

ANDREW ALLEN'S ORAL INTERVIEW WITH TED SEDGWICK AND ANNE SEDGWICK ON 25 MAY 2012

AA Can I start with where and when you were born?

TS We were both born in Camden as there was no hospital in Campbelltown. Matron Haisey had a maternity hospital in Camden and with Anne being from Menangle, we were both born there.

AS It was just a brick cottage, it wasn't really a hospital but that was where most people went back then.

AA Did you grow up in Smeaton Grange?

TS When I was born, my parents were on a farm in Kenny Hill where Mt Annan Botanic Gardens now is. We moved into Campbelltown when I was quite young. I think I was probably 3 or 4 and we rented a house on the corner of Queen Street and Iolanthe Street. Later Stella Vernon and her husband lived there until it was pulled down. Then my parents built a house at 36 Moore Street opposite the showground. They stayed there until Mum was 80 odd. She left there and went to the nursing home Camden House. Mrs Daley was there with her and Marj Thomson. There was a gathering of, you couldn't call them old girls, they were senior residents.

AA Anne, your maiden name was Cummins.

AS Yes, my grandfather was Mayor of Campbelltown as was Ted's.

AA What was his name?

AS William Cummins.

TS William Cummins and my grandfather had an argument. Old Ted Sedgwick my grandfather was Mayor and William Cummins had a bit of a dispute which was written up in the Mayors of Campbelltown and William Cummins took his place.

AA Is the house you grew up in still there?

TS The one in Moore Street is, but there is another house in the back garden. The year I was born 1936, my grandmother, my parents and the Nash's had three houses built by Winton Bros from Campbelltown. Charlie Nichol was the local builder and he then became the local undertaker. One house is still there, but I think that the others have been demolished.

AA How many were in your family?

TS There were only two, myself and my sister.

AA Where did you go to primary school?

TS I went to St Johns at Campbelltown and for some reason I was sent to St Pats at Strathfield, I was never sure why, maybe I was naughty or something. I just know that in 3rd class I was sent to Strathfield and caught the train up and down. Then I went to St Gregs for the senior school.

AA That's a long way to go for primary school.

TS The kids from Strathfield thought I should stay somewhere overnight coming from Campbelltown. There were about 10 or 12 boys went to St Pats at Strathfield. I never knew why.

AA Did you like the school there?

TS I liked it. I boarded at St Gregs most of the time because there was so much to do at St Gregs. There were only 200 students, mostly boarders and some day students. There was so much sport there. It was a good school.

5 mins

AA Were the teachers good there? Did you have a favourite?

TS My favourite teacher was an old boy called Brother Lorenzus. He spent a lot of time with those that weren't academically brilliant which included me and I got better marks in all the subjects that he taught. He was my favourite teacher by far. He left the Marist Brothers to become a Priest in later life. He only died a few years ago in his 90s. He kept in touch right up until he died really. He was without a doubt my favourite teacher. It was only small but a good school.

AA I know that you are from a sporting family. What sort of sports did you play at St Gregory's?

TS I played rugby league, everyone did and cricket. Even though we had a lot of aussie rules boys there from the Riverina, rugby league was the game. Only recently I was at an old boys function and they were horrified to think that they are starting to play rugby union there now. We played tennis after we left school. That's where we met.

AA Your father played a bit of cricket didn't he?

TS My father, Uncle Ted and Jack Nash my uncle say that they used to run in from Kenny Hill to football training. There are four Ted Sedgwicks, there was my grandfather the Mayor, my Uncle Ted, then me and my son has twins and they called the little boy Edward. Uncle Ted was brilliant and at the 100 years of the

Campbelltown Kangaroos there were a few very old people who remembered him. When he went to the 1914-18 War he got the chance to go with an Army team to England. It was never terribly official but they were called the Australian Armours Light Horse Rugby Union Team. He stayed in England for a season and then came home. He is documented as one of the best footballers. He was in the rowing eights at Riverview; he was 1st grade rugby union player and a first class cricketer. He used to often talk about it. He was a lovely man, he never married and he was an absolute angel. He used to talk about playing rugby union at school and coming home and playing rugby league. There are many photos of Dad, Uncle Ted and Jack Nash in the Campbelltown Kangaroos archives.

AA Did you swim much as a child?

TS There was nowhere to swim, only the Woolwash and the Menangle River or down the coast. The water race ran through our farm and then through St Gregs. The boys at St Gregs that didn't understand it would hop in on a hot day and of course the water was very very cold coming from the dam and being in tunnels. Two or three students from St Gregs drowned in it over the years. It's probably not documented that there were quite a few drownings in the water race in various places. On a hot day they would hop in and the water was so cold because it was all sandstone walls and tunnels through so many parts of it. There was one boy drowned while I was at St Gregs. They don't document it; it was a bit hushed up. They shouldn't have been in the water race, they were told without a doubt not to go near it, but it was a temptation I suppose.

10 mins

AA The area has had a fair share of drownings over the years, with people drowning in the cattle tanks.

TS Uncle Ted was in the First World War and wasn't of an age to be in the Second World War and a lot of his old light horse friends patrolled the water race in the open areas from Glenlee and another group met them at St Gregs and they patrolled the water race on horseback. That was Sydney's main water supply which was well before Warragamba. The Cordeaux, Cataract and Nepean Dams all fed into it. They patrolled it on horseback because it was a threat to poisoning of Sydney water. That's a fact beyond doubt. The water race is a marvellous feat of engineering. I asked Uncle Ted one day when I was only a bit of a boy, "Did you remember seeing it being built?" He said "I'm not that old." It's documented about the Sydney Water Supply Canal, there's a little yellow booklet about it.

AA What did you do when you first left High School?

TS I went to work over at McGarvie Smith the University farm at Badgerys Creek. We had the dairy out here and my father said that I would be better off to go out and learn some other things rather than go straight into the farm. I went to Badgerys Creek in 1952 with Professor Geddes working for a few years on water harvesting. That was where I learnt artificial insemination in 1953 which is what I am still doing today. We're doing different parts now. I was there three years and then I came home and farmed and had a milk run and various other things, but always centred around the dairy industry. Then I worked at Camden Park for a while and that was also where I met Anne.

In those days the dairies were only small and we had good staff on there at Kenny Hill, good share farming people. I wanted to learn more than just milking cows which was a good choice as that is what I am doing today.

AA What breed of cows did you have? Was it mainly Jersey then?

TS No, they were all cross breeds and then we started on the Friesian as they were called then. My father was on the Milk Board for 21 years and there was a battle between Jerseys and Friesians on quality payment so he couldn't align himself to any one breed. So we started the stud out here, we bought cows in our own name. We had the Smeaton Grange Holstein Stud which is still registered in our name today. We have Friesians and I am State President and Life member of the Cattle Club. While I was State President of the Friesian Cattle Club and they changed the name to Holstein, Anne's uncle was president of the Ayrshires. We were friendly.

AA A lot of farmers were very hesitant about getting Friesians back then because they just believed in the quality of the milk.

TS We never had Jerseys; we had a lot of cross bred and a lot of Ayrshires. We got Canadian genetics in and that boosted the milk quality. We had quality problems without a doubt. We got Canadian genetics in and they were far better than ours on milk quality. That built it up to be pretty strong now.

AA I was going to ask where did you meet your wife Anne, but you have already answered that at Camden Park.

TS I went to work at the Rotolactor when it was in full swing. Today plenty of people milk 600 cows. The Rotolactor was milking 600 cows and I think they had about five other dairies and had their own milk factory at Menangle and I went out there and met Anne. Then we started playing tennis with each other and against each other at times. We married in 1960. We built a house on the farm out at Kenny Hill which is now the Mount Annan Botanical Gardens. We built the house not long after we were first married. It is still there, it is called Sustainable Living. As you go in the old gate not the new gate, there is a little weatherboard house on the left. Our daughter went out there a couple of years

ago and asked if she could have a look around and the lady said that is fine. My daughter said she lived there when she was born.

15 mins

AA So, all the area around the gardens is pretty much where your farm used to be. Where did the milk from the farm go to?

TS There was a factory at Campbelltown. In those days there were three milk depots or factories as we called them. They were at Campbelltown, Menangle and Camden. Campbelltown was just down near the railway station but it's all gone now. The street where the Ambulance Station is in, if you go straight through there were gates across the railway line and it was just there, but it has all been pulled down now. It was right beside the railway line.

There were about 30 to 40 very active dairies supplying from here. Camden had around 110 and Menangle had the Rotolactor and about another 50 dairies. It was a big dairy area. The train used to go through at 12 noon called the Milk Pot. The Camden milk used to come in on the Camden tram. The Milk Pot would start at Picton and pick up at Menangle, then Campbelltown and go into Sydney. It was a very big dairy area.

AA What was the building next to the cordial factory?

TS That was really old, way back before the Dairy Farmers. You've been reading your history! They put it next to the cordial factory because they had ice and refrigeration. Diana Brookes who is my age, she was a Milliken and her mother was a Hayes, they had the cordial factory. The Seddons had the private milk factory. They then realised that they had to be near to the railway and Dairy Farmers Co-operative was just getting going so Dairy Farmers would have bought the old place and then they moved to the railway. There was a milk receivable plant and then they put in a distribution centre for the milk vendors. Dairy Farmers have still got another one just further down the street.

AA Can I get onto your father a little bit? Did you have a good relationship with him?

TS Yes, but I had a better relationship with my uncle. I worked with my uncle when we were on the farm and I was with him every day. My father was on the Milk Board, he was the Mayor, he was Chairman of the Hospital Board, President of the Show Society, he was in a lot of things. We did have a good relationship. He was always busy. We didn't have much of a family life not like we have with our children. He was just so busy and distance was a big thing. The Milk Board zone was from Wauchope to Milton and he had to travel all over. He devoted his life to it.

AA What were some of his prouder achievements on Council? Did he have anything that he was really proud of, because he was in there for a long time?

20 mins

TS I don't know, he never bragged. One thing he was very proud of which was well documented. When Campbelltown started to grow, there were a few bigger developers who wanted to come in. There was one old fellow called W J Smith – Knockout Smith. He owned Australian Glass Manufacturers. He used to supply glass to all the breweries and milk factories. He had a pretty big business. He wanted to take over Glenlee at one time which belonged to my uncles. He also wanted to do a big development at St Andrews which was Stan Thomson's property and is still owned by the Thomson boys. This is written in one of the books. He was going to say he knew the Minister for Local Government. Probably in those days he would probably have had a whisky with him and say that he wanted to buy that land and put in a housing estate there. Well dad stopped that because he knew the Premier. The Milk Board was pretty strong; it was a big part of Sydney. That is all written up and I think that was one of his proudest achievements. It is written up that the Mayor Alderman Sedgwick told W J Knockout Smith to go and do his dealing somewhere elsewhere. In those days you could talk to people in power.

He had a great working relationship with Harley Daley. They used to argue fairly heavily but always for the good of the town. Dad never made a bob out of anything. He might have got a bottle of whiskey from someone and drank it with them, but he was as straight and as clean as anything could ever be.

Another thing I did read in the Solomon book is the kindergarten. The pre-school kindergarten would have been started in the late 50s, because it was well going when our kids went there. Phil Solomon who was Mayor at the time funded it. There was more should have been written about him, there is a book, because he was a good person.

Then there was the Baby Health Centre. There was a hell of a battle with Michael Knight when he was the local member here. He wanted to take over the Baby Health Centre and pull it down and put something else there. My mother and Cliff Mallam who was the member for Camden or Picton stopped Michael Knight.

Dad was very proud of the local show. It was very big.

AA Did he have aspirations of going further up in politics?

TS Yes he did. He stood for pre-selection when Blake Pelly was our local member and dad was an active member of the Liberal Party. My grandmother said she was a foundation member of the Liberal Party. I've been told that but I have no proof. He stood for pre-selection for the seat before it was called

Campbelltown. I think it was called Wollondilly. He was Mayor, President of the Show, and Chairman of the Hospital, and on the Milk Board. We all thought he would get in and he didn't get one vote, because he was a Catholic. That hurt him. If he had been beaten by a whisker it wouldn't have been so bad. They put Tom Lewis in and Tom Lewis and dad finished up very, very good friends. Tom Lewis was a good man and finished up Premier.

25 mins

AA He got on fairly well with Greg Percival and Arch Walker?

TS They all got on fantastic. Dad said that Greg Percival was one of the brightest young men he had ever met. I told Greg that one day and he got a bit emotional about it. Arch Walker was our neighbour. Arch was Deputy Chairman of the Dairy Farmers Milk Company and dad was on the Milk Board. They used to argue obviously because Dairy Farmers Milk Company wanted a bigger slice of the price pie and dad wanted it for the farmers. It was unbelievable.

Greg Percival, I suppose if dad had to anoint anyone for anything it would have been Greg Percival. He was a smart man and a gentleman. Jeff McGill rang and asked me for a quote when Greg died and I said what I just said to you.

When Campbelltown and Ingleburn came together there was Greg Percival, Clive Tregear, Keith Fraser and a fellow called Curly Morrison. Greg, Clive and Keith went on to be Mayors. I went to the first meeting and Dad said this is going to be interesting. He did a bit of homework and he was a bit at arm's length with Clive Tregear because Clive was a fairly forceful weapon.

AA Did you ever think about Local Government or politics?

TS No, my mother said to never get involved with it. I saw what it did to your family life. We had four children and the farm.

AA Do you remember any interesting characters from the old days in Campbelltown?

TS Phil Simon was a great person who had a shop. I was reading in a book that he just employed people for generations. He was more than just a shopkeeper; he was Mayor and just a good person. There was a funny old fellow Bob Hazelwood who used to work for Arch Walker. He was a great character. He was a great worker but Saturdays was his day off and he would get as drunk as could be. He was in work clothes all week, but Saturday was his day off and he would get dressed up in collar and tie. He would go down the street. He would see me walking up the street with a friend and ask me for a winner and off he would go to the SP bookie. I tell the story of it was 6pm closing in those days. Ted Little was the Sergeant. He had a motor bike with a sidecar and he told the

young Constable to put Bob Hazelwood in the side car because he was drunk at the Good Intent Hotel. So there was Bob sitting on top of the Constable.

Andy Selms leased a dairy from my Aunty on the edge of town. He used to take the milk into town twice a day and he would be at Lack's Hotel at 10 in the morning. He would be drunk and the horse would take him home. You would see the horse sauntering along. He was a bit of a character; there were lots of old characters.

30 mins

AA Do you remember Miss Payten, I have heard lots of stories about her?

TS Oh yes. Sadie had a little green Austin. I was out at Uncle Ted's. There was my sister and my cousins. My grandmother was very much the lady of the manor. I don't think Sadie ever got married. She was a little lady very much like the little lady off Miss Marple. I remember my grandmother saying to Uncle Ted "Sadie's coming for morning tea now you make sure you are here." He would say he had to go out the back to chop down some trees and she would be telling him to make sure he was back for morning tea. She was a bit of a dragon, but they were the old world. They didn't think that Campbelltown should have grown. They had a fair bit of land; she was a funny old thing. She used to say that little boys should be seen and not heard.

There was John Lysaght who was tied up with BHP. There were three girls and a boy. They owned three of the biggest houses in Campbelltown. They had a big house down near St Peters Church, another one near the Catholic Church and another one at the top of Moore Street. They had money. They would always be all dressed up and sit in the front at Mass. They were lovely people and as charitable as charitable could be. Angela only died recently; she lived near friends of ours.

Stella Vernon worked for Doctor Thomas when she was a girl. Stella got married and one of her sisters went to work there. You should talk to Stella about Doctor Thomas. He was the only Doctor here and he always had a cigarette hanging out of his mouth. I remember he was taking out my appendix stitches and I was watching his cigarette and I was waiting for the ash to fall. He stuttered and told me not to worry about getting the stitches out; I was more worried about the ash. He drove a big V8 Oldsmobile. There was no ambulance in Campbelltown in those days. The story goes that he overtook the police on the way to an accident. Someone would have gone to the nearest farmhouse and rung the doctor. He would sit over the steering wheel with the front of his hat turned up and he would go like mad and everyone knew him. The locals would say look out here comes Doc Thomas. When the police got there he was attending to the injured people and said to the Police "Where the bloody hell have you been?"

One day Dad was mowing the lawn. They had an idea in those days to put an electric motor on the push lawn mower. Someone had wired it up incorrectly. It was the day before the Campbelltown Show, so Dad thought he would go and mow the lawns. The thing came undone and the three pronged thing had been wired active instead of neutral. He was lucky it wasn't on full power. Mum rang Doc Thomas and he came screaming up. After he had fixed Dad up he said he had better go back and see how old Matt was, he had knocked him off his bike. Joan Ponsonby's father was riding his bike along Moore Street which was a gravel road and old Ivor knocked him off his bike. He was a real character.

35 mins

When biros first came out everyone was fascinated at what was inside them. Dad was Chairman of the Hospital at the time. Doc said to Dad they would go out to the Hospital and x-ray the thing and see what was inside it. He was the only Doctor in Campbelltown, Doctor Jones had died. Ivor Thomas was the first President of the Historical Society. His son was a doctor, the same age as me and he died a few years ago.

Des Churnich was the dentist. He was the only dentist. He was very keen on pulling teeth rather than repairing them. His surgery was upstairs and I got out of the chair one day and I ran down the stairs so fast I fell over and I abused the stairs. He rang and told my mother. Ted King was the dentist in later years but Churnich was the only one earlier and he was fairly brutal.

AA What did you do for social activities before you were married? Did you go the movies much?

AS There was the Campbelltown Theatre the one and only and there was this old bus which used to come out and pick up the Menangle people every Saturday night and bring them in. It would rat-tat-tat along. That was the only way we got anywhere.

TS We used to go there. Fred Eves ran a pretty good show there. He would walk around with a torch and check that the young people in the back row didn't get up to any mischief. Then there was the upstairs part, it was good. I remember when they used to have a movie of the Melbourne Cup the next day. That was great to go and watch the Melbourne Cup. We would listen to the Melbourne Cup on the radio.

We had the Cup on out at the dairy one day and there were fettlers who used to look after the Camden Line. They used to call it the Main Line and they used to call the Sydney/Melbourne Line the Branch Line. They used to come to our dairy and listen to the Melbourne Cup and catch the 3.15 train home.

AA What about dances, did you go to dances much?

TS I was in the Campbelltown Theatre Group and it was very good. They had functions in the Old Town Hall and put on The Mikado and The Pirates of Penzance and lots of plays. Lily Hephner was the main driver of that. They wanted to get Gilbert and Sullivan things going. Harley Daley was very much behind it.

40 mins

There was a fellow called Harold Hackworthy who had a dairy in Ingleburn and he was a gifted musician. He was a retired bloke a Major or something. Clive Tregear played the violin, a brilliant violinist. They got together and one thing led to another and they ended up with a 16 piece orchestra for the Mikado. Betty Rofe and Charles Inglis came over from Camden. That would have been about 1955. They programmed it for two nights and had to have it for another two nights. Clive Tregear was the main violinist.

We all had little old milk trucks to cart the cans in, we had a little Ford. After the Friday night dance up at the Old Town Hall, we would all hop in someone's van 2 or 3 in the front and about 4 would hop in the back and we would drive to Liverpool to get a hamburger and a milk coffee. That was a big deal.

AA So, there was no decent place in Campbelltown?

TS No, not at night. There were plenty of shops in the day, but not at night. After the movies there was nothing. I think that the little shop at the movies closed at interval, so we would just go home. There was nothing.

Along the main street there was Mrs Mulholland who was the wife of Cec Mulholland – who was a Mayor. Her grandson Peter is Assistant Coach of Penrith Panthers Rugby League club. I used to ride my bike down to Mrs Mulholland for an evening meal if my parents were at a function. That was the Balalaika. It was like a home away from home. She had beautiful meals.

Lack's Hotel was probably the centre of town when I was growing up, that was John Marsden's father. That was the leading pub. The others were good. I suppose the Railway Hotel was more the workers pub; there was Lack's, the Club across the road and the Good Intent.

Aubrey Oates had The Good Intent and he didn't like locals. He was a bit of a smartie and he never used to give you a full glass of beer. He had a big Sunday trade the place was packed on Sundays. The Sydney people would drive out on Sunday. Marsdens ran a good pub. They had six kids. If you had been there a bit long, Mrs Marsden would lean across the bar and say it was time you went home. That's all you needed and out you would go. That was more or less the centre of town. We would have our Dairy Farmers dinners there and they would have the Mayoral dinners there. Guy Marsden was Chairman at our wedding. They were good citizens. He was on the Council.

AA What do you think of Campbelltown now? Do you think it has expanded well? Do you like how it has developed?

TS I don't know, I think it has probably got too big for us now. It had to happen. People have got to live somewhere. I'm interested that the Historical Society has a lot of new people, those who have been here 30 or 40 years are keen to know what we did in the olden days. Those historical things have been well attended.

Tennis was one of the main activities here before television. We met when I was working at the Rotolactor and we played tennis together for many many years. It was big business. Jack Hephher had the bike shop in the middle of the main street and he used to organise the tennis draws and Jim Vernon helped him. Jim maintained the tennis courts at the Showground. If you wanted to go in a team and you didn't have a team you would go in and say that you wanted to play in a night comp and give Jack your name. He knew all the people and he would put everyone together in teams. It was strong. We won a few comps. There was Stradlings at the top of Warby Street, the Catholic school had two courts, St Peters where they now have a beautiful building was two tennis courts, the Showground that was long before the tennis centre at Leumeah was thought of. It was big, night tennis. Camden Park had two tennis courts but they didn't have lights. On a Saturday afternoon if we weren't playing cricket we would have a Saturday afternoon comp and go out to Theresa Park, Oakdale, Orangeville all around there. We would join in with Camden and Menangle as well.

Sunday afternoon was football. They used to play in the showground way back and then down where Rod Lawrence Motors was used to be the Alfred Duguid Memorial Park. He was a bootmaker near Jack Hephher's shop. Poor old fellow, you used to think he was crying all the time; he had something wrong and his eyes used to water. He would do up the boots. Football boots were football boots, there was nothing fancy, but he was the bootmaker. He was President of the Football Club and his boys played. I was ball boy there and had to ride my bike down because if you went by car there was nowhere to park around the ground, especially when Camden played Campbelltown.

The story goes, I never did see it, but Dad told the story that Camden and Campbelltown were vying for the Minor Premiership. We had a Sydney coach and they had a paid coach. The coaches got paid £10 a game which was big money in those days. Bernard Slattery was the Sergeant at Camden who went into both dressing rooms and said we might just arrest someone today. They had never arrested anyone at a football field but we might. It was one of the cleanest football games that anyone had seen. I think Camden beat us by 3 points to 2. There was hardly a punch thrown all day. The whole town had stopped. We used to travel to Moss Vale in Group 6 which went from

Campbelltown to Moss Vale. There was a fellow who played first grade here went to Sydney when Parramatta went in and he scored the first try for Parramatta. David Munro was a star here and went up when Parramatta joined in 1947 and played there for a few years. I don't remember anyone else from here playing there. I didn't play much; I was a ball boy when I was young. It was nothing for about 30 people to go down and watch training on Tuesday and Thursday nights. The town would nearly stop for football.

50 mins

They won the comp one year when I was ball boy and Dad was Mayor and John Marsden's grandfather Herb Lack who was Patron of the Football Club still had the pub. I can remember going back there Sunday night. The pub was in full swing, I don't know where the Sergeant was. They had a big party in the pub on Sunday night and the Police Station was 100 yards away. You just did it in those days. Robert Penfold has well documented that the Sergeant used to drive Harley Daley and my dad and his father home from Lack's Hotel. Robert Penfold from Channel 9 is from here and his father was the Clerk of Petty Sessions. Max Penfold lived at the top end of Broughton Street which was a fair walk when he was sober.

I used to drive old Clarrie O'Loughlin's trucks. I used to go to Sydney with old Clarrie a lot. They were in Reddall Street and had a sand, soil, gravel and coke business. We used to go to Sydney to pick up the coke. They used to have gas burners on the back of cars and the coke used to make the cars go. Old Clarrie was a bit sick and he used to get tired. So at about Ingleburn he used to let me drive the little truck home. They were funny days. The old Sergeant would tell Clarrie not to let that young kid drive home in case he has an accident.

AA What do you do with your time now Ted?

TS We're still working. We run a small import/export cattle semen business. They say that we are the biggest importers in Sydney of genetic material. It's about 30 years since we stopped dairying and this is something that we have built up over those years. Being an old inseminator, I went to work in the semen production centre in Bundanoon but they moved in the year 2000 and we started up what we thought was going to be just a little part time business. We had a cattle semen selling business and we sold that a few years ago and just do the import/export business from Canada and America. It is mainly imports and it is almost full time now. Farming people like to deal with someone they know, so that keeps us fairly busy.

AA You said that you are 76 now.

TS That's right, I was born in 1936. When I was reading through the Solomon thing, Pam Routley who is now Pam Bonomini is fairly active in the Historical

Society. She should be able to give you an insight into the Solomon sister. Her father worked for them for years and years and years. Pam is my age and lives up in Reddall Street.

55 Mins

That was an old thing. Families just worked for the same people. At Camden Park there were four or five families that just worked for no-one else. The families just worked on and on and on. It was just the done thing. I don't know what the Historical Society has got lined up next but we're still paid up members of it.

The Legacy Ball was one of the big things. The Torchbearers of Legacy was very strong and raised a lot of money and Arch Walker was a great man there and old Stan Reeves who just died recently. He was a marvellous man and I spoke at length about him and his charitable work. Mum said to me once that no-one will ever know the depth of his charity work and Arch Walker was much the same.

The Reeves owned the store Reeves Emporium in Campbelltown on the corner of Patrick Street. We had a milk run for a few years and Stan came to me one day and asked if so-and-so was on my milk run. When I said he yes he slipped me ten bob and told me it was milk money to drop in two bottles of milk a day and when the money ran out to let him know. He did the same with my cousin who had a milk run here as well. He told me that no-one was to know. The lady would tell me that she couldn't pay for the milk and I told her it was alright, it wasn't me, it wasn't my charity. The things he did were unbelievable and he was such a humble man.

At his funeral, Tom Hughes QC was there. He hadn't told anyone that he knew Tom Hughes. He was probably one of the most eminent lawyers in Australia. We couldn't even get into the Church for his funeral, we were in the hall. This nice little fellow came up, they had mentioned him during the service and I asked if he knew Stan Reeves and he said yes what a great man he was. There was Tom Hughes just wandering about in the crowd.

Legacy was very strong. There were a lot of war widows around going back to the 50s. Our kids used to sell badges for Legacy. People would just walk up to you and buy a badge. The Legacy Ball was such a big thing that the Sydney President would come to receive the debutantes at the ball. I know about that because I got roped in a few times. There were some pretty plain girls around who didn't have boyfriends. Their mum would tell my mum that their daughter would like to make her debut but she didn't have a partner. My mum would say oh Ted will do that!! One night we were sitting having dinner and mum said that Cora Roser rang up and I said no, she had two of the plainest daughters. They used to sing in the Church. Poor Andy Romalis used to cop it after that; he was

a little younger than me and unattached. There were the Romalis' and the Grallelis' they were related and they had the Sporting Café. There should be something written about them before they die.

AA We had a little exhibition here last year on all the old Campbelltown Cafes and Restaurants, so I know a little bit about them and what they had. They had the fish and chip shop.

60 mins

TS They were good. The mother died very young and Agnes the older sister reared those boys. She was lovely and she used to serve the fish and chips and wrap it up in paper somehow that you could tear the top layer off, tip the salt in and walk up the street eating. There was Arthur, Andy, Nick and Jimmy. They all play first grade rugby league and Arthur and Andy were brilliant, tough as can be. Nick went to Kings School and he played first grade rugby union for Kings and Jimmy lived up in Reddall Street. I don't know if he is still alive, Pam could tell you. The Grallelis' were cousins and Irene married Jackie Love and she is still alive. She came to the last Historical Society meeting. They had the Florian Café.

Nick got married to an attractive wealthy girl from Sydney and they a gallery at Wedderburn called the Wombat Galleries. She was very arty. Andy only died a few years ago. He worked for the Department of Agriculture at the Glenfield Veterinary Research Station. They were good people. Agnes was lovely. She wouldn't have been much older than the oldest of them but she was the mother figure.

AA Do you remember McLean's Café in Railway Street?

AS I used to get off the train from school and have to wait another hour for the train to Menangle. We would be so hungry coming home from school. So we would go into McLean's and get ice cream with chocolate. I blamed that for my bad teeth. Rod is still alive. Mrs McLean would give you a penny ice cream and dip it in hundreds and thousands.

AA Was that the McLean that had something to do with St Elmo Estates?

TS No, that was a different one. That was Neil McLean; I think he came from Sydney. They were poles apart. All Neil McLean wanted was money. He did a lot for St Elmo but he had a few run ins with Council.