were a few in around Cooma. There were no foreigners much at all in Adaminaby.

KH The people who ran the cafe were they Australian?

FP Australians.

KH In some country towns they were Greeks.

FP Yes Greeks.

KH In a lot of country towns even then.

FP No never had anybody but an Australian in the cafe in Old Adaminaby.

KH No Americans?

FP No.

KH What about aboriginals, any contact with descendants of aboriginals or half caste people?

FP No not really, I don't think there was even ... the Germans would be the closest to anything like that up around our way.

KH You would have been aware of the White Australia Policy would you, as part of the background of politics?

FP I don't think it was even thought of up around there.

KH You don't remember it?

FP No.

KH You wouldn't remember any attitude you had, whether Australia should be kept for Anglo Saxons only?

FP Not in those days, as I said it didn't come up, because there was no body at all until the Snowy. There was nothing, there were Greeks in the cafes in Cooma.

KH There were the Chinese.

FP There were Chinese, they had been here that long.

KH You accepted them?

FP They were sort of, they were all spoke English and the younger ones were all Australian born. Well the Yens even, not the older ones, but the younger ones, Frankie and, see their Mother was white, she was an English woman, Frankie and Geoff. Geoff, he's the only one left there now, anyway. Frank had a picture theatre for years and years, and a garage his wife was an English woman. The family was sort of half and half. We used to call them "Chinky Chinese" sometimes and that sort of thing. The Booshangs were another lot of the same lot, the mother was white and the father was a old chinese chap who came there in the very early days, apart from that, it was more or less the same with the Yans around Kiandra, the men were Chinese but the mother was white. They were just sort of part and parcel of the place, there was no difference with that. They'd been accepted right from the goldmining days, the Chinese, you know. There didn't seem to be any other coloured people, Oh, except for that old Indian fellow that used to come around as a hawker.

KH Yes, but that was accepted too.

FP Yes it was. It was sort of part and parcel of the trade, so there was never anything about.....

KH Do you remember there was a big celebration that celebrated 150 years of European settlement in Australia in 1938?

FP Yes.

KH Was it a big thing in Adaminaby, did anything stand out about it?

FP Not really, then of course we moved to Kiandra that year.

KH Oh yes, and there wouldn't have been much in Kiandra.

FP I don't think there would have been anything at Adaminaby either, the schoolkids I think were issued with something for it. They might have had a bit of something in the schools, but I don't think that I can remember that there were any public celebrations in Adaminaby. Sort of too small for them to bother about it, probably be in Canberra, sometimes those sort of things that were on down here, even the schoolchildren used to be bought down sometimes for something like that, I can't remember anything about it anyway, whether there was or not to be quite truthful.

KH What about the Aboriginal Day of Mourning?

FP Never ever heard of it.

KH No, I hadn't heard of it until very recently, I read about it.

FP No to be quite truthful.

KH In terms of cities, would you have considered Sydney the most important city in Australia, or Canberra or Melbourne?

FP Now you mean?

KH No then.

FP Oh Sydney I'd say. It was sort of, Canberra was only a bush town. I remember my sister came down for the opening of Parliament, 1927 wasn't it I think? My sister and brother, middle brother and cousin came down for the opening of that. I was still only a kid then.

KH What about as far as states were concerned, which state did you consider was the most important in Australia at that time?

FP Well I suppose you considered your own. New South Wales meant more to you than any other I think?

KH Your first visit to Sydney can you remember how old you were?

FP I was ten I think.

KH That would be 1928.
 FP 1919 I was born, been 1929 or 1930, I think I was just over ten when I went to Sydney.
 KH Your next state, would you have gone to Victoria?
 FP I didn't go to Victoria until I'd never been to Melbourne until about 29 years ago. I think my nephew is 29 years old, that's down there his mother was sick and we were down at Jim's sister at the time just for the winter or for shearing and they rang up to see if I could go over and help out and Betty and I flew from Wagga down. That's the first time I'd been to Melbourne. Jim had been there, but I'd never been to Melbourne.
 KH Had you been to Queensland before that?
 FP No, since then too we went to Queensland. No! Sydney! We used to go to Sydney when I was working, we went to Sydney nearly every year for our holidays. My sister used to get hers at the same time and we used to go down. Stop with an Auntie down there and you know really do the theatres and shopping and generally have a good time. Go back and work for another twelve months to save your money to go again. (laughing)
 KH In the thirties had any member of your family been overseas at all?
 FP No.
 KH What about that guy who went to New Zealand, was that in the thirties?
 FP Oh no he went as a boy and never came back!
 KH He went with his parents?
 FP No, he was a young lad and he went over there. I don't know how he come to go to be quite truthful, but I know he came home at the end of twelve months and he went back and married and settled there, you see and he never came back for forty years.
 KH So he was the only one really?
 FP I don't know about Dad's sisters, they could have been over to see him. I wouldn't know about that.
 KH Did you keep in touch with him?
 FP Oh yes we always wrote and everything. Kept in touch and sent photos of the families. They never came out and we never went over. After that Uncle died, one of his granddaughters came out and stopped with all of us and toured round all the eastern states of Australia. When my brother and his wife were over there, must have been two or three years ago, they went and saw a couple of members of the family.
 KH In the thirties, what do you think was most significant? What was the most important thing for Australia? What were the most.....
 Did you think it was the lucky country, did you think everything was open go? Australia could only go ahead?
 FP I think so, it was a marvellous country full of opportunities if people liked to work and make the best of what they had.
 KH Do you think it was freer in that sense than it is today?
 FP Yes I do.
 KH Less opportunities now?
 FP I don't know about less opportunities, but there's not as much, um well, there seems to be more a tight rein on everything now.
 KH More rules and regulations?

FP Yes and Boards for everything you know and you can't even keep chooks after a certain amount without you gotta register them and pay the Egg Board. Those sort of things didn't apply so much then. Well I think it didn't.
 KH No especially in the country, where you were.
 FP Cities may not have been much different, but life in the country was much easier.
 KH Do you remember what the characteristics of a typical Australian male were in the 1930's as far as you were concerned, when you were a young woman? Do you remember how you would have like them to have been, what your idol was in a sense?
 FP Oh, well decent, hardworking, attractive.
 KH Did you know any of those sort of people?
 FP Oh yes (laughing) Quite a few!
 KH They were mostly like that?
 FP Oh no, not all of them, you got the, what sort of type shall I say. There was always a few 'down and outers' and what they call the regular bums. There were always a certain type of those, but I don't think they expected as much from the Government and wanted things done for them as much as they do now!
 KH They were more independent?
 FP They were more independent and got out and made their own way and did their own thing and were content with what they had. If you wanted a job you got out and found a jolly job, or you starved to death! You couldn't depend on handouts from the Government cause it wouldn't have kept you alive. In the Depression it only kept body and soul together. I can remember the Depression, and I think it was six shillings or eight shillings they got and you weren't allowed to buy tobacco or anything like that, it was just essential food, you didn't get the money, you got the slip and you went and got your essential foods to keep you alive. There was no like the young people these days, live at home with Mum and Dad and waste their money. I know of quite a few, Mum and Dad are both working and they grizzle because the young ones can't get a job. But they keep them!
 KH What about a typical Australian female at that time?
 FP Well, you had to be fairly a good living person, able to work and look after yourself to a certain degree, although your home life was different too. No mothers worked! Unless they were a widow woman that was forced to. A mother was there to keep the home going and look after the family and Dad was a wage earner. Your lifestyle was harder in some respects, but a lot more.....
 KH It was clearly defined wasn't it?
 FP Yes, it was.
 KH You had your role and that was it, I suppose.
 FP Yes you had your pleasures to go to, yes you were more settled in your ideas in a way. If you wanted a different job, well, providing you could get it, you never thought of leaving one position until you had another one in view. Some of the girls were more adventurous, they wanted to go away to the bigger cities, they did

- that, but even so there weren't that many. As long as you had a good yourself nicely dressed and were respectable you seemed to get along alright.
- KH What about the worst side, the bad side of things? What would you consider would have been characteristics that weren't so good about an Australian female then? You must have come across a range of types, especially when you went to Sydney?
- FP Not really when we went to Sydney because we didn't meet up with sort of just went out with friends and relations, you didn't meet up with any outsiders or much. Yes there were a few bad characters around, the type of girl who would hang around looking for a handout or chasing some of the men. Didn't want to sort of lead a decent sort of a life, didn't want to conform with anything. There was always a few of that sort of type, even in those days, nobody was perfect.
- KH Not even yourself? (laughing)
- FP No! We did some things sometimes that you got into trouble over. Mum said "you shouldn't have done that", "you shouldn't have gone there", "who did you go with?" They kept a pretty tight rein on us in a way. If they didn't like a boy that, you might have gone to a dance on your own and come home with a boy, if they didn't like him they didn't forget to tell you about it, "don't let me see you going out with him again!" I tell you what you didn't either!
- KH That was gospel eh! More gospel than gospel.
- FP You didn't answer back. You didn't say I'm going to do it and you can go jump in the lake, like the kids of today would do. You'd have been out the door before you knew where you were! There was no case of getting out and living on your own because you knew you couldn't do it and there wouldn't be anywhere to go anyway! There were all families.
- KH I suppose my daughter could walk out in three years time and go on the dole or something?
- FP A lot of them are, because this is the hard part of it, you just don't know I think things are harder for kids now in a way, there is a lot more to contend with than there was in our day. We had a pretty set standard in those days. For one thing there was no such thing as drugs.
- KH Apart from alcohol and cigarettes I suppose?
- FP Yes there was, I mean if a boy was young and he started to drink, if his parents were very strict, he soon didn't drink. Not to excess anyway. All the boys, well not all, the hotels shut at six o'clock but the boys would all have a bottle for the ball, and they'd always be late getting to the ball because they'd be out having a drink with their mates, but no they all got over it pretty quick, didn't go on all the time.
- KH Which country do you think was the most powerful in the world at that time?
- FP In the 1930's? I don't know, Great Britain I suppose.
- KH Great Britain or America?
- FP Great Britain or America.
- KH Did you have much interest in the Royal Family?
- FP Oh yes! Always!
- KH Princess Elizabeth when they were still princesses?

- FP Used to follow them, their life story really anything that was written up about them.
- KH I suppose that would be well covered in the Women's Weekly?
- FP Yes there used to be things like that. I used to get English magazines more in those days too. Home Journals and, no not Home Journals, Woman at Home I think it was. They were quite good, big, thick magazines which you used to get and it always had something about the Royal Family in it. I don't know why if because Dad came from England or not, but we always had an interest in the Royal Family.
- KH Did you feel that Australia was threatened from any country in the thirties?
- FP No I don't think so.
- KH With the rise of Hitler and the possibility of major conflict in Europe?
- FP Well that started didn't it in.....
- KH Did you discuss things like that very much at home, conflict in Europe?
- FP No a great lot, people used to say what a terrible thing if it did amount to war, but I don't think you ever thought it would really happen until it did. My father was a great reader of everything, newspapers, there wasn't anything that he didn't keep up with that came out in the newspapers. He kept in touch pretty well with things. But it wasn't talked about a great lot, we were young and found plenty to do.
- KH So I suppose you would have thought that Australia had a pretty bright future then?
- FP Yes, yes. Had everything going for it.
- KH But you have some reservations about that now?
- FP Oh well I think it still has great possibilities, just its getting a bit of a mess at times. I think we're really a bit vulnerable, you know, we're a bit cut off, by ourselves, makes you wonder if you shouldn't have a bit more defence in a way that you could protect yourselves more. We've got such a lot of vast spaces without, the coastline and that, sometimes think we should have more defence forces. A friend of mine said just recently really, he'd been on a trip, "You know" he said, "It makes you realise what a big country Australia is when you get way out in those deserted places, you could pick Canberra up and dump it out there near Alice Springs and you'd never see it!" When we went out to Alice Springs last year I said yes, he'd been up through Queensland and across to Darwin and right down and he said "God it makes you realise its a vast country and there's not much in it!"
- KH You certainly know it if you fly over Australia when you fly to Europe. It goes on for hours and hours even at incredible speeds.
- FP Thats right! We left Sydney went direct to Alice Springs and it hardly seemed to be anytime and we were there and yet you look down at times and see all this vast empty sort of country and it seemed to go on for miles and miles, in just that distance, much less going the rest of the way!
- KH Do you think we could accommodate more people? Do you think there could be people in other parts of the world who could use this country, use more of this country?

FP No I think more Australians could use it if they got out and did it. A lot of Australians could do it if they were given the opportunity could do just as much as a lot of people they bring in. In lots of ways, look at the way they developed the Ord River up there, there must be other parts that could be developed you'd think, its not all real desert is it?

KH No.

FP Thats really one thing I get a bit hostile about the Park when you see all the things, the country that's shut up, when you see a country like Switzerland that uses every bit of their country you might say. You get up there in the drought time and know all those lovely open plains even up there around Kiandra, that are shut up that they could be developing and using. Its no good them saying it won't grow if its improved because they proved that when they put the stuff along the edges of the road all along the way to Cabramurra and that, look how the clover and everything grew!

KH The wombats like that!

FP Anywhere that they put the road in and do the banks and everything it all grows.

KH Yes if you change it, if you planted different grasses.

FP That's right, suitable things for it. I think we've got such a vast area of country that's shut up that could be utilised. I think all that would help.

KH Well you never know, could change in the future.

FP Yes it could!

KH National Parks could be temporary things in some areas.

FP Oh I mean some parts, as far as Parks concerned thats no good for anything, but there's a lot of it like that could be used! You see there's a lot of it like that, people used to make a living all up Coolamine way there. If they could do it years ago they could do it now, when you've got all the more modern techniques and everything.

KH Well you could grow, at least, carrots and turnips!

FP Yes of course, we used to grow, you wouldn't grow potatoes and beans cause you wouldn't know when you were going to get a frost, but parsnips and turnips and lettuce and you know all those kind of root vegetables and grasses you could sow for fodder. It must, I think there's a lot could be done that way.

KH Well we might call it a day there.