

# ANDREW ALLEN'S ORAL INTERVIEW WITH DAVID MILLIKEN ON 14 APRIL 2011

**AA** Okay, we've got an oral history interview at Campbelltown Library. Today is the 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2011, and we're interviewing David Milliken. So David can you tell me where were you born and also when you were born, so if you can give me your birthdate?

**DM** 16th May 1943, Campbelltown was in flood, and my parents had a house on the corner of Moore and Genty Street which is now a vacant block of land because it used to flood at Fisher's Ghost, you couldn't get out of town that way. You couldn't get out the other side of Morgan's Gate or the overhead bridge, because it used to flood across the old bridge near the Mill. I was delivered at home by Mrs Sedgwick who was a next door neighbor, who was big in the Red Cross and her husband Mate, became the Mayor later on and they were my Godmother and Godfather. Dad used to run a dairy farm at Glenlee. Mum did house duties.

**AA** Is the house that you were born in on the corner of Moore and Genty, is that still there?

**DM** No it got taken down 2 or 3 years ago in May. Mum sold it many years ago and it was rented out over the years. A solicitor in town owns it. It was set alight too, so eventually they just demolished the house too, now it is just a vacant block of land that usually needs mowing. The Sedgwick house is still there. My Dad bought that block of land on the corner for I believe was a hundred and fifty pound, which was probably huge money in the 1940s. Winton Brothers built the house, which are a big time builder today. He sold one block and they divided it into 3 blocks. One block on Moore Street was sold to Mate and Kath Sedgwick or Ted and Kath Sedgwick. The other block which went across the back of Dad and Mum's block and Sedgwick's block was bought by Eric Groutly, which is a name you'll know. He was in Downes stores for many years now. He also had a fruit run. He used to have a horse and cart, then he had an old Bedford truck he used to go around the streets selling fruit and vegetables. So, that's where I was born.

**AA** You were telling me something about near where you lived, there was the road?

**DM** Oh, Frogs Hollow.

**AA** Frogs Hollow, that's right.

**DM** When you came, say heading north from Campbelltown you came through the Broughton Street intersection, which was very different, and you went down into a dip and sort of came back up almost to Genty Street to this little wooden footbridge on the eastern side of Moore Street. You used to walk across with just a single handrail on one side. I don't know why they didn't do both sides. And that was there for many years and it was wet most of the time. You would hear frogs 24 hours a day so we called it Frogs Hollow.

**AA** So did that bridge go when they built the bypass?

**DM** Yeah, yeah, when they built the bypass they took all that out and leveled it all up and they dropped the road. When you went on the corner, the western side where the Church of England ground, that used to be probably 2 metres higher than the road. You had to climb up a bank and then get into the Church of England that way. We used it as a shortcut to the park and down to the railway station. Opposite Genty Street was the dividing line between the cemetery and the showground. In that corner of the showground were all the horse stables. People used to come from the Royal Easter Show and stay at Campbelltown, which was I think a fortnight or two weeks later the rides, the entertainment and the amusement people. And all the sheep, the cattle and horse people would all come out and quite a few of those would go to St John's School with us too, a lot of the amusement people, they had their kids would just come to our school for the 3-4 weeks that they were there in town. The horse stables were directly across from Mum and Dad's, yeah.

**AA** Okay, and they had to move the cemetery didn't they, well not move the cemetery but move some headstones?

**DM** Yeah, they shortened it, they narrowed it when they put the extra road in. They took a beautiful line of trees out too. That side of the road was a full line of trees, from Broughton Street all the way across, down almost to Warby Street. The entrance to the showground had a little gate, a single person gate to go in on the corner of the horse stable. The main gate was probably two thirds along Moore Street, along that road, yeah, and the cattle section was on the right, horses on the left.

**AA** What are your earliest memories from your childhood? What can you remember as far back as the first sort of things you remember?

### 5 minutes

**DM** I remember that all those streets were dirt, I can remember that. [laughter]. I mean there wasn't much around. There were quite a few houses along, well there was nothing from Mum and Dad's corner, there was nothing until you got over the other side of Broughton Street. And then the homes between there and Reddall Street, they were pretty much all there at the time. The old house across the road which is still there, Anglicare I think have it now which my Aunty lived in for a number of years when we were young. Aunty Pat. There were houses all the way to that, and there was a corner there, we used to go along Moore Street and stop on the corner then you turned right, went down 150 metres, then you'd turn left into Oxley Street, which were houses both sides of that all the way up to Allman Street.

**AA** And you remember the old school house, the old Church of England ...?

**DM** The little brick place, yeah that was the preschool, Campbelltown Preschool which I went to when I was three years old. Mum took my sister down there, Diana who is two years older than me at the moment but in May when I have my birthday she'll be only one year older, so she was five, so I was probably three and a half, so Mum took Diana down to sign her up for the preschool and Diana being Diana didn't want to be there, she hated it. I was playing happily with the kids so Mum left me and took Diana home. So I actually beat Diana and John Marsden [laughter]. Although I shouldn't have. I was actually there a year before my time. It was a good little place, yeah.

**AA** How many were there in your family?

**DM** Two girls, three boys. Diana is my eldest sister and under me there is a brother Robert, and Gordon and Alison.

**AA** After you were born on the corner of Moore and Genty, so you've moved to Glenlee after that?

**DM** No, Dad used to travel every day out to the farm. Well, Glen Alpine first. He had been at Glen Alpine for some time before Glenlee.

**AA** Were there any other houses that you lived in in Campbelltown?

**DM** Never, until I got married then I lived in Ruzac Street but growing up, never. Always that house.

**AA** Okay, so what about school. Where did you go to school?

**DM** I went to St John's Primary and then I went to Patrician Brothers Fairfield for Secondary.

**AA** Right, that is a fair way to go, isn't it?

**DM** It was a long way in those days, especially if you forgot your hat and had to go home and get it [laughter]. Yeah, the Brothers, one morning I forgot my hat. The Brothers made me go home and get my hat and go back.

**AA** Gee, even though it would take all that time to get back?

**DM** I think I left school at about 9.30 and I would have got back to school at about 1 o'clock. There were only a couple of trains every now and then. It makes you tough.

**AA** You wouldn't do it very often would you?

**DM** I only ever did that once. Once, I did it. It was just the thing you had to do. They were good boys, they were tough, but they were good. The old nuns were tougher [laughter].

**AA** So you went to St John's in primary school. Did you have any favourite teachers or did you have any teacher's that you disliked?

**DM** The old nun that ran the place, I think it was Sister Gertrude, she was really tough but pretty fair. Sister Anthony, she was lovely. Another young sister, I can't think of the other one, another young one came along and she was a bit more in tune with kids of 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class. I suppose she was strict but you could have a bit of a joke with her. It was only a little school then. The building burnt down a couple of years ago I believe, the administration block, well that was the original school. That was it, there was nothing else. They built a toilet block directly behind that with bubblers. It was pretty flash. Then they built the big long section, and when they built that, which was about opposite Cordeaux Street there used to be a little scout hall and that's where the cubs and the scouts met. So it sort of went when St John's extended, that little scout hall went.

**AA** What sort of punishments did the nuns hand out to you, do you remember?

**DM** I didn't get much punishment. They'd usually stop you first. If they saw you mucking up, they'd sort of, and they knew who was mucking up, so they'd keep an eye on you pretty well. They might give you a smack on the backside or something, you know. I don't really remember getting into trouble there much.

### 10 minutes

**DM** I don't think I ever got whacked at the Patrician Brothers either. In those days you did what you were told. A bloke at Patrician Brothers he back chatted Brother Peter, who was the head boy, and he was a tough neck and this kid back chatted him one day. He went to give him the cane so this young bloke grabbed the cane and he started to rip into the Brother. Man, I tell ya!! The brother punched this kid's lights out, and then the police came. They were tough, that is how it was. If you got into trouble you wouldn't have gone home and told your mother because you would get another smack on the backside for mucking up. It was pretty good, they had a lot of kids to look after and they did a pretty good job of it. They had a lot of poor children. Like a lot of kids didn't have shoes, you know, some kid didn't have lunch and the nuns wouldn't make it public but you could see them slip some food out to the kid, they would keep an eye out, they were pretty good old girls. They taught you values, which is a bit hard now you can't get rid of them [laughter]. But they were good, yeah.

**AA** Who were some of your mates in primary school and high school?

**DM** My best mate was Lindsay Tripp who I still talk to quite often. He was the son of one of the brothers that owned Tripp's Garage. There were a lot of kids from the Public School that were actually my mates. In those days it was a really spread out town. It wasn't until you got to secondary school that you got friends. People would come from Ingleburn, Minto, Kentlyn, and Wedderburn. The kids that were around like Kevin O'Reilly and Bob Fairburn, all those blokes, they were sort of round close to me. Oh, the Rixon boys. I was pretty close to the Rixon boys. Kevin, you have probably heard of Kevin.

**AA** Yes I know Kevin.

**DM** Oh you know Kev. Yeah. (Indistinct) , and the girls, the Wonsons , the Bonominis. The Wonson girls, they lived in Reddall Street. Lindsay Tripp married a Wonson girl 10 years ago when his previous wife passed away from cancer. Kids from out of town, I just can't remember their names now. A little kid used to live a couple of doors along from the Catholic Church, can't think of his name, kids like that. Kevin lived beside the O'Loughlans. Kitson, Kevin Kitson. Any kids that were sort of round close to you, you'd see them now and then and say something. You've got two brothers as well you were too busy fighting. [laughter]

**AA** What sort of things did you get up to, like what sort of games, how did you fill in your time?

**DM** We used to go out to the farm with Dad a lot and just muck around the farm. We had a big tank up the backyard, we used to sort of play around that a lot. In the holidays quite often Mrs. Sedgwick would take us to Sydney, especially my eldest sister and I, take us to Sydney for a day quite often. Christmas we used to go to Manly or Cronulla for two weeks with Mum. Dad was on the farm it was 7 day a week job. We used to go out the farm a lot. I had an uncle up in Goulburn, we had to stick him on the train, send him up at Tarago. He had a big property out

there, sheep, that overlooked Lake George if you climbed up the hill. It was just fun, you made your own fun. We would go down to the showground and play around the horse stables, and you had to be home by 5 I know that. If you weren't home by 5 you were in big trouble. Ooh yeah. My Mum!

**AA** So when you got a little bit older did you go out at night time, did you go to any dances or movies or – I'm talking about sort of late teenagers I guess.

**DM** I was really into cars big time. I could happily spend Saturday Sunday working on cars. There was a whole heap of us, we used to go down to the coffee shop. There used to be a truck stop at Bargo called Bimbos. We used to all pile into a couple of cars and drive out there

### **15 minutes**

**DM** and just have a coffee and muck around. Couple of times we finished up in Melbourne the next morning because we decided that would be a good thing to do. Bad if you didn't tell your mother [laughter]. When I was 10 - 11yrs old I used to go down to the factory at Reg's quite often, especially holidays. Bottle the cordials and help them deliver around town. Go into AGL, the glass manufacturer down in South Dowling Street, and pick up bottles. It wouldn't happen now, a 12 year old kid walking through a glass factory I can tell you. You know you just wandered around and picked up all the bottles. He'd collect bottles from everywhere, you'd be driving along the road and if he saw a shiny bottle in the grass you'd pull up and you would run over and grab it. It was incredible [laughter] we picked up thousands of bottles. Young Ted Sedgwick, he had a license so if Reg had to do a delivery into Wollongong, or somewhere, quite often Ted'd go and he'd take me with him in the old Federal truck which used to be Phil Solomon's, he bought it off Phil Solomon, Phil Solomon upgraded to a newer truck that had opening doors in it. The old Federal had a timber cabin and the old wooden sides of the doors, and if it rained you would just pull the canvas curtain down. I remember going down Bulli Pass once, Ted, he said the brakes aren't too good, he says, if you see me jump out, you just jump out the other side. [laughter] that's how it was. I used to go with Reg a lot down the coast fishing. He was a mad fisherman, also big on electronics. He was a smart boy, a very smart man. He had to give up his schoolwork to come and run the factory when his father passed away. He went to Lewisham Boys School. A very clever boy. We used to just basic muck around, we spent a lot of time at the farm and worked out there too when I left school. By that time Dad had gone to Glenlee and that was a big job. That was full on.

**AA** What sort of things did you do on the farm?

**DM** Milk cows...., milk cows... that was it [laughter] that was enough. At Glenlee they had a huge lucerne pasture down on what they called on the river. Between the railway line and the river, that was all lucerne. When that was ready and bailed up we'd have to go and spend days and nights but the Franciscan fathers used to come across with their trucks and help us too. And that was good fun, they were good boys. I learnt some of the best jokes in the world off them. They would bring food like you had never seen in your life. They were good value. Good boys, yeah. We used to leave Campbelltown at 4o'clock in the morning.

**AA** So they had a fairly large herd at Glenlee did they?

**DM** Oh, yeah, yeah. Hundreds yeah, yeah, and it was Gold Top milk which had more cream in it, I think it used to be a penny a pint more you got for it.

**AA** So the milk from Glenlee, would that go to...?

**DM** Menangle. The rotolactor. It went to the Menangle Milk Depot which the rotolactor was at. If it flooded, if Menangle Bridge flooded we had to go through Appin and over Broughton Pass and take it to Camden. And then when the Camden Bridge flooded we would have to take it into Pippita at Lidcombe which was where the Dairy Farmers milk was produced.

**AA** Right, okay. I thought you might have taken it into Campbelltown because there was a milk depot there?

**DM** No, that wasn't there then. It was there in the Glen Alpine days but not in the Glenlee days. I am not sure when they knocked that down.

**AA** I think it burnt down, didn't it?

**DM** I am not sure what happened to it. I know they closed the level crossing off and they put the street around Kialba Road and up Rose Street up to St Greg's. And then years later it was all gone. They used to have a little house, a woman, originally there used to be a one armed bloke who used to man the railway gates and then the woman who lived in the little house right on there, years later she would open and close the gates for you, yeah, 24 hours she was there.

**AA** It is hard to imagine now isn't it?

**DM** Oh yeah, yeah, crazy. I suppose if the Council was really smart they would have put an overhead bridge there from Broughton Street straight up. The reason they closed the other part was that a woman fell through the bridge in a car one night, was driving across the wooden bridge, where the concrete bridge is now at the canal, if you go from the station, go around the roundabout and head up towards Blaxland Road there is a big concrete bridge, and a canal, like a concrete channel. There used to be a little wooden bridge there, it was only a little creek sort of thing, it was really rotten and the woman just fell straight through it one night it in her car going up to St Greg's way.

## **20 minutes**

**DM** So they made a concrete low level crossing to the right hand side of that, it was there for many years. Of course when Blaxland Rd started to get busier and busier they brought the road in past Paytens house, Kialba, which it was, and then at Rose St because that other street didn't exist, Watsford Road didn't exist for years.

**AA** Didn't it?

**DM** No it wasn't there for years. It was a bit of a dirt track, it was never a road.

**AA** So you remember Kialba House?

**DM** Yes it was a beautiful, the old pines, yeah lovely. Old Miss Payten used to live in it. Funny old girl, [laughter] walk up the middle of the main Street to go to the bank every morning. Yeah.

**AA** In the middle of the main street?

**DM** Yes, walked dead centre of the main street all the way up to the Commercial Bank. She would wait there for it to open, get her money, come out and back down the middle of the main street again. All the way. People knew to miss her. [laughter] You know, it was alright.

**AA** You were telling me before that you worked at the cordial factory when you were a little boy?

**DM** I used to go there with Reg and help him out. Mix up syrup and stuff like that. In those days, ginger beer, ginger ale, we used to boil the ginger root then get the syrup off. You'd have to have these huge big vats of sugar and stuff, I was strong enough to lift a bag of sugar but you'd have to stir it, stir it, these huge big copper pots with the fire under them and then you'd have to sort of skim the ginger. Burn you to death when you tasted it, yeah it was really good. And he used to make lemonade for the hotels; they had a special lemonade which was a lot stronger than ordinary lemonade. It was in like a greeny shade bottle, that's how you knew it was pub lemonade; you couldn't buy it in the shops. Only pubs could get it. And like, dry ginger ale, they had little, called splits, I'd love to have one now, it was only a small, little tiny bottle, abut yay high. And you'd have to sort of have them lined up, and you'd get this big thing and you'd get a little bit in each one then you'd sort of put them in the machine to sort of carbonate it. All done by hand. The dry ginger ale, it was beautiful. The ginger beer was just the best ever. Really it was handmade. And all the other stuff of course, the lemonades and all that, the orange, lemon, passion fruit, it was all from Just Fruit up at Keith Harris at Thornleigh which became Tomatol.

**DM** I since got in touch with them but they just don't want to know about anything. It was Just Fruit brand. In Gosford a lot of Just Fruit stuff so whether he moved there I don't know, but he used to sell it sort of as an agent I guess, Keith Harris.

**AA** Tell me again where the cordial factory was located and what sort of building it was?

**DM** Sort of slab timber and corrugated iron pretty much as I remember it. It was a lot smaller and then when Reg got into it he put an extension on it, which was sort of a bit more respectable with corrugated iron all the way around it with big posts inside. It was always old, beautiful old timber stairs but all the mixes and all was up done in the right at the top of the western end of the building. There was a lot of room for bottles, obviously, because it was all inside, thousands of crates of bottles. And they used to have a big bottle washer, one for caustic soda, which you didn't play with that too much, but it was a good thing. Sometimes they'd be too dirty and you would have to get there with a brush, that was another bad job, "a few bottles there Mick, clean them", he used to call me Mick all the time, I must have spent hours and hours cleaning bottles with a bottle brush.

**AA** So was it Hayes Cordial?

**DM** Yes it was Hayes's Cordial then. Previous to that it was Hayes and Seddon, Hayes and Howe before that because Howe was Seddon's son in law. But I sort of found out that the guy that, Hurley, who had a hotel, and I'm not sure whether it was where the Club Hotel is or whether it was where Reeves Emporium was, on the corner of Patrick and that, he was listed as a cordial manufacturer. So when Seddon came to town and started the cordial factory I don't know for sure but I think he might have got the business off Hurley, who just had hotels.

## 25 minutes

**DM** But I still don't know, nobody can tell me which hotel that he built, but Seddon bought the business off Mrs Hurley. So I don't know, Hurley whether he passed away or what. My grandfather Gus Hayes, Augustine not Augustus as they have in all the records, yeah, I went to the State Library, out at Kingswood, looking up, looking up, couldn't find him, and the woman said, there's an Augustine Hayes, and that's who he was. All the time, even Mum thought his name was Augustus. So it was Augustine Hayes, and he also did wood carting. When he died suddenly, so that's when Reg had to leave school and come up and joined with Seddon. Well, Howe, then he bought Howe out. Seddon still lived in town of course, in Railway Street. There used to be a guy there, probably long gone now, called Ronnie Roberts. He was with Reg for many, many years. He helped me when they got a new bottling machine I used to run that when I was about 12 years old, you had to be fast. He offered me the business when he was getting out of it, he come round home one night and he said do you want it. I said not really, the big people were just taking over and you weren't going to beat them. They didn't want to buy you out, they would just bring their stuff into town and run you broke anyway. So he just retired then and went up to Queensland.

**AA** So where did you work after you left school David?

**DM** Well I was at the dairy, Dad's dairy, probably 'til I was quite late teens. Then I went to Canberra, a friend of mine went down there to work on the Australian Newspaper. He used to come back and he'd say, come down it is good fun, leave the dairy, I used to hate it at the dairy. I went down there and I worked for Cyclone Fencing, oh, no I worked for E. J. Rudge in Queanbeyan as a mechanic in the Ford Dealership for a while. Then Cyclone Fencing was paying big money just to put up fences and I thought, well that's good, so I went and did that. Of a night I used to go into the Australian and proof read for the Comps.

**DM** You learnt to read upside down and back to front really fast. I was there for a number of years. Then, what was their name? Citra was a French company built the Russell Hill Offices for the Department of Defence.

**AA** Yes, I used to work there.

**DM** I was on the concrete there, got a job doing that. I was there quite a few years and I touched the eagle.

**AA** Did you? That is fairly high up.

**DM** And it moves. The guy in the crane, the old European bloke, he'd do anything for money so we used to give him a couple of bucks on a Saturday afternoon when all the bosses had gone home and he would take us up in a concrete bucket. We would touch the eagle on the beak, you know [laughter]. You know, \$5 & \$10, good money for him and it was something not many people would do. Yes I can tell you about the Russell Offices and all the tunnels that run between them, you would probably know about.

**AA** Umm.....

**DM** You heard rumours didn't you? Well there are, there's tunnels interlink all those Russell Offices.



**AA** No I didn't actually, it is a wonder I didn't. I haven't heard that, no.

**DM** My brother-in-law who just retired late last year from down there, he was in Defence Purchasing or something, a grade whatever. He used to say, oh, you know I think it's all rubbish but they reckon there are because we built them, we poured the concrete. That was a big project, that was huge, Citra did that (Company Industrial de Travio) did that. So after that they went to Singleton for the rail deviation around for the power station so they offered me a job with them there so I went up there and did all the tops with another young guy, a Mongolian kid and I floated all the tops of the bridges when they poured them. Then I went driving trucks for a while and I don't know what else I did then.

**AA** So you made your way back to Campbelltown after that?

**DM** Yes. When I was at the farm I also did night Tech at Liverpool, welding, so I was a qualified welder. I came back to Campbelltown, I started to do mechanical stuff. I was at cable makers for a while. I kept doing my mechanical course. I did that, and I worked at Stratos Seats in Research and Development there where they did all the work on the lap sash seatbelt for coaches. Everybody said it was great but in the background they were saying we are not going to put those in, we will lose too many seats. Amazing. Absolutely amazing.

**30 minutes**

**DM** Then I worked at CanAir in the 1970s. I was the warehouse manager for a number of years, I have done a fair bit.

**AA** Yeah, okay, it sounds like you've certainly been around the place.

**DM** Oh yeah, yeah, I've been around. Old Sid Pope and Gordon Sullivan had the garage, an Ampol Garage on the corner of Queen and Broughton Streets, where the council is on the corner.

**AA** The one that's still there now? Where the service station that's there?

**DM** No no no,

**AA** On the other side

**DM** Directly opposite.

**AA** 'Cause there used to be an old

**DM** Bakery

**AA** Right, in its early days I think it was an Inn, that's going right back.

**DM** Was it that corner or was it the opposite corner near the police station?

**AA** It was on the eastern side of Queen Street.

**DM** Oh it was, was it, rightio, ok, because when we were kids that was the bakery.

**AA** Oh ok.

**DM** Monday morning 6 o'clock you would be off down there to get a loaf of bread. And I was telling the girls at work, it was so hot sometimes you'd have to sort of juggle it going up Broughton Street. It was red hot, straight out of the oven, talk about fresh bread. You'd go down there, pay a couple of pence or something. We used to run back home, and the cockatoo at Mrs Artiss. We used to go in the showground, there used to be turnstiles just opposite Brown Street. Is that Brown Street near the Church of England there?

**AA** Yes it is Brown Street or Howe Street. There's Brown and there's Howe Street.

**DM** It was the one that comes out onto Broughton Street.

**AA** Howe Street.

**DM** Howe, well directly opposite that used to be turnstiles, the house on the top side of it the woman had this cockatoo and when you ran past it would call out "got the bread, got the bread" [laughter] and oh it would swear at you too. She used to whack it with a broom to stop it swearing and it would go "no mum, no mum" it was a funny thing, it was really funny. [laughter]. A woman a couple of doors down from that, she had cockatoos in the backyard and they used to talk their head off. That was the bakery. Then Gordon Sullivan in later years built the Ampol Garage on that corner. On the opposite corner was Carlisles, the big grocery store.

**AA** On the western side?

**DM** On the western/north side yes. Where the parking lot is now, yeah that used to be Carlisles general store and after that it became the tyre service, Mike Fitzgerald. Across the road was Baker and Howe Campbelltown Bus Service. I don't know whether, only yesterday I was thinking about it, I was talking to Lindsay about it, I'm not sure it was the Howes from the cordial factory or not, we just don't know. But Young Baker he is still around town here. He was driving double decker buses around the yard when he was 10 years old, this kid. They had quite a large area, and then there was smash repairs up behind the bus stop, right on the corner the bloke with the smash repairs but the bus depot went up then back into Broughton Street again.

**AA** Yes. I have seen photographs of it.

**DM** I don't know, it's a shame they didn't have some aerial stuff from the late 40s, early 50s, 60s that was what there was there, then there was nothing until you got to the picture show except for a couple of houses and the picture show. Later on they built the shop next door that just sold, you know, ice creams and chips and stuff.

**AA** Yes and on the corner, it'd be the south west corner of Queen and Broughton Street where the council building is now, didn't there used to be circuses there or something?

**DM** Yeah years ago, but see the bottom half of that was a goods yard for the railway, a railway goods yard. If you went down Railway Street the cop shop was on the right. That was a lovely old building. Little, but from the Police Station down to the railway proper, that was all goods yard right through there to Broughton Street to the level crossing opposite the butter factory. Huge goods yard, there'd be cranes and stuff there. Beside Carlisles, was Kings used to live there. One of the Clarke girls married one of the Kings, the dairy people from Minto, Gail I think.

They were a very old family and old Humphrey, he was down the bottom which is still there, in the white house.

**AA** They also had a shop didn't they, the Kings. Didn't they have a shop or something?

**DM** Yes I think so. I just cannot place where and what unless the other one on the corner became Carlisles. It was quite a big shop. They lived next door. It became Carlisles after Bussells & Bursills and Downes and ah, what's the bloke's name? Thorburn, Doug Thorburn, Elizabeth died I think late last year, I think, yeah.

### **35 minutes**

**AA** If we move onto Railway Street, well, there's no houses in Railway Street these days, is there.

**DM** Not now, there used to be though, yeah.

**AA** Can you recall some of the people who lived in Railway Street?

**DM** One of the blokes, I thought he got a job at the council, um, I was trying to think of his name last night, I rang Lindsay to find out but he said no, he couldn't remember. I will remember it one day. There used to be about three houses I think, from memory, there was Lacks Hotel then there was a driveway, then there was 3 or 4 houses, then the little group of shops, a hairdresser, an electrical shop or something, and there was a little general store that McLean's owned. You know Rod McLean, he used to drive buses around here. He's still around here somewhere. Have you come across him yet, Rod?

**AA** No, no.

**DM** He would know a bit about it. I'm not sure if he still lives in town, but he'd be a good boy. His Dad was around for a long time, they lived at the top of the hill somewhere. His sister married an American guy, no, an Australian bloke, but he was one of the guys that built the lunar, the space rover, the moon rover, at one of the Unis in California. So that was that one there and then where the courthouse was, behind or beside it, was the Smiths lived there, no, there was a, who lived there, they had like a caretaker lived around there, and the girl that worked there, her Dad, Smith, they lived at the back of Glenalvon, in the stables there, which used to be a house. He lived there and he worked at Cable Makers for many years. And on the other side, I don't think there was anything between the courthouse, and that caretaker's house and the police station. I don't think there was anything there. Then there was of course the hotel.

**AA** So the hotel was on the corner virtually of Hurley and Railway.

**DM** Yeah, yeah. The Railway Hotel, and there was one or two houses between there and the bottom of, 'cause you'd go down Railway Street and sort of come back along the Railway, it wasn't very far, it's still not very far, I thought a couple of houses along there, then they sort of start to come back up, well Short Street which went into the back of Lacks and at the end of that street was the back of the first house in Railway Street and you went into Reg's yard, the cordial factory yard from there. On the corner where you turned in was Coogan's which had a house there, and a huge shed, they almost had the other half of what Reg had, and I can't think of the people that lived on that corner there but If I heard it I'd know it, I just can't remember now. And I

think Seddon would have lived next one down. No, he lived in Railway Street, or Patrick Street, Seddon lived, oh I used to know that. No he might've lived in Patrick Street, one of those places between Coogan's and the bottom of the street. Because on the corner of Patrick was that Lacks Hotel, if you went along Queen Street there was Lacks Hotel, then there was Fred Devitt the barber,

**AA** This is in Queen Street.

**DM** Yeah, yeah, I think there was Lack's Hotel, Fred Devitt the barber, then there was Coogan's butcher shop, which later became a café/milk bar, 'cause I think Coogan died pretty early. Then there was Harris Newsagency which became Bagley's, and that Harris was Harris Timber and Hardware. Then there was Mr Veness the chemist, then the Balalaika Café which was owned, a woman owned it when I was a little kid, but later on Cec Muholland who was an Alderman, they owned it, and then they added on to the southern side, in later years they added a take away hamburger place. Very flash (laughing). There was a bit of a vacant block, then there was Wilkinson the tank maker, then there was the fire brigade, the fire station.

**AA** Yes

**DM** You know about that?

**AA** I do know about that.

**DM** Several people say oh no, it has never been there. Of course it was there!

**AA** You are right the Fire Station was there.

**DM** Reg, my uncle Reg was the Fire Captain and sometimes you would be down in the shed when he would get the call and he'd say 'come on Mick, quick' and off we'd go, we would just all bolt up the backyard.

**AA** There's a story on Percy Marlow in one of the Journals and it talks about it being there.

**DM** Beautiful old place with a big cast iron bell out the front that you could hear all over town.

**40 minutes**

**DM** Then there was a little bit of a break, then there was a building on the corner which was Reeves Emporium, which was the Bank of NSW but it didn't have the awning and all on it like when Reeves had it. Down the street there were a couple of houses then across the other corner there was Fred Lower had a little general store.

**AA** In Queen Street?

**DM** Yes, yes, Queen and Patrick. We're still on the railway side of Queen Street. And that was Freddy Lower, his brother was Lenny Lower, the journalist, there used to be a column Here's Luck in the paper. When you went down the road there was a little building of some sort, then there was Brunero Brothers, the timber merchants, which became Harris Timber and they used to be down Sydney Road where the Shell Garage is now, and when Bruneros went Ron Harris bought that, and they were the Harrises from the paper shop. And they finished up, then there

was Ces Jarrett's garage which no one knows anything about, which I think was previously Ryan's Garage. I have heard of Ryan's Garage in Queen Street but I don't know where it ever was, but Ces Jarrett's garage was there, he later went to the Camden Road where the Catholic Club is. He built a little service station there with pumps and stuff.

**AA** The site of the Catholic Club?

**DM** Yeah, yeah. I mean that was all homes, but he sort of knocked one down and went and built the servo out the front of that, but he was there for a number of years. Then there was Downes stores which was PA Stores which was Solomons. I think there was a house then, then there was Milgate Lane, which was a lot bigger than it is now.

**AA** Didn't Triglonos have a house there or a shop?

**DM** Triglone's house, that was it. Triglonos. Yeah. Then on the other side there was another little house, I think Duguids lived there, then there was Miss McPherson who sold cottons and wool and all that sort of stuff. I was telling someone the story, if you'd go down there and buy a little spool of cotton for mum, she had these rolls of toilet paper, she'd tear one little square off and roll the little spool up in a square of toilet paper, God knows why, it was never there when you got home! Beside that was a shop with sort of an arrowhead doorway, double doors. On the right of it was Jack Hopher had his cycles and all that there and radios and stuff and then Alf Gee took it over and it was still cycles on the right. On the left he had electrical goods. He was the first bloke in Campbelltown to have a TV in the shop window when TV came in. We all sat out in the street watching it. I'm a bit faded on further down a bit there, I think there was another little shop, can't think who it was, later on became a, Buttenshaws had a fruit shop there. Then next to that they made Bagley's Newsagency there later on, and Carolyn moved up to where Bagley's used to be and that became Carolyn's Frock Salon, and she was Alf Gee's wife, who drove ambulances in the war for Israel or something, not Australia, one of the others. Then there was Bursill's house and general store and it was huge.

**AA** So that'd be, I'm just trying to picture where that would be today.

**DM** Today that would be around about where, that really lively menswear store is, what's their name? The boys from Liverpool? Where the NSW Bank is, beside them.

**AA** Oh right.

**DM** Yeah, just about there. Yeah, that's about it, yeah. 'Cause Bagley's Newsagency was huge. I mean for the day it was big, and they used to live, they had a place above it, they also had a place up in, just off Ruzac Street, Clarice Crescent. Bursills had this beautiful house and then the shop beside it and then at the back was all the produce and you could come in from the back way, which is where...

**AA** Where the street still is.

**DM** Yeah, yeah,

**AA** That runs along the post office,

**DM** What was that called, I know, it was before Brunero's, there was a laneway went through and that's called Coogan Lane. Could still be called Coogan Lane, and Glenelg Dry Cleaners which used to be on the eastern side of the road, they moved down there between the timber yard and that street. Glenelg were just along from the Club Hotel, yeah, Glenelg moved down there.

**45 minutes**

**DM** Spelt the same, whichever way you look at it. Bursills, in their produce store, they had carpet snakes, which was good fun.

**AA** I have heard this story [laughter.]

**DM** I moved a bag of feed one day and I nearly s\*\*t myself. This old bloke said to me, I can't think of his name now, said "it is alright he won't bite you mate". To a kid they were big snakes. There was a building but I don't know what it was. And then there was a big canal, it's a shame, have you got a photo of that canal, it used to come down Dumaresq Street and kick across, it was huge.

**AA** No I haven't, it is a wonder there isn't a photograph of that.

**DM** When it was full on rain, man that was something to watch.

**AA** Sewer Lane.

**DM** Yeah, it was an incredible amount of water used to go through it! A big tunnel. And they built Goonan's, Goonan's Chemist was built there in later years and the top side of that was a delicatessen, Romalis' and that sort of later on, and that was all sort of developed. Where are we at, at say Dumaresq Street. Well if you go down Dumaresq, I can't remember what was on the right hand side, a big building, for the life of me I can't remember, but on the other side of Dumaresq, and this is where it gets me, 'cause yesterday just for the heck of it, Lindsay said to me, across the road was some number, he knew the number across the road, but it's now up near the old Post Office, so over the years the Council must have stretched the numbers which is a bit b\*\*\*\*y confusing. So anyway Willy the baker was there. I don't know whether he owned the one up on the other corner or not, I think he may have, but then Les Warby came to town, you know Richard Warby the accountant around town, you heard of him? Well that was his Dad's. And his sister Elizabeth, she, I think she married a bloke, a dairy farmer at Moss Vale somewhere, yeah well that became Warby's bakery, so there was that. Then there was Mr Lloyd who was a real estate agent, I think he was an accountant, who also had a second hand bookshop and Mr Archer the watchmaker was above him. Then I thought there was a babywear shop but Lindsay's not sure, then there was McDonald's the butchers who Dud Hayden worked for. And then when they closed down he opened a little butcher shop up the top of Chamberlain Street. You know the Chamberlain Street shops? Well that was originally Hayden's butchery. And McDonalds had the slaughter house out on the, where Bradbury Park is now. They had a big farm and slaughterhouse out there. And they used to have a shale pit, I don't know if you know about it, a massive shale pit, probably where Bocking Avenue, somewhere around there. Massive. Off the record, a mate and I, who still lives in Bocking Avenue, we were big into blowing things up at one stage, we dug this big hole in the side of it one afternoon, it was probably the equivalent of about a five litre drum, and his mate in Wagga used to send, post,

gunpowder mixed up, and we sort of packed it in, and we dug it into the side of the shale pit and lit it and took off, and blew (indistinct) to pieces. (laughing)

**AA** So is it near the vicinity of Bocking Avenue.

**DM** Yeah, I reckon it was off to the right and up a bit. Maybe even around the corner of Hoddle. Round there somewhere, but it was McDonalds, the big shale pit, was huge. I know from memory it was big deep shale walls. We did another one I'll tell you about one day, yeah, but that was McDonalds, then it was vacant from then on but not long after that Mr Johnson had a little boot makers there and Mr Archer moved, when they built, like they made a shop out of that, and there was Mr Archer had his watchmaking business there for many years, I don't know if he's still alive or not, he used to be big in the aircraft out at Wedderburn, and Mr Johnson, who's name was Alan, Al Johnson, they were there for a number of years, then there was a vacant block from there to the old post office. A guy started a welding business in the front of it, and there used to be a shed down the back, used to be an upholsterer, and old European bloke called Mr Frank Merrick I think his name and the front was Ray Parry, who was a welder, and he originally was from the Fisher's Ghost Garage down where McDonalds are now.

**50 minutes**

**AA** Right, right.

**DM** If you went down Dumaresq Street to the railway, Longhurst, L. G. Longhurst had a huge Transport yard down the bottom. Billy Erlham had a plumbing business.

**AA** Where the picture theatre is now?

**DM** Opposite the picture theatre. Now I'm not sure what was on that side, I think there used to be a sign writer but I really can't place it. I know Longhurst were there because Reg used to go there sometimes, and they'd sort of bring him up bottles and stuff from Sydney. About mid 50s I guess, Billy Erlham was an Ingleburn guy, he was a plumber, he had a shop there. Mr Foley and Mr Gough had another welding business there, like a steel fabrication business. I think there used to be a little laneway that ran behind them. Then there was the Post Office and the Commercial Bank and then there was the Good Intent Hotel. And on this side, the northern side of the Good Intent Hotel was a house was Bluey Haddock who was a plumber and tank maker. Then there was a vacant block with a huge big tree, then there was the Town Hall, then there was Perce Marlow's, and that's where the

**AA** The entrance to the...

**DM** I don't know how much money was given to the council to knock that house down to make a b\*\*\*\*\*y driveway, because they should have left it, beautiful old place, absolutely beautiful, and then Dredge's Cottage and then when you went down the hill was the old Commonwealth Hotel. Which is where the Cumberland News finished up. Or still there, not sure.

**AA** yeah, that's right, it became flats didn't it? The hotel became, they made it into flats?

**DM** Yes for a while, and then Sid Richardson, he moved down there after he left the main street. After he left the other end of Queen Street where he started out at 'cause he was at Camden but then he took that over 'cause it just got too big. Then there was not much....

**AA** There was a house with an attic wasn't there, about where Red Rooster is now, wasn't there?

**DM** Yeah, yeah, I'll ask Lindsay about that, I just can't remember who it was, or, because Fisher's Ghost Bridge isn't where it used to be.

**AA** So the Fisher's Ghost Bridge, where it is now?

**DM** I reckon it used to be further this way I think it was. Oh I can't remember now. It just doesn't seem like it used to be.

**AA** Towards the railway more.

**DM** Yeah, I reckon, because you used to go down Menangle Road and then you sort of kick a quick left then straight up the Appin Road. I know who was in, where Al Johnson the bootmaker and Mr Archer, in between the babywear shop was the hairdresser. That was Gubby Elmaloglou's father. That was his name, the kid went to school, I can't think of his sister's name, but the boy, his name was Gubby and their family name was Elmaloglou and they lived in Emily Cottage for quite a while. But he was a hairdresser, I don't know where they came from, I think they were from the islands. And they used to tell us at school once about this snake, hypnotized his sister, and the only way they could stop it having a go, he took his shirt off and threw it over the snake's head to break the spell! Yeah! We were only, kids, fourth class or something like that. Yeah, that's who was there, the hairdresser. Yeah, Elmaloglou, that's who he was.

**AA** And there was a bakery where McDonalds was, wasn't there? Is that right?

**DM** No, there was a service station.

**AA** A service station.

**DM** In my day it was.

**AA** It might have been earlier.

**DM** It could have been further up a bit. There was the Fisher's Ghost the house which was Milby. My sister Diana, she was born there. Robert was born in Narellan where heading towards Camden, you go down the Northern Road and then there's a car yard, there is a beautiful old home on the corner of Campbell Street, well that was a hospital, and my brother Robert was born there. And I think Gordon or Alison, Gordon might have been born in Avon which was down where the post office is now. Yeah, that's what was down that house, yeah that was in Coogan Lane. You'll find that's Coogan Lane. You go along there, well, Spotlight's there now, you can't drive through it, but that's where the road did go. I didn't know, I never knew, I thought there was something there before it became a service station. I am sure there was a big old building and I'm sure they just put the front on there to become Fisher's Ghost Garage

**AA** This is where McDonalds is now?



**DM** Yeah, yeah, 'cause it was CC Tyres - Campbelltown Camden Tyre Service.

**AA** Do you remember when there was a bit of a waterway, 'cause at one stage early on there was a kind of a, like a river, like a small sort of stream that ran from, say, Bradbury Oval down the side of where McDonalds are now?

**DM** Where Maccas are? Didn't they build a culvert there when they first did that bypass?

**AA** I am not sure.

**55 minutes**

**DM** Yeah, oh yeah, you'd get flooded there. That's what I was saying, I just reckon Fisher's Ghost Bridge isn't where it used to be. Yeah there was a waterway there but it was probably on the edge of the garage. I mean there was a bigger distance between Maccas and Fisher's Ghost House than there is now, there's quite a big gap, I think that's because the waterway was there. It's been filled over the years but I am pretty sure the water used to still come out of Bradbury Oval underneath the bypass.

**AA** I think you might be right. Yeah, it does, I think it does.

**DM** Yeah, well that's where the stream used to be. I mean it's a big catchment area off what used to be where Bradbury is, I mean that is a big catchment area before they started messing around with it. It was huge. I just thought there was a building without that front on it when I was sort of tiny tiny. It used to be Fisher's Ghost Garage, then it was a Bike Shop, then it was CC Tyres and then between there and up the hill there were a few homes. Bobby Mutton lived in one of them, I can't think who were the others. And they put on the corner, when they brought Bradbury Avenue right down to Queen Street they had a BP Garage on the corner which was Kneebles and I think Bradbury House was still up there at the time.

**AA** Yes it was. Bradbury House was pulled down about 1954, something like that. In the mid fifties anyway.

**DM** That was a beautiful old place.

**AA** Was it?

**DM** Yeah, yeah, lovely. Really nice.

**AA** What a shame, eh.

**DM** Yes it is but that is what they do. Imagine how nice that would look today up there in that spot.

**AA** So it was kind of on where that little Place is now? Which is Asher Place. I think.

**DM** Is that what it's called? I don't know. They spoilt it. Then they've got a strip of land down there that no-one knows anything about and no-one wants to do anything about. That's puzzled me, they just sort of, I wonder what ever happened to that kid that lived in that first house there? On the corner of Dumaresq and the bypass, there's a strip of land then an old fibro place, first house, opposite Goodsells. A kid that went to school with us, his family came from that white

place there, there was three or four places that was old weatherboard houses and then all the brick places right up to Lindesay Street, Bill Bursill built those.

**AA** And then there was a building, Tripp's house, wasn't there, on the corner of Dumaresq and Oxley Street wasn't it?

**DM** Yes it was back a bit. It was Lizard Tripp, old Charles Tripp's place, they called him Lizard. He was a funny little bloke, Lindsay'd tell you about it, he used to sit on the toilet and he'd have the door open a bit and watch everybody come and go up and down the street, and he'd yell out at them, you know. And he'd still be sitting on the toilet. Quite often you'd go down and he'd be yelling out, and people'd go, Hey Vince. Yeah, strange little man. Then there was the most beautiful house between there and Allman which Frank Brewer owned, in the latter years. And he was old speedway, Satan Brewer the old speedway bloke and he had a lot of caterpillar bulldozers and stuff. It was beautiful.

**AA** On the western side of Oxley Street you mean?

**DM** Yeah, beautiful, big verandah down this side of the house, it was just lovely, but you know, lovely old weatherboard place and huge inside. But old Lizard, when you sort of went up Dumaresq, turned up Dumaresq from Queen and Tripp's Garage was on the corner, there was a pretty big yard then there was a house and that's where Frank, one of Charles' sons lived in. Tripp's Garage, when I was growing up, was owned by Leo and Frank. Well, my friend Lindsay, his dad was Leo, but he passed away when Lindsay was about 14 or something, yeah, went to the toilet one night and had a heart attack on the way back, and that was it, gone, it was pretty sad. Then you went up and turned right which was old Charles Lizard's place, which disappeared early on, and then there was Frank Brewer's place which was there for quite a few years. Next corner was Carroll's and then Rose's then you sort of came back down Allman Street and then there was Marie Kelly's Frock Salon, and then you've got the Cobb & Co places were all still there anyway, and then there was Marie Kelly's, the house, the butcher I can't, the girls are still around town, I can't think of their names, Alan Evans who was the jeweler up at the Square – he married one of the girls, then there was, I think, another little house, then there was Tyerman's Chemist, then there was Tripp's Garage. Charles had the corner, he was a wheel wright and metal worker then next door were the Tea Rooms which old Vince had.

## **60 minutes**

**DM** To the right, between that and Mr Tyermans the chemist was a little doorway which went down the back to a big produce store. It was basically an L shape building and then when old Vince closed the Tea Rooms they made it into a place for parts and accessories and the office for the workshop. Down the back was just nothing, and Ken Shaefer who was over on Blaxland Road, he started his panel beating business there of a night. He come down from up the bush somewhere. I think his family were blacksmiths or something. He used to work somewhere of a daytime, and of a night he used to work there until 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning doing panel beating for himself and then get up at 6 o'clock and go to work again. You've got to give him credit. Then the opposite side of the road was Sid Pope's Garage.

**AA** We're talking in Queen Street on the opposite side?

**DM** Yeah where the Subway is. Where the Subway is now, that used to be Sid Pope's Garage.

**AA** Oh, okay so that was before it became Coles?

**DM** Oh yeah, they actually knocked that down to build Coles. It was Atlantic Oil and then it became Esso of course. And when you went up the street was Mr Walker who was a Commercial Bank manager. His wife got killed, crushed by a car outside Ces Jarret's garage when I was probably about, I don't know, I was only young, 'cause I was there when it happened. Then there was Mr Wrightson's, Thompson's, cannot think of the other name, up to, well the bypass wasn't there, Oxley Street, yeah Oxley used to sort of run through and then it'd go Moore Oxley. But all the car parks now right along and Council car park, that was all houses.

**AA** Yeah, all houses, right.

**DM** Sid Pope's garage, then there was 2 houses, one burnt down on a Saturday afternoon. I know 'cause I was out on the fire engine. Then there was Bussell's which originally was Solomon's and where the house burnt down, that became Maurice Bloom's. Then they built the arcade, there was the Rural Bank and all that. Then where Bussell's were, that was originally CC Tyre Service had, it was a big building, on the right hand side was like a separate little shop underneath it and there was a driveway up the side and that was all the produce was kept up the back. That's where Campbelltown Car Club would hold all their meetings. But the front of that became CC Tyre Service' first place before they moved down to Fisher's Ghost. My Dad bought his, somebody used to sell Nuffield cars there, because my Dad bought his Morris Oxford ute there in 1949 but I don't know the name of who they were. I just remember we went there and picked up his new ute. Across the road was the ill-fated School of Arts, and up probably about where the driveway is into the Council car park now was Ted King was a dentist. You see T. E. King or something you see on things around? He had a big swimming pool so we used to go for a swim there in summer time. When you went from the School of Arts there was a beautiful old building. Have you got a photograph of Chernich/Clissold as a barber and a dentist together? From memory it was all sandstone, big sandstone front of the building and set back off the road.

**AA** Yeah, I'll have a look I'm not sure.

**DM** Morton Clissold was the barber in town except for old Freddy Devitt. We'd all mostly go to Chernich, the dentist, the cruelest man that you have ever struck in your life. Oh, he was, he frightened the shit out of me forever for dentists. Yep, he did. Mum took us away, and took us up to Ted King. He was just a terrible man. We think there was a building beside them but we don't know what, then there was a driveway and up the back there was a big brick house that was Dr Wajnryb. You have probably heard of Ruth Wajnryb, she was a journalist, that was her mum and dad and they were both doctors, brilliant people.

**AA** I know Ruth, because she came out to visit at the previous library that I worked at and spoke about her book.

**DM** "Tom Dick and Harry" it's funny isn't it? [laughter]

**AA** Three or four years ago.

**DM** She is right about it too you know. Like I said, this Gubby Elmaloglou, to come to school with a name like that, what hope did he have. He was a lovely kid, I remember he was dark, and he was from one of the Islands or something.

**AA** There's a famous actress, not so much now but about 10 years ago, and her name was Rebekah and that surname.

**DM** Elmaloglou. Yes she sang with John Farnham on his tour. Fabulous.

**AA** I think she was in Home and Away or something like that.

**DM** Her uncle or something is a singer or something too. Yeah, she's got a beautiful voice. I have got Ruth's book. There's another...

**65 minutes**

**AA** "Cheerio Tom Dick and Harry" wasn't it?

**DM** Yeah, yeah, and she was talking about how lost, but I read it and I just thought, how good's this. But there's another one - Lynne Truss "Eats, Shoots and Leaves" – have you ever read that?

**AA** I haven't read it, no.

**DM** You know the story of "Eats Shoots and Leaves"?

**AA** I think I do yeah.

**DM** The Panda. Well I'm am going to get a computer, I'm going to get Lynn Truss's email because I have something for her. When I was in the zoo in Thailand over in Chiang Mai I think it was, they had this animal, whatever it is, call it Willy the Wombat, and it had blah blah blah, eats shoots and leaves, no punctuation [laughter] I took a photo of it, a photo of the animal, and took a photo of the way they printed it, and I was going to sort of learn how to email, yeah, eats shoots and leaves. Oh, how good's that. Because when we were growing up, Diana and I, we had to go to elocution lessons and Mum was really, really big on it. Mum used to sing in the church, in St John's and in Sydney somewhere. A woman, Molly Walker, across from St John's if you sort of come out the main gate and look straight ahead, it's that little tiny white house, oh it's about 3m wide, well Molly's Dad had that, and Molly sort of never got married, an old maid, and looked after her Dad until he passed away in his 80's or 90's, and Molly used to play the piano or the organ and Marge used to sing, and Marge was in the theatre group up here for years she was really big on music. Reg was the leader of Campbelltown Camden Band for years and years. He played the big tuba, we used to muck around with it with him. That is where I got my love of music from. Because I used to sing at the Town Hall til my voice went all shitty. She used to take me to eisteddfods and school things. I vaguely remember it, not a lot. I do remember being up there with all these kids 'cause I had a deep voice at the time, you know I used to do a bit of bass stuff and no-one else could do it. Yeah, that's where I got my love of music.

**AA** Did your mother and father live to a fair age?

**DM** Oh yeah, I think Dad passed away when he was about 78 or something, he just wore out. I said to Don Sievwright, you know, "what'd he die from", he said, just bloody old age mate. But he'd had a hard life, seven days a week for ever and ever. But Mum passed away ten years ago maybe. She was in her 80s, yeah mid-80s. Pretty good genes I think. And all the others, Mum and Dad's brothers and sisters, they lived a long time.

**AA** Can I get onto any characters that you remember from your days in Campbelltown? Any characters that stand out?

**DM** Mrs Maloney. If she saw half a parking spot, she had a big Rover, she would back into someone, she'd just keep bumping until she got in, oh yeah, she was a shocker. People used to see her coming and they'd run. She was a character like that. I think it was Freddy Wilkinson, he used to be driving down the main street and if he saw a parking spot there he'd just chuck a u-ey, doesn't matter if you were half in it, he'd just straight into it. Yeah! There used to be a guy who was from from out at Appin, just opposite the mine gate, and he was a hermit and he used to come in to Campbelltown and hang around the park, what do they call it now? Mawson Park still?

**AA** Yeah.

**DM** Mawson Park. And he used to have these white sandshoes, and you couldn't believe how white they were. He used to just wash his hands all day, just stand and wash his hands under the tap until they were bright pink. We wouldn't go near him all that much, because you were frightened of him. But we weren't around, I mean we still had to ask mum could we go to the movies on a Saturday afternoon when we were 14, you didn't just go wandering around. And there was nothing of a night, I can assure you, once the shops closed in Campbelltown that was it, it was gone til 9 o'clock next morning. But there was, what's his name, Mr Scattergood, he got citizen of the year one year. Any time of the night or day he'd be picking up bottles and cans, wheel the wheelbarrow round town picking up cans and bottles. There were a lot of, like Sadie Payten used to would walk up the middle of the main street of a morning to the bank then walk back down again. A bit hard to remember a lot of them now. But there used to be a guy opposite, about opposite Downes Stores, there used to be a couple of old houses and one was Smith, not a character, a serious story, but in those days there was a few shops and then like a little, a picket fence and this guy used to have an army greatcoat on which was a navy blue colour, they had to do them blue so you wouldn't know they were ex army. Did you know that?

**AA** No, no.

**70 minutes**

**DM** They used to dye them so you wouldn't look like an ex-soldier, so it'd be a hot day, and he'd be leaning over the fence and he'd be shaking all the time. Til we knew, Reg told me, we'd walk across the street, 'cause he'd frighten the s\*\*t out of you, and Reg said to me one day, oh when he was in the war he got shell shock, and mate, he was just a shocker. But years later when I was about thirteen Neil Clarke used to do the milk run, and in those days you'd scoop the milk out of the can and run into people's front verandahs and lift the bottle up, fill the bottle, whatever they left for you, and when we started to do the main street we came to this place, and I said to Neil, "oh that creepy bloke in there" and he said "he's alright", and this is about sort of six o'clock

in the morning, and I sort of ran in, picked the bottle up and looked over, and here's the girl, I can't remember her name now, asleep on the front verandah, and that's where she'd slept forever apparently. So you'd be really quiet, and she later, she became a chemist I think, and the bloke next door, he was a similar thing, the young bloke there, and he become an engineer or something, but you shouldn't think people are like a certain thing when you see it, yeah, they were really smart kids, but the old bloke was shell shocked, and that used to frighten us, but you know, poor bugger, and no-one would talk to him, so now, even to this day, if I see someone in a wheelchair or something I make a point of saying hello, how are you going.

**AA** So did you go to a favourite drinking spot?

**DM** I don't drink!

**AA** Oh you don't drink?

**DM** Don't drink, don't smoke, don't go out with bad women. I don't even know any good ones [laughter]. No, I never drank in my life.

**AA** So you didn't sort of go to the hotels much?

**DM** Yes I did. Yes, I had a heap of, a bunch of drunken mates who used to drink at Lack's Hotel all the time. And Donnelly's Hotel or Narellan Hotel, or Donnelly's up on the hill there near Graham Hill Road. That was one of our other favourite spots. Graham Hayden's dad who had the butcher shop had a Holden panel van so he would be delivering drunks home every Friday Saturday night. Five, six, drunks. Al Johnson the boot maker they lived up in Chamberlain Street and James was really, really drunk one night, he couldn't walk poor bugger, and we pulled up in the panel van and I think it was Graham Hayden or somebody else said we're gonna have to carry him, leave him on the doorstep, no, no, you can't leave him on the doorstep, his mother'll go bloody mad. Where does he sleep? Oh, he sleeps on this right hand side, so we raced over there, and put the window up ever so gently, his bed's right near the window because one night I heard him say oh, if I didn't sleep near that window I wouldn't hear all the cars going past. So we snuck up, four of us got him and we just chucked him in the window ... of his mum and dad's bedroom! Yeah, that didn't go down big. But at home, we I used to sleep on the front verandah, a brick front verandah that had a big scallop in it and I used to sleep there because the three boys, we used to fight too much and I got put out on the front verandah which I used to love, oh I used to love it, until one night they chucked ice water on me in the middle of winter, that was their idea of fun. That was in the Frog's Hollow days too. No, I didn't drink but we used to go to pubs a fair bit. We used to go to Leppington Progress Hall, no not Leppington, Luddenham Progress Hall Saturday night dances quite often. Several times we just sort of took off for a cup of coffee and finished up in Melbourne or somewhere, the whole heap of us. Once in Graham's dad's panel van and he needed the panel van for work. Yeah, I didn't drink but in those days it wasn't bad, the drinking wasn't bad, it never interested me. I just drove too fast, and I saw too many people come undone drinking. It just never appealed to me. My brothers and dad they drank, Mum didn't, Alison didn't drink, Diana probably not much at all.

**AA** I was just going to ask you about the Brookeses, David. Your sister Diana married a Brookes. Do you remember Mary much? Did you have much to do with Mary Brookes?

**DM** Oh yes, she was a funny girl. She was a character that one. She was involved in everything. When you learnt what she was like she was good fun. She was so different from old Cyril, her husband who was quite happy to, they had maids quarters out the back at St Helen's Park, and he used to go out there and make jam and stuff all the time. That was a big thing, you'd go out there, we didn't go there much when he was there, but on the odd occasion we'd go out there and he'd say "want to come and taste my jam? Come on."

## **75 minutes**

**DM** And he used to sneak away from the wife, but Cyril (junior) was a bit like that, he was happy as, going amongst the cattle down the paddock. It's just what he was like. I suppose it was a break for him, just to get away from all the university crap. I worked for a builder for a while and we built Captain Selwyn, do you remember the QANTAS Mr Brown Bomber?

**AA** Yes, yes.

**DM** The pilot was Bill Selwyn and had a place built out at Wilton. And the wife would be telling the builder how to do his job and if the architect came out to talk to her and charged her by the hour just to listen to her, which she accepted, Bill would get out of the car say hello, get in this old truck and drive off down the paddock. He would be just driving around, you'd watch him and he'd just be driving around. When he came back she would ask him what do you think about this Bill, and he would just say 'I fly planes I don't build houses'. He didn't want to know about it. Cyril was the same. He'd turn up at the muffler shop at Blaxland Road with Leo and he'd turn up on a Saturday morning with this twisted bit of metal from the old Toyota ute he had, and he'd say, 'oh, what can you do with this'. That was just what he was like, he was just a lovely man, hugely intelligent. When he was going to Sydney University when he was first going with Diana, and very big in APEX he would come home and he'd have books he was studying with would be from Harry Messler, the Cadbury Chocolate man Professor Sumner Miller. They'd lent him books. You look back on it and you realise that he must have been pretty bright then because they recognised it. He went to Oxford on a scholarship and a lot of people in Campbelltown were pissed off saying that he has millions of dollars, but it was an intelligence thing. If they were as smart as him they would have realised that he earned it. Money or not he that's how bright he was. He set up all the computers for Australian Iron and Steel and BHP. I think till the day he died he still did most of the Hilton Hotel Worldwide Group stuff. He was a clever boy. I remember my brother Gordon had a transistor radio when they were really new and it made a scratchy sound when you turned the volume up. He asked Cyril one night what can I do to fix this. After about half an hour Mum said to Cyril just tell him a simple way to do it mate. He said to get some carbon tetrachloride on a cotton wool bud, but he went into all this rubbish about waves and oh, you've got no idea, it's just what he was like you see.

**AA** How did he die? How was he killed?

**DM** As I hear it they were doing renovations which they always did and a guy was unloading a sling of timber off a truck, and had I not been told I would not have believed it, but Cyril wasn't actually underneath telling the bloke how to do it. He was standing down their drive, I believe it was a sloped driveway, and Cyril was standing down the bottom of the driveway just watching the guy, when the sling broke and the timber just came down and crushed him. And they had

about seven top blokes in RPA or wherever it was working on him, and they just couldn't stop the bleeding. It was just too bad, bled to death.

**AA** How tragic is that?

**DM** Was it St Vincents or RPA? I never inquired much after that because I thought well that's the story. I was really disappointed for a bloke like that who never hurt anybody in his life but he caught the trout he always wanted to so she figured he died happy. He had a little fishing hut somewhere down in Tasmania. His big aim in life was to catch this particular trout when he'd go over to Europe or somewhere he would go straight up to Ireland and spend a few days at this river, before he did anything else, he got one only about six months before he died. She knew he would have been happy to die after that. There was a photo of him in the service booklet holding this trout, yeah, but that was what he was like, once again, simple things, yeah, brilliant man.

**80 minutes**

**DM** When he went to England he was doing his Masters in Oxford, and a guy there said to him once, no he was doing his Doctorate, that's right, and a guy said to him where did you do your Masters at? And Cyril said, I didn't do a Masters. And the bloke said to him how are you doing your Doctorate if you haven't done your Masters, Cyril said do you have to do your Masters first and the bloke said, oh it looks better. So in his part time he did his Masters whilst doing his Doctorate. Smart boy. Every day he would post Diana a letter, he would do all his work for the day and post it and when Diana got it, she would type it all out and put it in an envelope and then send it back to him. This process lasted every day for a couple of years. Every day she'd get a letter. And she'd type it all out for him and send it back again. They got married to save all that trouble. He was a lovely man and very funny too, very sad that. They moved out to St Helen's Park from Campbelltown because the Council told them if he didn't sell they would rate him out of the place.

**AA** Did they?

**DM** Yes it is true. That is why they originally moved out of Campbelltown. He did not want to go. When his children, Sarah and Jacob were about 8 & 9, the two top children, during the Christmas holidays, do you remember when the Commodore 64 computers came out? They were the first computers you could buy for home. Cyril and one of his mates redid Monopoly with Sydney in it just for the kids to play with at Christmas on the computer. Just for something to do. I said not long ago to my son if you had that game now it would be worth mega bucks in sort of a science related thing or a computer related thing. Yep, he and a bloke he worked with at Uni wrote the program, changed Monopoly to all the Sydney streets. The son, Richard the youngest bloke is still doing what Cyril did with the programs, the IT stuff. The eldest boy he's in money somewhere, finance or something, which he he's got plenty of. At one stage they pretty much all worked for Cyril. With so much money you couldn't afford to have them work anywhere else. Old Honey, Mary Brookes who did live in Lindesay Street for a while opposite Ruzac Street, she had a little white house opposite Ruzac Street. Mary lived there, and Cyril and Diana lived at St Helen's Park. She was involved in everything of course around town. She named the Mix Master. He worked for Sunbeam in America, I think it was Chicago and they had made the



mixer. Cyril was telling Mary this mixer does everything and she said to him why don't you call it the Mix Master, it does everything. So she actually named the Mix Master. They came out here, he came out as South Pacific and Asia general manager and he actually built Sunbeam in Australia. Clever little man, very clever. When they first came out they had a Cadillac as a company car, chauffeur driven and then they got a Rolls Royce.

**AA** She was a fair age when she died then?

**DM** Oh yeah, yeah. She moved to the North Shore for a while, Cyril used to come and visit and you'd hear all the funny stories. Yeah, she lasted a long time. Clever old girl. My sister went and saw, I think it was old Mr. Brookes' niece a year or two ago in America. Talked to them about it. But they were lovely people. Really nice. Old Cyril didn't do much around town but Mary did. She was on the council, she was Alderman for a fair while she was a pretty progressive old girl. A lot of women came to the town and got onto every committee and did bugger all, she actually had a fair idea, she was a smart old girl.

**AA** Do you actually remember when there was water in the cattle tanks?

**DM** Oh up the hill?

**AA** In Allman Street.

**DM** Yeah, yeah, when we were kids you'd go swimming in amongst whatever was swimming around there. [laughter]. Every now and again you would get a bite on your foot from yabbies and that in there. There were a number of, oh, you could just go anywhere, up Raby Road or all these places, there was yabbies in every dam. We'd go around to Leumeah, that's just about where I live now, any of the dams you'd catch yabbies. You'd just get a bit of dirty old meat and a fish hook you'd get off Uncle Reg and rip 'em out.

**85 minutes**

**DM** We'd mostly go to the Woolwash, you can see that happening today can't you, I don't think so. Like we were on the corner of Moore and Genty Street "we're hot, we're hot" and mum would say go out to the Woolwash and have a swim. You'd get your towel, and off you'd go to the Woolwash and have a swim.

**AA** So you walked out there.

**DM** Yeah, yeah. You walked back and you thought, I'm just as bad as when I left. But you had fun, you'd play on the way, all the way. That just wouldn't happen today. Then when Dad got the ute sometimes he'd go out the dairy and he'd chuck you off at the river when he went to the milk depot and then pick you up on the way back or somebody else would be there and they'd say, oh we'll bring them home later, like Tabers or somebody, 'cause it was not far from Taber's dairy, they'd bring you home. It was a good river then plenty of water in it, not now, bloody pathetic isn't it. That's when they had the little old low wooden bridge there then, used to flood all the time.

**AA** Did you swim in Bow Bowing Creek?

**DM** No we never did. We used to Frere's Crossing sometimes, we used to go out there, when we got push bikes we used to ride out to Frere's Crossing. I used to swim in the water race too [laughter].

**AA** In the water racee!

**DM** Up near Glenlee there, you know where the water race would come through. Yeah I used to swim in there, there was a couple of places they used to have steel bars you know, so you couldn't get washed along [laughter], they wouldn't have liked you to do it. Beautiful water in there too, gee it was lovely. Glenlee, that was good fun. Any amount of dams had yabbies and stuff in them all the time but the tank was alright. It dried up probably mid-teens it started to dry up. When we were about 10, 11 you'd go up to Uncle Reg's, he lived up in Lithgow, Lindesay, then the next one up the top, it'd overlook on the park now, can't think what it is. You'd go up to Uncle Reg's, and just run down the hill and into the tank.

**AA** Stuart Street?

**DM** Ah, no, no, not Stuart

**AA** George or Stuart?

**DM** Could be George Street.

**AA** That's the top one.

**DM** No, no, George is the one that goes over St Pat's. When you go up Lithgow Street you go across Lindesay, the next one up.

**AA** Stuart I think it is.

**DM** Is it Stuart that runs right around does it?

**AA** I think it is.

**DM** It meets up with Dumaresq up the top. Oh ok, yeah well there, Reg was there, second one from the corner and Longhursts were on top of the corner, and you'd just sort of run down there, have a quick dip, and run back up, by the time you got back you were dry again so that was alright.

**AA** I was talking to a lady once who said that as a girl she swam in the water tanks where, on the old Georges River Road there used to be a big water tank and she used so swim in that. I don't know if you remember that? It's on the corner of Waminda Road and where Colonial Street is now which used to be Georges River Road. It used to be above the ground water tank. She said she used to swim in that. We've got photos of it.

**DM** Yeah? No I don't remember that but the one down from Reg's was quite common, convict built. Is it still in good nick or not?

**AA** Yes it is still in pretty good order I think, yeh. . Just no water in it any more.

**DM** You could probably swim in the drain beside Dumaresq Street if it had just been raining, it banked up a bit especially near Tripp's Garage side, down there, it was that deep, and it was

huge and yay wide. From Broughton Street all the way down there was all wooden bridges across into houses. Huge channel, yeah. A mate of mine, I didn't know this till many many years later, when I went to school at Fairfield, we were talking about Campbelltown one day at his mum's place, and his dad had died, and he said have they filled that silly culvert up in Queen Street. I said yes years ago when it was Sydney Road. Apparently they were going home one night by horse and sulky from this end of Campbelltown and as they turned onto the bridge to go into their house the horse had a bit of a fit and tipped the sulky over the edge. [laughter] Ken was only a baby. Tipped them all out of the sulky into the ditch. That was there for years, that. The main street was sort of down, like Cec Jarrett's garage was sort of down, even the shops from Lacks Hotel were, you had to walk up into them. They weren't street level back then, the first couple you walked up into them. Campbelltown main street had heaps of reshaping over the years. Heaps.

## 90 minutes

**DM** The Club Hotel, I gotta get my bearings on that, because I think, Everett Langdon used to have a, well Langdons had a store, which was Campbelltown Sports Store I'm sure, but it was also called Langdons Music Store, and on the left hand side of it that was a driveway which went up the back with all these garages where Everett used to have his used cars, Black Prince's they used to call it, and there was a little building on the side, and that's where Campbelltown Ingleburn News first was printed, and left of that I think a little Chemist shop and I think it was a bootmaker there too, then it was the hotel. And Glenelg Dry Cleaners used to be beside Langdon's before they moved into Patrick Street. Then there was the bank and the big stone building, see if you can find a photo of Mort Clissold the barber, or the dentist, 'cause I'm sure from memory it was set back off the street and had a nice sandstone front on it. I'm sure it was, yeah.

**AA** Do you remember the Doctor's surgery in Cordeaux Street?

**DM** Yes that was Dr Thomas. He was our doctor and he was a good man. Good man. He would be talking to you and he'd have a cigarette in his mouth and the ash would be that long, fair dinkum, the ash would just be like that, and mum'd say....

**AA** I've heard that story before.

**DM** Oh, he was incredible (laughter). Absolutely incredible. He used to have a sign up on the wall saying "I cried because I had no shoes until I saw a man who had no feet." I always remember that sign. Oh he was a lovely man, a lovely man. My brother Gordon, when we were out at Glen Alpine dairy there was a huge hay shed, huge, and they had an old chaff cutter and we were mucking around one day and Gordon put his hand in it and I turned it not knowing and it just sliced, I don't know which one it was. It sliced his thumb clean off. They rushed him to Camden hospital and it was hanging just by a bit of skin there. Chopped bone and everything, right through. Dr Thomas heard he was in there, so he came over and he was "what's going on, oh I'll sew that on". Mate, you would never know today. You can see all the scars and where the stitches were – perfect, a long way before microsurgery. Brilliant. And his son is a brilliant doctor too, he was for many years Care Flight at Lismore. He used to hold the record from Martin Place to Campbelltown in an FC Holden he beat the record for the quickest time. I knocked him off

from North Head to Campbelltown. 47 minutes from North Head to Campbelltown in a Cortina. I was sitting over 100 mile an hour along Woodville Road and passed a cop in a bull wagon. I don't think they even saw me [laughter]. Yeah, Dave Thomas, he was around the days of Cyril and all those boys. They turned out to be all good men too all those blokes. Remember the old railway station, the train took the corner off it one time, we were waiting on the platform when I was going to Fairfield and the Southern Highland Express was coming through, and picked the corner of the station up and dragged about 50m of it with it, just

**AA** Was that in the sixties?

**DM** Yes late 50s early 60s. I actually saw, well I actually heard at Glenlee when the Garrett and the 38 hit at Glenlee. I was on this side of the hill and I heard this noise, incredible, absolutely incredible noise, and I rode the horse up to the top of the hill and there was steam and stuff everywhere, you couldn't believe it. I had some fabulous photos of it.

### **95 minutes**

**DM** I went down and got halfway down the hill then I thought what am I going to do on a horse so I raced back up and told Mrs Fitzpatrick and she rang up somebody, 'cause she lived at the top of the hill, not at Glenlee house but on the other side, 'cause Dad had the dairy on the other side. Then I got in the car and went to town and came back with my camera and started taking photos everywhere. Mum chucked most of them out, I've still got one or two left of when they were cutting it up, the Garrett, they actually cut it all up to take it away. They couldn't move it. There was a heap of nuns on the train, they sort of got the injured people and they laid them out like sleepers along the line, and walked up and down and gave them water. In the old days there used to be water jugs in the baskets on the trains. They really did look after them, marvelous job. That was incredible. Never heard a noise like it. And Foti's used to have their fireworks factory at Menangle Park, and it was on the corner of where you go down from the dairy on the flat before the railways station, it's called the sandpits. They had all these little huts built. Where they used to mix up the powder and the stuff they didn't use they used to pour it in boxes and they had a Volkswagen Kombi and they'd drive it out across the sandpits and dig holes in the sand and bury it. No EPA in those days! I was riding along one day and I was only 200 metres from it and mate, this incredible explosion, you never heard anything like it. You see this bloke come out of this Kombi van just like being fired out of a cannon. The screams, I don't care what you've heard in the movies, nothing like a real scream. And this one bloke, he lived at Appin for many years after, you could pick him, he had all black marks where the saltpeter had embedded itself in his skin. The only thing on him was a little bit of underpants hanging off one side of his body and he was sort of almost black. Just tearing off across the sand screaming, and the other bloke, he was out on the ground. What happened was that one of the guys, his brother had given him a pair of army boots, you know, they've got the steel horse shoe, and Kombi vans are steel floored and he picked it up and there was gunpowder on the floor, and as he turned it sparked. Mate, never touched a fire cracker since that day. My kids grew up crackerless. Oh they had little flash Catherine Wheels and that, but never touched a firework. You know what my young bloke does for a job? He's the boss of an explosives company. He was with Orica and he starts next Monday with Ausdrill. It's ironic, never had crackers to play with, now he's got the biggest ones in the world.

**AA** Do you remember the Campbelltown Fireworks factory? The one in Macquarie Avenue?

**DM** Yeah, yeah vaguely. Reg used to go up there for some reason, I think he knew the bloke that had it. Now that you've said it I do, yeah, that's as much as I could tell you. They're the sort of things that people just never worried about I suppose. It didn't mean anything to them. Yeah, I was always inquisitive and sort of stuck my nose in and had a look, I still do, want to see how things work. Old Bill Hopher would know about that.

**AA** Yes, I'll have to ask.

**DM** There was a girl in town, she was in town the other day, Lynn Routley, she'd remember a fair bit. You know Hugo Bonomini, and Pam?

**AA** I know who you mean.

**DM** Yeah, well Lynn, she was down from Brisbane just the other day, I saw Pam, she grew up next to us. She'd know a fair bit about that too, but when I go and see Lindsay, Lindsay's got a real good memory for this sort of stuff too, we hung around together and we often talk about this, as you've probably figured, who passed away, who didn't and who did. Yeah.