

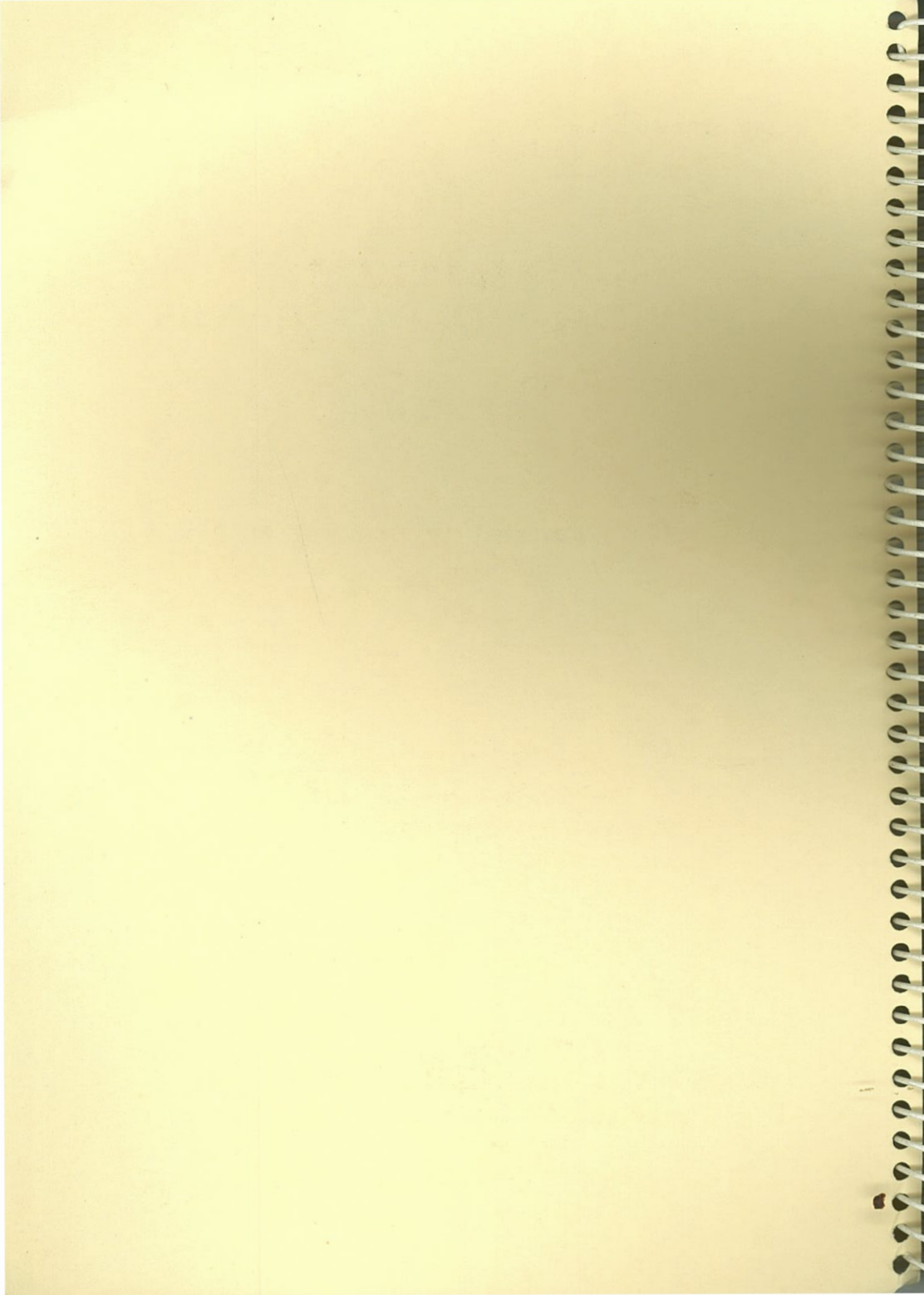
HERITAGE IN OUR HANDS

THE BOOK

Stories of the Deaf Community of N.S.W.

**Transcripts of HERITAGE IN OUR HANDS,
a series of 7 videotapes of interviews with
senior Deaf people in Auslan.**

**Adult Education Centre for Deaf
and Hearing Impaired Persons Inc.
and the
N.S.W. Association of the Deaf.**



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Editor
Michael Clancy.

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Published by:
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HERITAGE IN OUR HANDS

Heritage in our Hands is a series of 7 videotapes with *Heritage in our Hands, The Book*- the English Transcript.

The videotapes are recordings of interviews with senior Deaf people, made in Sydney in the Bicentennial year 1988. The interviews are done in Auslan with Deaf interviewers. The interviewees (storytellers) talk about their lives - about being deaf, school days, the deaf community etc. and give a rare insight into the lives of Deaf people over the past 70 - 80 years.

They have been edited into topics. The videotapes include voice-over in English.

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Bicentennial Video Project

Steering Committee:

Dorothy Shaw, Linda Warby, Dennis Johnston,
Diana Joyner, Donald Thornton, Nola Colefax,
Jenny Hudson, Alan Fairweather,

Storytellers:

Viola Alexander, Pearl Beath, Jack Christie, Peg
Christie, Nola Colefax, Alva Cross, Alan Fair-
weather, Bill Flaherty, Bob Herman, Val Hole,
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Heritage In Our Hands

Foreword

Heritage in Our Hands was made because we wanted to collect the stories and sign language of senior members of the Deaf community for future generations of Deaf and hearing people.

The Deaf community has been in existence in Australia for over 100 years, but we know very little about its early days.

Video technology has given us way of recording Deaf stories, history and language. With video, we can see the stories unfold on the hands and faces of the storytellers.

Heritage in Our Hands was recorded on professional quality videotape, so the stories can be preserved for future generations.

We hope you enjoy our work and we thank all those people who made the project possible.

Linda Warby, Michael Clancy, Dorothy Shaw.

The Making of Heritage in Our Hands

Background to the Project

For many years, leaders of the Deaf community such as Dot Shaw had been saying that there was a need to record the sign language of the older members of the Deaf community. Dot's parents were deaf and she remembers many remarkable deaf people from her childhood - people who have now passed away. The passing of these people was particularly sad because with their loss went their history, their stories and their sign language.

Alice Hagemeyer Librarian for the Deaf in Washington State Library, was sponsored to come to Australia by the State Library of N.S.W. Linda Warby, Nola Colefax and others were inspired by Alice, with the importance of collecting Deaf history. This visit planted the seed of the *Heritage* Project.

Deaf history can be written down, but because Sign Language is visual, Deaf history needs to be shown visually. Only film or video can fully record the stories of the Deaf culture.

Michael Clancy, Director of the Adult Education Centre for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Persons (A.E.C.), had worked with the Deaf community to produce other educational videos. When he got together with Dot Shaw and Linda Warby, the idea for the project started to take shape.

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At the end of 1987, the NSW Association of the Deaf and representatives of the Adult Education Centre decided to record a set of interviews as a Bicentennial project. A project committee was started and their first meeting was held in 1988.

The NSWAD became responsible for selecting and preparing the interviewees and the AEC was responsible for managing the video production.

The application was made for funding the project. With borrowed equipment from both Macquarie University and NAL, the first interviews were recorded by members of the project team using 3/4" Umatic videotape. The results were very poor and had to be discarded.

Unfortunately the application for funding was not successful: At a meeting of the AEC Management Council funds were approved to be used on the Heritage project. From that time it was recognised that a project of such importance needed to be professionally recorded.

It was clear at this time that the program would have many uses.

Firstly, it would be an historical record of the Deaf Community of Sydney (which included people from Melbourne). As such it recorded the unique stories of deaf people who at the time of recording varied from their late 50's to their 80's - people who grew up in the early and mid 20th century.

Secondly it would be a unique record of the languages used by these folk. Coming from both British and Scottish Protestant and from Irish Catholic signing backgrounds, these Australian Deaf

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folk and their teachers came from rich and varied language communities. This program may stand as one of the very few permanent historical records showing these languages.

Thirdly, this program would fill an important need in providing resources to assist in the development of professional interpreters.

Fourthly, because it includes many samples of natural language, it would provide an important resource for sign language research. Even before the program was released it was being used by Australia's foremost Sign Language researcher Dr. Trevor Johnston.

Fifthly, it would provide a resource for sign language classes, and in other areas of education, eg. Deaf Studies in schools for deaf children.

Sixthly, because it was a unique historical record, it was understood that the program would need to be preserved for the future. Even though videotapes deteriorate with time, with advancing technology, the program will be able to be converted to digital technology - such as a laser disk, which would make it permanent. As such it would then be a permanent record for all future generations.

For all these reasons, and because of the considerable time and effort required to produce this program, it was decided to aim for professional quality at each stage of the production. This turned out to be an expensive decision for the AEC and its staff and volunteers, as budgetry and time requirements escalated.

Meetings and training days were held. It was a new experience for

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everyone - as interviews had to be done by deaf people (Auslan users) - people who had never done interviews of this sort. Interviewing for oral history demanded particular skills, and the team had to prepare for this.

The name of the program was decided at one such meeting chaired by Dot Shaw. *Heritage* means *the culture, traditions and things of value which are passed down from one generation to the next*. This was important because the program was seen as a gift from the present generation of the Deaf to future generations. *In our hands* has two meanings. Obviously it refers to sign language which happens *in the hands*. *In Our Hands* also means *in our control - we own it* - referring to the fact that this *Heritage* belongs to the Deaf community.

Recording and Production of the Videotapes

The interviewees (storytellers), all came to the video studio and the recordings were done over two days. This took a lot of organising and this was done with the help of Jack Shaw and Dennis Johnston.

The video was recorded on a single camera using high band Umatic tape. About eleven hours of tape were recorded. VHS copies with visual time code were made for planning the editing.

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Interpreting

To make editing possible, a written script was necessary. Interpreters viewed the videos and voiced into a tape recorder. These tapes were typed by Judie Bonser. Because of the need for precision, it was necessary for several interpreters to check and recheck these scripts, to get them just right. This was a major task and with limited resources took 6 months to complete.

Editing.

Originally *Heritage in our Hands* was to present each interview in full, followed by the next. However at a meeting of the project committee, it was agreed that the program would have far more interest if it were edited into topics.

Suddenly a quite simple production became very complex. The reason being that it involved very detailed editing with all the planning and decision making that went with that.

Firstly, the scripts were examined and 5 topics were chosen which described the main themes of the interviews.

Dot Shaw and Linda Warby spent several months going through the written scripts, marking the topics, selecting the most interesting parts, then cutting and pasting them into topics.

Each tape then had to be viewed to find the exact edit points and these had to be written into the script. These were then entered onto a spreadsheet computer program to calculate the length of each tape. Each program was then adjusted in length so they would fit into one hour programs.

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The program has been edited so that with each new topic, we first see the older people progressing to the younger ones. This is followed by the storytellers using the Irish/Catholic signs with their one-handed fingerspelling.

The original plan was to make 5 hours of interviews, however Linda and Dot were unhappy about scrapping so much material and the decision was made to extend the program to 7 hours.

The editing was done from the high band Umatic tapes to one inch. This was done by by a professional editor with Michael Clancy and Linda Warby. The master tapes are on 1 inch videotape.

Voice-overs

The videotapes come with an English interpretation, spoken by professional interpreters (John Ferris, Karen Lantry and Della Goswell).

During the recording of the voice-overs, a new problem emerged - one of timing. Often the most accurate interpretation could not always be timed to coincide with the rate of sign language (e.g. sometimes there was not enough time to include the full voice translation of signs being used). This required further adjustments to the script and meant more long hours by the interpreters and more re-typing of each script by Judie Bonser.

The voice overs were recorded in a sound studio with Judie Bonser checking timing and accuracy. The pace of delivery and the need for appropriate intonation, timing and accuracy made this a very demanding task for the interpreters - especially with such a long program. Eventually it was completed.

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The final task was to add the opening and closing titles with music, then the tapes were finally ready. Copies were made and are being distributed by Deafness Resources Australia.

Heritage in our Hands was launched at an historical reunion at the old Darlington School for the Deaf (now part of Sydney University), during Deafness awareness week 1989. The Book was published in 1990.

A word from the interpreters

Script interpreting has been a new experience for all of us. Through the process we have developed and tried to adhere to guidelines which standardise the interpreting work. These are summarised as follows:

1. Match the English voice-over to the style and personality of the Auslan speaker.
2. Interpret into natural-sounding/conversational English.
3. Verbalise body language where appropriate.
4. Strike a balance when necessary between being faithful to the speaker's own choice of English words and making English grammatical 'sense'.
5. As timing is an inescapable restriction, streamlining some sections where the speaker is using pure Auslan (in these cases, we have not had the time to say all the words which would do justice to the wonderful visual descriptions).

Creating these scripts has involved some difficult choices and some compromises - as any interpreter knows there is often more than one "correct answer". We present you with our best shot!

TAPE 1.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

ALBERT JACKSON

I was born at Campsie. I have two brothers and one sister. My two brothers were hearing. I was the only deaf one. I was born deaf and later on went to Waratah School for two years. Then I transferred to St.Gabriel's School. I left school at 13 and my brother gave me a job when I was 14.

VAL HOLE

I was born in Bathurst

WHEN WAS THAT

Oh, I forget. 1896, 1896

OKAY, WERE YOU BORN DEAF

No, I went deaf from an accident riding in a sulky when a Chinese cart went past in the back lane and tipped the sulky over and I probably lost my hearing from the shock. I can't remember.

HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU BECAME DEAF

18 months old.

YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER, WHAT DID THEY DO WITH A DEAF DAUGHTER?

They just sent me to a public school, to be taught, and also a private school.

WAS IT ORAL?

Lipreading and writing. There was never any signing or finger-spelling. Just writing ABC was taught to me. I learnt the alphabet, numbers and how to write. Just simple things only.

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JACK MCGREGOR

I was born in Kalgoorlie. About one or two years before I was born, gold was discovered in Kalgoorlie. There was a big rush on with the population. My father was one of them. I was born there. Needless to say, I can't remember being born! (laughter)

WHAT YEAR WAS THAT?

1902. My father, I think, was not making much out of the mines. I don't know how long we lived in Kalgoorlie but I became deaf there when I was four and a half. I had meningitis. We then lived in South Africa for one year or more. Then, my sister who was one year contracted Meningitis too and became both deaf and blind. This was a bad disease in South Africa at the time because the natives had a lot of it as well. The doctor there told my parents that we should go back to Sydney lest my two brothers caught the disease too. Well, my mother and father obeyed. I remember this part well. We got into a boat. It seemed a big boat to us at the time but I am sure they are much bigger now. Well, we arrived back in Sydney and my mother and father bought a fruit shop City Road.

WAS IT NEWTOWN?

In Newtown, not far from the School and my father left us and went to South Africa because more gold was found there but had no success and came back. We lived in Newtown for some years in the shop but it did not do well so my father and mother moved to Leichhardt. Took the whole family. We lived there for two years. I went to school with my two brothers there. In a public school. My mother and father did not like me to be away from them. But my father was killed at his job. He was building a wharf at Balmain. A big one. My father was an overseer. He was in charge of the builders there but after being there for two years he was killed. Then my mother left Leichhardt and bought a house at Ryde. The house is still there. I go to see it occasionally. It was the only house there at the time but the area was all ready for buyers. Well, I went to school at Ryde with my brothers for one year. Then my mother thought I should be moved to Darlington when I was nine.

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JIM WILLIAMS

I was born on 28 December,

18TH DECEMBER, OK WHAT YEAR?

28 December.

AND WHAT YEAR? WHAT YEAR?

12

YOU MEAN 28 - 1928? GOOD. THAT'S WHEN YOU WERE BORN?

1912

WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

I was born in Weston.

WERE YOU BORN DEAF?

Yes, I was born at Weston. I was born deaf.

AND ARE YOUR PARENTS DEAF?

No.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS WERE THEY DEAF?

Well, there was Gladys and Ellis who is my brother.

SO THERE WERE THREE OF YOU, AND WERE YOU ALL BORN DEAF?

Gladys was born deaf then Ellis when he was ten.

NOLA COLEFAX

Yes, I was born on 16th August, 1921.

WERE YOU BORN DEAF?

No, I lost my hearing, I lost three senses, my sense of smell, taste and hearing from whooping cough when I was 14 months old. There was no vaccination at that time.

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WHEN YOU WERE 14 MONTHS OLD!

Yes.

SO WHAT DID YOUR PARENTS DO WHEN THEY FOUND OUT THAT YOU WERE DEAF?

Well, they did not realise I was deaf until I went to visit my Grandparents. I was over two and my Grandfather suspected that I was deaf and he told my parents and they were broken-hearted then they took me to one doctor after another.

BOB HERMAN

1917 in Junee. My brother is deaf. I was born after him.

WERE YOU BORN DEAF?

No, I became deaf at three. I had a bad accident and suffered shock. I was taken to hospital. I lost my speech and became deaf at three.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR BROTHER?

He had measles, that was different. It was lucky. We were good company together because we could sign together.

WHAT DID YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER DO WHEN THEY FOUND OUT THAT YOU WERE DEAF?

Well, we lived on a farm and we had wheat, fruit trees, poultry, many things.

YOU WERE DEAF AND YOUR BROTHER SO WERE YOU PUT INTO A DEAF SCHOOL OR WHAT?

My brother.....mother and father didn't know. They were unaware of a school for the deaf. They didn't know about it until they heard that when my brother was 11, that was late, so he at 11 was sent there. I was lucky. I was seven, it was earlier. We moved to Rockdale. We left the farm, it was during the Depression. It was a bad time so we sold the farm and moved to Rockdale.

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DOROTHY SHAW

I was born in 1921. I came into a deaf family. Both my parents are deaf and also my younger brother. Although my brother and father had some hearing but we felt that we were really a deaf family. In the family situation we always communicated with Total Communication using signs as well as fingerspelling.

BILL QUINN

BORN WHEN?

On 10th March, 1915.

RIGHT.

I wasn't born deaf. When I was 18 months old, I became deaf through Meningitis.

WHAT DID YOUR PARENTS DO WHEN THEY FOUND OUT YOU WERE DEAF?

They just left me alone. It was a long time ago and there was no serum in the hospitals. They were tough days.

RIGHT, ARE YOUR PARENTS OR BROTHERS AND SISTERS DEAF?

No, only me.

ALVA CROSS

I was born in Victoria at Wonthaggi, about 86 miles from Melbourne. My father used to be a coalminer at Wanthaggi for many years. I have a deaf sister.

JACK CHRISTIE

WHAT IS YOUR SIGN NAME?

Jack Christie like this. (As shown.)

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WHY IS THAT?

Because my body's thin, I think.

OH THIN, RIGHT! WHEN WERE YOU BORN?

1915

Now I am 73.

I SEE AND WERE YOU BORN DEAF?

No, I was born hearing until two years of age when I got measles then I became deaf.

AND WHEN YOUR MOTHER SAW THAT YOU ARE DEAF, DID SHE TAKE YOU TO A DEAF SCHOOL?

Oh no, I was taken to Brisbane Hospital to have a look at my ears to see what was wrong. They said it could not be cured then I went back home and stayed there until I was seven years old. I then went to a Deaf School.

BEFORE YOU WERE SEVEN YEARS OF AGE, HOW DID YOU COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR PARENTS?

I invented some signs. When I'd ask for "Mummy", I'd use this sign for earring. My Auntie was called "tooth" because it was gold, my sister was called "short hair" because her hair was cropped.

PEG CHRISTIE

WHAT IS YOUR SIGN NAME ?

Peg (as shown)

PEG, THAT'S EASY AND WHEN WERE YOU BORN?

May 11, 1923. A long time ago, I'm old. In England, London.

WERE YOU DEAF WHEN YOU WERE BORN?

No, I became deaf at 6 and a half years of age from Scarlet Fever. I spent 8 months in hospital. When I came home, I was stone deaf. I could hear nothing at all. But I was lucky. I went to a hearing school until I was ten, then the Government found out about me.

I SEE. YOU BECAME DEAF FROM HAVING SCARLET

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FEVER. WHEN YOU BECAME DEAF HOW DID YOU FEEL?

Well, at first I didn't really notice it. When I was in hospital for those eight months, my mum came with my father to see me, they stood beside the bed and there was a beautiful rainbow. My mother was talking to me and I asked her "Please speak up, I can't hear you." My mother turned around and started to cry. That was the first time perhaps but I never knew anything. I was happy. I went to a hearing school and they knew I was deaf and at the deaf school they knew I was deaf but when I left school, BANG! It was really bad. If you are born deaf perhaps you don't miss much but if you were hearing before it can be hard sometimes. I was shy too. Very shy. My mother and father weren't rich. They weren't poor, they were just in between but I had a wonderful family. My mother and father were wonderful, four brothers and a sister. It was lovely.

WERE THEY ALL DEAF?

Oh no, no. They were all hearing. I was the only deaf one. They never spoilt me. They made me stand on my own two feet but if something went wrong then they would help me.

ALAN FAIRWEATHER

BORN?

I was born in 1923. Where? In Drummoyne.

AND WERE YOU BORN DEAF?

Yes, I was born deaf, stone deaf. My mother and father are deaf and my sister is deaf too so communicating was good. Yes, we communicated very easily. At school all the kids said "Oh, he's so lucky he can sign with his parents. It's harder for us.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR PARENT'S FAMILIES? DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER DEAF RELATIVES?

Yes. My father had a deaf brother and my mother had a deaf brother so one on each side but none further back.

WANDA STEWART

BORN?

I was born in Wallsend near Newcastle. My father was a miner at that time then we moved to Sydney. I was born normal, alright, then we moved to Sydney. We used to live in Earlwood. I had an accident when I was 18 months old. A boy had a billycart and it had a nail on top of it. The boy pulled it out and I was sitting on it. When he pulled it, I fell backwards and hit the back of my head. I was rushed off to the doctor's home, I stiches then I was alright for about six months. Then I became deaf all of a sudden. My father came home and discovered it when I did not respond to my father calling my name. My father said to my mother, "I think she is deaf" and my mother said "No, she was alright today, this morning and this afternoon." But all of a sudden I had gone deaf. My father went round and tried all the different doctors and they all said "You're mad, there is nothing wrong with her hearing, she's alright!" So he had to just accept that I was deaf and then looked around and found the deaf school at Darlington.

ALAN JONES

I was born in 1923 in March.

AND WHERE?

In Culcairn which is near Albury.

THAT'S A LONG WAY AWAY. WERE YOU BORN DEAF?

I was told when I was born, I was born dead and the Doctor put me aside and was looking after my mother. The Doctor and the Nurses were looking after her. She was very exhausted, breathing heavily. While attending to her, (I) the baby, suddenly cried and the Doctors were surprised I was alive! I was born seven weeks premature and another thing, I was very light, a two pound baby with a tiny head, very small. They were surprised I was still alive. They used cotton wool and olive oil and rubbed all over my body. My parents never told me about this. It wasn't until my parents had died that I found out. That was only five years ago. Why my parents never told me, I don't know.

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AND HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT IT?

My mother didn't know, she just said I was born deaf, but I can hear a bit.

OKAY. HOW DID YOU COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR PARENTS? HOW?

I remember when I went to the Public School, it was a hearing school at Narrandera. My father worked in the Railways. He was a Goods Clerk. We moved to Narrandera for his work and I was placed in a hearing kindergarten. I only remember a little bit but I went into first class then later on my mother realised I was deaf. Whether it was from birth no-one knew. I was then placed in Darlington.

BEN TAYLOR

I was born on 17th July, 1927.

WERE YOU DEAF AT THAT TIME?

No. I became deaf when I was two as a result of German Measles.

WHEN YOU BECAME DEAF, WHAT DID YOUR FAMILY DO WITH YOU?

I have no idea. They did not tell me what their reactions were when I became deaf and later on when I was aged about 10, then they told me a number of things.

DON THORNTON

I was born on 3rd November, 1941, at Paddington.

WERE YOU BORN DEAF?

Yes, completely deaf like my mother and father. My father's name is Keith Thornton, my mother, Onita Thornton.

RIGHT! YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER, DO THEY HAVE PREVIOUS DEAF GENERATIONS?

No.

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WAS COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR PARENTS EASY?
Yes, we all went to the same school, Darlington, following each other.

TOM HOULCROFT

Melbourne, Victoria.

WHAT DAY, WHAT DATE?
1925. Oh, born 1918.

WHAT MONTH?
May.

MUST BE ABOUT 70 NOW?
Yes, 70 recently.

WHAT A GOOD AGE!

BILL FLAHERTY

3rd December, 1918.

**YOU'D BE 69, THAT'S A GOOD AGE.
YOUR NAME IS BILL FLAHERTY, WHO GAVE YOU THAT
NAME?**

It was Father Flaherty who found me and gave me to Foster Parents, then I was taken to St. Gabriel's.

HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU WENT TO ST. GABRIELS?

Five years old.

**AND WHERE DID YOU LIVE? WHAT TOWN WERE YOU
BORN IN?**

Maitland.

OH MAITLAND!

PEARL BEATH

1914, at Dongara in Western Australia. Then when I was three, they found I was deaf. They took me to the Dominican Nuns in Western Australia until I was five. They heard there was a deaf school at Waratah and a Nun brought me on a boat to Sydney. I don't know how long the trip took but we met Miss Hannoy (correct spelling - Hannah), long time ago, she was old and Ella Hutchins, she was hearing, took me to the Waratah School.

I stayed there from 1920 until 1947. The Nuns cared for me, dressed me, clothed me, fed me, and I stayed there. The Nuns took me on holidays and then a deaf girl's parents took me on holiday. Generally, Winnie Stark's mother took me to their place for Christmas, May, June and I stayed there until I was 43 when I left Waratah.

MARY MILLER

I was born in Denman, 16 miles from Muswellbrook. I lived on a farm at Gungal. My father worked as a train cutter. When I was three years of age, my father got killed. My brother was 20 months old and my mother took us to stay with my Grandmother and nieces and nephews on a farm. My Aunt used to play the piano while I sang "Baa Baa Black Sheep" everyday, until I stopped. Auntie turned to see why I was not talking and found that I was deaf, told my mother that I was deaf and she worried over me. She took me to see the doctor by sulky. We travelled 16 miles to see the Doctor. The Doctor found I had a bad gland. My mother was worried over me. Where would I go to school? She looked around, tried and found a deaf school in Sydney but I said I wouldn't go there. My mother didn't like it being so far away, she wondered what to do. Then a Redemptorist found I was deaf and thought it was better to put me into Waratah. I was eight years old when they put me into Waratah.

OKAY! CAN WE JUST GO BACK A BIT? BEFORE YOU

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WENT TO WARATAH, HOW DID YOU AND YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER? HOW DID YOU DO THAT?

Oh, my father didn't see me.

HOW DID YOUR MOTHER TALK TO YOU THEN?

Found by a good lady at the beach. She said "I have a deaf niece" and said we'd better go and meet her in Mayfield to meet the deaf girl's mother, and have a talk. Then I became great friends with Una Blake and they let me visit her by train often. I left Gungahlin to move to live in Muswellbrook. It was easier for me to travel. Meet with my deaf friends. The train would stop at Quirindi, Scone and Tamworth. It was good with mum.

VIOLA ALEXANDER

I was born in 1918.

WHERE?

In Sydney.

AND WAS YOUR FAMILY DEAF?

No, only me.

WERE YOU BORN DEAF?

No, I was born with measles.

WHAT FA....?

Oh, stupid! I did not mean that. I was deaf from measles. Sorry!

WHAT DID YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER DO WHEN YOU BECAME DEAF?

They did not know of any deaf schools. They put me into a hearing school and I stayed there until they found out there was a deaf school in Newtown. Put me there. I was eight. I stayed there until I was thirteen years of age. Then I went to Waratah School and stayed there for three years.

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RIGHT, THREE YEARS. BEFORE SCHOOL, HOW DID YOU COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER?

Oh, by speaking.

ORALLY!

JOY WARBY

29 June, 30.

1930?

Yes.

WHERE?

Collarenebri, near Moree.

WERE YOU BORN DEAF?

No, I lost my hearing when I was about 18 months old.

OKAY! HOW DID YOUR MOTHER FIND OUT ABOUT YOUR DEAFNESS?

Oh yes, my mother called out "Oh, Joy! Dinner!" I wouldn't listen. She worried, talked to father, thought it was better to visit the hospital and ask the doctor to look and see what happened to me. The Doctor said "Yes, she is deaf!"

HOW DID YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER TALK TO YOU?

Sorry, I can't remember.

THAT'S OKAY. DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER BROTHERS OR SISTERS WHO ARE DEAF?

No, three who are all hearing.

I SEE. DID YOU GO TO A DEAF SCHOOL?

Yes, my mother worried about me, where to send me to school. Worried, then told a Nurse from Far West Hospital in Manly saying what happened, and asked which school for the deaf. The Nurse knew where. I went to Manly for a while, but I can't remember for how long I stayed in Far West Hospital. Then a

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nurse showed me where the Waratah school was. I was frightened because of Nuns and all the deaf people. Then I was taken back to Far West and stayed a while and then started at Waratah when I was five and half years old. I started at school and was shy and frightened to see others there then after a few days, I can't remember what happened to me.

FIRST DAYS AT SCHOOL

VAL HOLE

DID YOU GO TO A DEAF SCHOOL?

When I was ten years old, I went to school. I went with...

WHICH SCHOOL? WHICH ONE?

The one at Darlington.

OH YES, DARLINGTON. RIGHT! WHEN YOU WERE TEN, COULD YOU SIGN?

Pardon?

BEFORE WHEN YOU WERE TEN, COULD YOU SIGN?

Oh, I cried, I didn't want to go. No, not allowed. I looked around and I cried and cried. I wanted to go home. Cried a lot. Later, I got better. I got together with some of the maids, and helpers. We got along. Things were quiet and I got along alright.

AND WHEN YOU FINISHED SCHOOL, WHAT AGE WAS THAT?

At 16, no, 16 and half..

JACK MCGREGOR

Mr. Watson, he was before Mr. Earlam, had just died when a month after, before M... no, two months before, Mr. Earlam came to Sydney and took charge of the school. I was his first new pupil.

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Mr. Earlam, never forgot that. He always brought visitors to our school. Showed them around the class rooms but came to me mostly because I was his first pupil. Always patting me on the back and saying "And he can talk too!" Everyone was amazed because I had Meningitis at the age of five. I could still talk but I didn't come to school until I was nine years old.

JIM WILLIAMS

EIGHT, YOU WERE EIGHT YEARS OLD WHEN YOU STARTED SCHOOL?

Yes.

AND WHERE?

Darlington.

WERE YOU A BIT CONFUSED WITH THE SIGNING?

Yes.

WHAT HAPPENED?

I saw the signing and I cried and I cried.

DID YOUR SISTER AND BROTHER GO TO DARLINGTON TOO?

They did. Ellis was at school earlier than me. He was older.

HE WAS FIRST AND YOU WERE SECOND.

Yes. My mother, myself and my sister, we went together. I was crying. Ellis was already at school. My mother, my mother sneaked over and said "I want to get rid of him" and quickly left. I was with Ellis, crying. They did a switch and went home.

NOLA COLEFAX

HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU STARTED AT THE DEAF SCHOOL?

Five. I remember my first day at school. I was shocked at my mother because I thought my mother dumped me into that awful

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place. I didn't know what was happening. I cried and cried all day. Then a kind senior girl picked me up and mothered me.

THAT'S LOVELY. BEFORE YOU WENT TO SCHOOL, HOW DID YOU COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR PARENTS? HOW?

Very poorly. It was mainly pointing, a few gestures, nothing much.

WHEN YOU WENT TO SCHOOL, WERE YOU SURPRISED TO SEE EVERYONE USING THEIR HANDS TO SIGN?

Yes, I thought I was in a "mad house". I was frightened. I had a tantrum about it. I screamed and cried. It was awful.

BOB HERMAN

YOU WENT TO DARLINGTON?

Yes, yes.

YOU WERE SEVEN WHEN YOU FIRST WENT THERE, WERE THEY SIGNING?

I was very nervous but my brother looked after me. I remember there were other new boys who were upset, frightened and crying. It was good to have my brother look after me. The others were crying. I just thought of that.

THAT'S LUCKY! AT HOME WITH YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER, HOW DID YOU COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER? HOW?

My mother and father were good fingerspellers. My two sisters could fingerspell well too. We conversed well. They never voiced. Used only fingerspelling.

GOOD!

I was taken to school by my sister and I stayed there for one week then on Fridays, my sister would come and pick me up then take me home.

DOROTHY SHAW

When I went to school, on the first day, of course, I was crying and missing my mum. Anyway, I enjoyed my school life from then on. When we, as new children, who came to the school were allocated numbers because of our towels and toothbrush hooks on the wall in the bathroom. A number was given for each child and my number was '37' so I would always know where to put my towel and toothbrush. Since that day we were always known by our number. "Where is girl 37?" or they would ask where is my brother "Boy 40". He was number 40. Anyway, I do think it was a bad start. Children should be known by their name but we were all known by our number. Anyway, as we grew up, naturally the children grew up getting to know their names later on. Many didn't remember the names but I do remember their numbers once they left school.

BILL QUINN

HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED AT SCHOOL?

I started when I was two. The school was the Waratah Catholic Boys and Girls School near Newcastle. I didn't stay for long as I had fallen and hit my head on some sandstone steps. My mother was furious and she took me home. One year later, I was then sent to another school, Darlington, when I was four.

SO FROM TWO UNTIL FOUR YOU WERE AT WARATAH. WHAT DID YOU LEARN TO SIGN THERE?

There was a deaf lady teacher there who was deaf and she would show me how to sketch yellow ducklings and white ducks and flowers and gave toys which were similar to the drawings on the board. I explored and learnt at only two years. I remember it well. The lady teacher's mother was a very close friend of my grandmother's, they were all Catholics. That's why I went to that school.

AND WERE THERE MANY BOYS THERE THEN?

Mostly girls. More than boys. I had left then in 1922, they were

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separated. The boys were sent to Castlehill and the girls continued at Waratah.

GOOD! YOU WENT TO DARLINGTON WHEN YOU WERE FOUR. WERE YOU SURPRISED AT THE DIFFERENT SIGNS OR DID IT LOOK THE SAME?

Yes, I was scared because of the large size of the school and the spiked fences around. It frightened me. But when I went inside and saw there were a lot of deaf, it was okay.

YOU FELT SECURE!

Some grew up with me until I was sixteen.

JACK CHRISTIE

GOOD. AT SEVEN, YOU STARTED SCHOOL AT DARLINGTON?

Yes.

HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN YOU FIRST SAW THEM USING SIGN LANGUAGE? HAD YOU SEEN SIGN LANGUAGE BEFORE?

No, nothing at all. Nothing.

WHAT DID YOU FEEL?

When I first went into Darlington, there was a huge, big building and big children. I was put in with the boys but first I had to go to the Doctor near the school. I was found to be fit to go to that school. I went in, my mother had gone and I was put with the big boys to take care of me. I cried. I said "Where's my mum?" But after a few days I got used to it.

ALAN FAIRWEATHER

My mother and father went to school at Darlington. The Superintendent was Samuel Watson. He had a bushy beard. We called him this because he had a bushy beard. (Demonstrates name sign.)

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There was also Mr. Byrne. He was still there when I came and Mr. Byrne was there in my parent's time. My parents met while at school. My mother fancied Alan, thought he was a good sort. And Elsie, my mother's name was Elsie, they noticed each other but after they left school, Elsie got another boyfriend. My mother was living in the country and my father thought he would write to Elsie. He wrote, my mother got excited then they married.

WONDERFUL!

Then I was born. They had been to the same school at Darlington as well.

SO WHEN YOU WENT TO SCHOOL, WAS THE SIGNING THE SAME OR DIFFERENT?

My mother and father said I had to go to school, but when I went, I didn't like it and I cried and cried. I had a tantrum. The other children were saying, "His parents are deaf, see his signing!" I couldn't fingerspell, only signed and I watched them. Then later I learned to fingerspell then when I went home, my parents were surprised to see me fingerspelling. Signs were the same but numbers were different. Mum would do 1,2,3,4.....9 like this (as demonstrated) but I was taught 1,2,3,4.... (as shown). It's sort of switched but signs were the same.

ALAN JONES

In 1930, I was put in when I was seven, at Darlington School. I was placed there. I don't know how many months but my parents had heard that I was doing poorly at picking things up. My parents withdrew me from that school and well, moved me. Mum made enquiries at the Deaf Club, the Adult one, at 5 Elizabeth Street. They had made lots of enquiries trying to find somewhere for me to board. A woman, Mrs. Booth, she was a retired teacher of the deaf from Darlington and her husband who was also deaf and that's where I went to board and I was taught there for nine months. I finally started to pick things up then I was placed back.

AT DARLINGTON?

At Darlington.

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DON THORNTON

GOOD. WHEN YOU WENT TO DARLINGTON. WERE YOU SURPRISED AT THE DIFFERENT SIGNING OR WAS IT THE SAME?

When my mother and father were talking, it was like the deaf way of talking.

When I went to the deaf school, it was different people and that's what made me cry. I wanted to go back home because my parents were deaf and it was so simple to communicate. Deaf people were harder to communicate with using different signs. I'd rather go back but my mother placed me there to get me used to the other deaf people there. The first person who came and looked after me was Don Edwards (name-sign demonstrated.) He comforted me.

TOM HOULCROFT

WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED SCHOOL, WHERE WAS THAT?

First at St.Kilda for one year. Finished, then went to the school for Catholics in 1925.

WHERE WAS THAT?

At Castlehill.

NEW SOUTH WALES!

St.Gabriels (demonstrates name.)

VIOLA ALEXANDER

AT THE DEAF SCHOOL, HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT SIGNING? HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?

Funny at first. Later, I picked it up. Took me a long time to learn one-handed fingerspelling, say one year.

DARLINGTON HAD ONE-HANDED FINGERSPELLING?

No, only at Waratah.

OH RIGHT, WHEN YOU MOVED TO WARATAH, WAS IT

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DIFFERENT - WAS THE FINGERSPELLING DIFFERENT?
Oh yes!

AND HOW DID YOU FEEL?

Strange. I was patient using one-handed fingerspelling. I was a boarder there. That helped me. If I was a daily, it would have taken me a long time.

BEN TAYLOR

YOU WENT TO A DEAF SCHOOL?

Yes. When I was four and half years old.

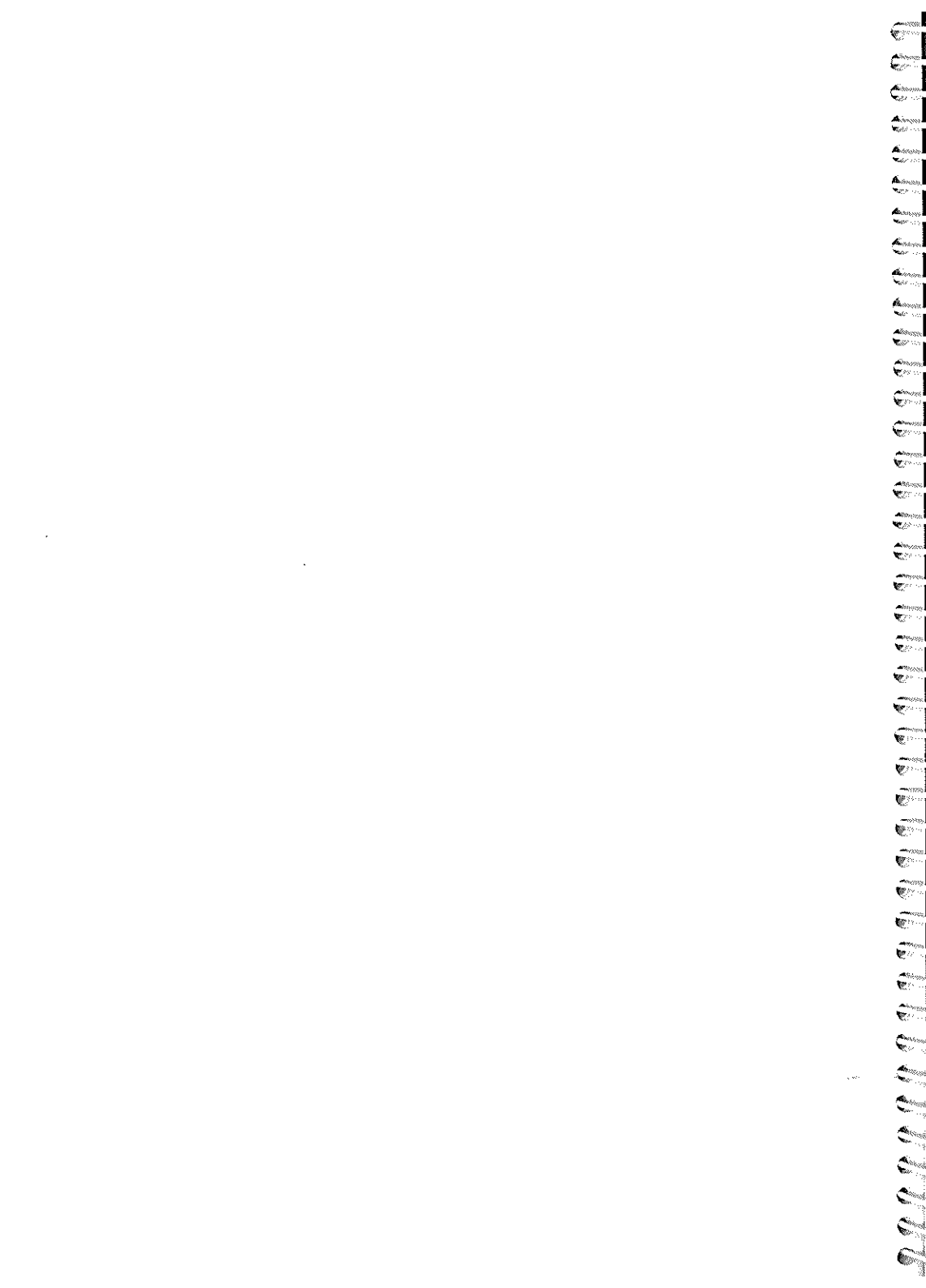
RIGHT! WHERE AT?

Darlington Deaf School.

AND BEFORE YOU WENT TO SCHOOL AT DARLINGTON,
HOW DID YOU COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR FAMILY
FROM TWO UNTIL FOUR AND A HALF?

By using some signs, very little really. I can't remember being that small. I started to understand when I was with the deaf school children then I realised I was deaf and began to sign.

END OF TAPE 1



TAPE 2. SCHOOL DAYS PART 1

ALBERT JACKSON

GOING BACK TO WHAT YOU WERE SAYING, YOU FIRST YOU WENT TO SCHOOL AT WARATAH, WERE YOU TAUGHT THERE BY NUNS?

Yes

THEN YOU WERE TRANSFERRED OVER TO ST.GABRIELS AND WERE YOU EDUCATED THERE BY THE BROTHERS?

Yes, three Brothers came from Ireland and they taught us all here.

PEG CHRISTIE

I had to go to a deaf boarding school a long way from home. I was there until I was 16. It was a good school in those days. The old teachers were good and dedicated. It was good. I learnt a lot. But at first when I went there and they opened the doors to go in, I was about seven, no, ten, they were all signing. It was awful. It frightened me. It took me one year to learn but after that it was good. I was lucky too in school. I jumped classes because I had an advantage as I said before. They gave me work to do on my own in a corner, then I'd work with the other children, then by myself. I was very lucky and I realise that now, how lucky, because the deaf are hard to teach language to. Then I left school in 1939, just before the war broke out. It broke my heart. In school, they knew I was deaf and they gave good service. When I left school and went into the hearing world, it depressed me. No-one understood me. No-one had time for me. Only my own family.

I WANT TO ASK ABOUT WHEN YOU WERE STILL GOING TO SCHOOL. YOU WERE VERY CLEVER IN YOUR CLASS AND YOU WERE PUT INTO THE CORNER SO THEY WERE TEACHING YOU SEPARATELY FROM THE OTHER PEOPLE. DID THE OTHER STUDENTS GET ON WELL WITH YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE SO CLEVER?

Oh yes, but sometimes I didn't think it was fair because I always won the prize. They should have had two lots. There was jealousy. They would be second, I came first, they came second. It looked bad. Yes. As a Supervisor, I was one at the same school myself, so I knew what was going on there. Some funny things happened, some sad.

ALAN FAIRWEATHER

No, deaf teachers there, no. Only Mr. MacGregor. He taught shoe repairs. He taught us that. He was the only deaf one. The others were all hearing, not deaf.

CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU REMEMBER AS YOUR BEST TIME AT SCHOOL?

Right, I remember, in Scouts. I was in Scouts. A new person, Mr. Ness came. We were sitting in a circle, waiting. We wondered if Mr. Ness was any good. He opened his book and was fingerspelling. We looked at each other. He fingerspelt big, hard words. He didn't realise about the deaf. He kept on fingerspelling. When he finished, he asked "What did I say?" We said "Don't know. Words were too hard, can't understand. Different for hearing and deaf. Hearing use big words, deaf like lighter language." He spoke with another teacher, apologised, and changed his ways. We felt better. Before, it went over our heads.

One time, there were three groups. The Magpies, the Kookaburras, the Koala Bears. Mr. Ness was walking around telling us what to do and we noticed something wrong on him. His bootstraps were wrong, his hat on the wrong way, tie crooked. Should we tell him? He might get angry. So we told him and he said "Wake up, tell me quickly!" Oops, we made a mistake.

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ALAN JONES

REALLY!

I really praise my parents. They paid money, rather than keep me home. Most parents took their children home but my parents kept me there and paid for nine months at school, no, at Booth's house.

Then, in school, I praise my teachers. They were very strict with me. Taught me how to behave and all sorts of things. About sport, gymnasium, cricket and were strong on soccer. It was good. My favourite teachers names were Mr. Lobb, Mr. Stearn, Percy, Wallace and some others. Women were Miss Cole, Miss Burns, Miss Morrison, a Scotswoman and others but the Superintendent was Earlam. It was good.

BEN TAYLOR

Education - I enjoyed it and I think it went well. On sport, a little because there was only a little sport at school. It was competitive and social games I enjoyed playing sport. And other achievements, I think there weren't any, nil, but I learnt some trade at school. Printing, it was good, interesting. I liked that. Went each afternoon after lunch for that. But when I finished school, it was difficult to get a job because it was war-time. Other achievements in school was carving, carving for printing. That was very good.

WHEN YOU WERE DOING PRINTING, DID YOU MAKE A MAGAZINE FOR THE DEAF SCHOOL?

Yes, I did. I did carvings, copying and printing. I did a lot of work there on the press. The printing was done at the school.

VERY GOOD. OKAY, DID YOU HAVE ANY DEAF TEACHERS AT THAT TIME?

No. All were hearing but we had one deaf teacher. He was only a boot repairer. He taught us that.

GOOD. HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU FINISHED SCHOOL?

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Sixteen and a half. When it was war-time, the Government put us out and the Airforce Department came and took over the school for their accommodation and so-on. The Deaf School students then had to do their schooling by mail correspondence. I felt that wasn't good enough.

WANDA STEWART

Till 1941, the War came. About Christmas, December, or just after Christmas sometime, all the students went back to School. I was surprised to see so few pupils. Only a few. I wondered what happened! Many of the deaf children who lived in the country had to stay there because the R.A.A.F. took over the Deaf School. Those of us who lived in the city were forced to leave the school. The R.A.A.F. took it over. We weren't able to learn anything. My mother was a school teacher and she put me into a High School at Stanmore. I was taught there for one and half years until the War conditions improved then we went back to the Deaf School.

AND DID YOU SEE ANY NEW FACES.....? (Unable to see question.)

Everyone was the same. Maybe they went to Pymble, the smaller ones. Must be kept separate from us so they wouldn't learn signing from us which was considered bad. We were all signing then and that was good for us. We learnt sewing, knitting, cooking, all different things, Maths, English, geo..(pause)

GEOGRAPHY?

Yes, geography but I never learned History. No. It all seemed okay till I left school at sixteen.

BILL FLAHERTY

Brother Allen.

RIGHT AND THEN WHO WERE THE OTHERS?

Brother Farrell from Ireland.

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GOOD, AND WAS ALLEN GOOD AT TEACHING?

Yes, good teaching at school, everything, and poems and everything. Very good.

POEMS?

Yes, poems.

OH, POEMS!

At school.

CAN YOU REMEMBER ANY POEMS?

Do it after?

DO IT NOW?

Now?

CAN YOU DO IT NOW?

Is it alright? Alright.

"Baby sleeps, mother is crying, sobbing for the father who has gone away fishing. She prays, please come home safely. The Angel looks down tenderly at the baby sleeping. Whispers to the baby and says "I will look after your father and bring him home safely". Then at dawn, she looks up, sees father coming home. She cries with joy. He picks up the baby and says "I dreamt an Angel came and told you I would be kept safe. Bless you."

THAT WAS LOVELY!

PEARL BEATH

WHEN YOU WERE AT WARATAH AS A YOUNG GIRL DID YOU HAVE ANY DEAF TEACHERS?

Oh yes. Esther Hutchison and Agnes Lynch and Maud Bruyn.

HOW DID THEY BECAME TEACHERS?

I don't know. At school, the Nuns taught signs, taught by the Nuns!

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WHAT DID ESTHER TEACH?

Taught religious lecture and Sums to 1st,2nd,3rd, and 4th Class. Esther was in 3rd Class. 5th & 6th were by the Nuns. Older classes were taught by the Nuns. Mother Columbia who is now dead, taught the little ones, and there were others.

CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT DID AGNES LYNCH TEACH?

Children in 2nd Class, hers were the little ones from 6 to 9 years of age. They were Agnes'.

THE YOUNGER ONES! THEN WHAT ABOUT MAUD?

Sewing, Vestments for the Priests and the Nuns too.

SHE WASN'T TEACHING?

No, only sewing.

GOOD, ANY OTHERS?

Esther. She taught 6th Class. She taught 6th Class.

RIGHT! AT WARATAH , DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU REMEMBER YOU WANT TO TELL ME ABOUT WARATAH SCHOOL?

Oh, a long time ago, I was bold, cranky, while Nuns corrected me. I easily got cranky and Maud, no it was Agnes would always send me to roll the tennis court. I was cranky, easily angered.

VIOLA ALEXANDER

WHY DID YOU MOVE FROM DARLINGTON TO WARATAH?

I was interested to see what their teaching was like so I went there. I am happy I went there. I learnt more experience there.

RIGHT AND DID YOU KNOW SOMEONE FROM WARATAH WHEN YOU WERE AT DARLINGTON?

Only one, Vera then Caroline. I can't remember her other name. I met her and she told me about Waratah. I went there. She was the only one. Later on I got to know the others.

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WHAT DID YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT SCHOOL?

Umm, I liked the Nun's teaching. More discipline. Better education there.

MMM. DID YOU HAVE ANY DEAF TEACHERS AT THAT TIME?

No.

CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT YOUR LESSONS AT WARA-TAH?

Mostly about religion. Lots of religion. Sacred History and other subjects but mostly it was religion and history.

I'VE HEARD THAT YOU CAN DO RECITEMENT. CAN YOU SHOW ME SOME OF THAT?

Prayers.

YES.

Our Father?

WHATEVER YOU CAN SHOW ME. I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A LOOK.

Yes.

"Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven, Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them who trespass against us, And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from Evil, Amen.

(CLAP, CLAP) LOOKS LOVELY! I LIKED IT. DO YOU KNOW ANOTHER ONE?

Hail Mary?

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT! YES, PLEASE.

"Hail Mary, Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus, Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death, Amen.

(CLAP, CLAP) LOVELY! WONDERFUL! YOU CAN

REMEMBER THAT! I LIKED IT!

JOY WARBY

Yes, when I first started. Sarah, sorry mistake, late teacher Sarah Page, she taught us, first words, cat, dog. Later, learnt all different things in lessons. And Agnes Lynch, deaf teacher.

WAS THAT AGNES? (Demonstrates name signs.)
Yes.

RIGHT!

Deaf! She taught us more lessons, more lessons then moved up three classes. Later, Esther Hutchison, she taught us lots of things and many more, then Sr. Mary Reggis taught us, until I was 16, then I left school.

CONVERSATION BETWEEN THREE WOMEN, PEARL BEATH, MARY MILLER AND JOY WARBY. THE THREE WOMEN ARE FROM WARATAH.

PEARL:

Long time ago, we complained about the awful food, always the same. Apples, awful, bread spread and porridge, awful. Teachers had lovely tea and cakes.

JOY:

Yes.

PEARL:

Yes, we had the same awful food. Dinner was cold every day. We complained.

MARY:

What about the grubs in the cabbage?

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PEARL:

Cabbage, horrible.

MARY:

Yes, yes.

PEARL:

It was not well cooked, spinach awful. I refused to eat and the Nun made me eat it.

MARY/PEARL:

Yes, yes.

PEARL:

I ate and later I vomited suddenly. Nun worried over me and gave me ginger beer to drink to settle me down. Never again would I eat that!

MARY:

And when it was my turn to work, I'd give out everybody all the dry bread. For myself I'd keep the fresh bread and spread it with syrup, always helped myself with the last bread and I'd give everyone else all the dry bread.

JOY:

I remember the Nun ordering us to wash up heaps and heaps. We had to take turns.

MARY:

Yes, we always raced with washing up to see who finished first. Then it was time to go upstairs to the wash room. Esther would always watch us to make sure we brushed our hair and do the younger children's hair. Very strict. Tell us to go off and wash our faces.

MARY AND JOY:

Yes, every Saturday.

PEARL:

And polished our shoes.

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MARY AND JOY:

Yes, polish our shoes.

JOY:

When we finished, we had to go upstairs then wash our hands, make the beds, wash and sweep the floors. Do you remember?

MARY:

Yes, every morning, it was my turn in school to sweep the floor, gather up the tea leaves. Young man would always be faster. We always had to sweep very hard to catch up then climb upstairs to the washroom, one girl fainted and she had fits. She had to be taken downstairs to the Infirmary. She was okay.

JOY:

Remember, we wanted to play at bedtime but we were not allowed.

MARY:

Not allowed.

JOY:

We were told to go to bed at 7.00 p.m.

MARY:

Lights were switched on and off.

PEARL:

Yes. We lost points.

MARY:

I was frightened of ghosts in the ceiling in the man-hole.

JOY:

Yes, yes. I was frightened.

MARY:

We would run and scream to the children's bedroom.

PEARL:

If we were bold, and not obey Esther, she used to count marks until

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Christmas and wouldn't get marks if we disobeyed.

MARY:

Yes, count marks.

JOY:

Different for us children.

JOY:

Yes, do you remember we had examinations for writing in school. At Christmas time, they'd announce who were the winners. I would be excited but then disappointed I lost the reward for the examination. Remember? I lost and was disappointed while the others won. I thought they were so lucky.

MARY:

One day a deaf girl was lost. We looked everywhere. We could not find her. We looked in the bathroom, toilet room and found her down the toilet chute where we had to put all the soiled clothes. She was stuck there and we had to climb in and pull her out.

JOY:

What was her name?

MARY:

I can't remember. She was deaf. It was a long time ago. Same with another deaf girl. While we were eating we noticed she was missing. "Where is deaf girl, Chrissie Clarke?" We looked everywhere for her until a man who came out of church told us he saw a deaf girl jump out of a toilet window and fall down but she didn't break any bones.

JOY:

Lucky!

MARY:

We were all shocked and frightened. If she landed on the cement floor, she would have hurt herself. She was saved. Deaf girl from W.A. The man couldn't help because the fence was too high.

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JOY:

Too high!

MARY:

He saw her and luckily she was alright.

Once, Eileen O'Hagen, we were in bed, she woke me up and asked me to get up and take her to the lavatory. It was the same toilet Chrissie fell out of the window. Lucky I didn't lock the door because the knob was falling off. But Chrissie got stuck in there and we were very lucky. Then in the morning, we found out what happened to Chrissie.

JOY:

You?

PEARL:

Remember, long time ago, Jean Parker and Jean Britz (MB)? The Nun sent her to look for them. Couldn't find them in the bedroom, the bathroom, but down in the washroom, found them having a bath together, kicking and splashing behind the door. We opened the window, saw them, Marie and Jean. Tried to unlock the door but couldn't. We told the Gardener and he climbed in and unlocked the door and gave them a spanking. Said "Dangerous, you could have drowned. Mothers would cry!" They stood there shivering, Marie and Jean.

JOY:

I never forgot at school, it was after you both had left school. I'll never forget this girl. We looked everywhere and couldn't find her. Remember the old tram? They told us they found a girl in Newcastle. She was riding to the beach, back and forth to school.

MARY:

Free rides!

JOY:

Yes. We were told we must watch her but we didn't know where she was. I will never forget that.

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PEARL:

We must play games, tennis, netball and others at three o'clock after school. We must not stand around. We must go and play. We loved running, netball and we would always would fight, making noises and the Nuns told us to stop the games. Had to go back to school at 4 o'clock. I remember.

JOY:

Yes. Remember, we used to play hide and seek? It was great. I liked one big tree and I would hid behind it.

MARY:

Yes, the Fig Tree, the Fig Tree.

JOY:

Nobody wanted to hide there because the tree smelt, but I hid behind that tree and held my nose and wait and run and win the game. I never forgot that.

MARY:

Remember, one night after dinner we would all like to go and have a swing. One deaf girl thought she could ride on the swing very high and she did, then fell down and hit her forehead. Margaret Whittaker.

PEARL:

Margaret Whittaker.

MARY:

She was taken to hospital and had five stitches. After she left school, she died.

PEARL:

She died.

MARY:

She lived at Goulburn - Braidwood.

JOY:

Remember our secret name for Esther? We used to call her

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“tongue under the bottom lip.” If we saw her coming, we would pretend to write. She asked “What did you just call me?” We said “Nothing” Esther said it was awful to say that. She showed us how she wanted to be called “E on the chin”. Remember? Mother Mary Madeleine, we called her this sign. (demonstrates) Shhh! Mother Mary Madeleine coming, we were naughty giving names for all the teachers. We shouldn’t call them names and it was not nice.

PEARL:

Yes.

JOY:

Come on, what next?

MARY:

Do you play tennis?

JOY:

No, I am not good at tennis. You both were.

PEARL:

We played tennis.

MARY:

We played tennis.

MARY:

Sometimes we’d fight, telling you right or wrong, saying the ball was on line. We argued 30 to 40 and argued. We sometimes won. Nowadays tennis courts aren’t there at Waratah. All gone.

JOY:

Yes, It’s all flat, there is only a fence. Better in the old days. Yes.

MARY:

There was no bathing pool then. No, no. Remember, we went to Newcastle Beach? We laughed as we used to wear old gowns going to the beach. Oh yes, from knees up. Remember, the old tram and it only cost 4 pence for a fare.

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JOY:

Remember, a kind man used to take us to go to the movies. Only good, lovely movies.

MARY:

Yes.

PEARL:

Free! Free!

JOY:

Not all the time.

PEARL:

Once, remember, one day we thought a movie was good then we met Father Forde and he said it was a bad movie we saw. Father Forde was not very happy.

JOY:

I don't remember that.

PEARL:

Father Forde said it was awful.

MARY:

Excuse me. (Reaches for a drink of water.)

PEARL:

Always before November, on "Gift Afternoon" we went swimming. We got sunburnt so we had yellow iodine painted on our bodies. Then next day, we had a concert and we looked very yellow because of the iodine. I'll never forget that.

MARY:

No, I thought it was milk.

PEARL:

No, first it was yellow iodine painted on us. We were in front of the Concert. At Waratah, we always go swimming once a year.

MARY/ JOY:

Yes, yes.

ALBERT JACKSON

COULD YOU USE THE ONE HANDED OR TWO HANDED ALPHABET?

One handed! The two-handed alphabet was not allowed, only the one-handed. When I left school and got a job, I went to the Deaf Club when I was 16 years old, in Elizabeth Street. I went in and they were using two-handed. I did not know the two hands. I only knew how one-hand. So I learnt and developed the two-handed alphabet and picked up on signing. I felt stupid not being able to communicate. It was good I picked up signs from all the older deaf people at the pub. Talking with them was more interesting. It gave me better communication.

NOLA COLEFAX

DURING YOUR TIME AT SCHOOL, DID YOU HAVE ANY DEAF TEACHERS?

No, never.

SO ALL THE TEACHERS, WERE THEY ABLE TO SIGN IN THE CLASSROOM?

It was not allowed. Only when I was a Senior that Mrs. Stearn, who was the best teacher I ever had used fingerspelling. It was not allowed. It was mostly oral.

SO IN YOUR TIME, IT WAS ORAL AT DARLINGTON?

Oh yes, definitely!

DOROTHY SHAW

Yes, the same. Both we and our parents could communicate but my parents used more fingerspelling. We signed at school, yes. My teachers, Mrs. Saunders and Mr. Cook, fingerspelt using some

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signs. Mr. Cook, in my final three years, I was under Mr. Cook. We girls, children, students I mean, always looked forward to Wednesday afternoons from 2 O'Clock for one or half an hour when Mr. Cook would sign stories from what he was reading in a book. Perhaps it would be a chapter, he would read it then sign and tell us children then finish and stop. Then next week it would be like a series/chapter. "Darn it!", it was interesting but we would have to wait to hear the next part but it was in sign language. He used some of his own signs, like for kill, he would use the sign for "cut the throat" but the children understood him. It was like that in all the stories. It was good! I think it helps the children to understand the concepts of stories like that. He might read from a Charles Dickens book and other stories too. It was wonderful. Good.

BILL QUINN

IN DARLINGTON, DID YOU HAVE ANY DEAF TEACHERS AT THAT TIME?

None. Much later they had a deaf person who came on, Mr. McGregor but he was a bootmaking teacher. All the teachers who were there were dedicated, they worked long hours but were a happy mob. At night, there was homework, long hours. It did us good. Signing, fingerspelling, when I was small, I watched the older children and learnt from the bigger boys. They helped with better education.

THAT'S WONDERFUL.

Fingerspelling and signing it's natural! Oralism was for the girls. They were better. For the girls, they could take it. The boys couldn't do it. They failed.

THAT WAS AT DARLINGTON?

Yes.

AND WHEN WAS THAT?

Oralism?

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YES.

Late. I started when I was four, until thirteen, they started the Oral system. One male teacher went to the States, then came back using the one-handed alphabet. We failed to follow that. Again, he went away to England and came back with the Oral System and that's what caused problems amongst the teachers. They questioned the boys, if it was good, but we didn't like it. The girls accepted it well and there was a division.

JACK CHRISTIE

For myself, I liked learning Soccer and Cricket. It was good and I improved. My education, good, improving. A lot of oral, I didn't like it. I had to nod yes, even if I didn't understand what the teacher said. If you didn't know, the teacher would pull your hair and bang your head on the wall, and it hurt so I'd just say "yes, yes, yes." That was bad. They gave no explanation, that was bad!

PEG CHRISTIE

Now a lot of deaf people have bad language, all mixed up, jumbled. How can they write when the teachers in the schools don't teach them much. I think teachers waste far too much time in trying to make them talk, mother, father, brother, oh cut it out. If they can talk, well then good. But if they can't why waste time. Use that time for language. First, sign "Here comes pussy" then write it down. That would be better than if you expect deaf people to talk. But how can they when they don't even have language to talk with because they have never been taught language in the first place. Why doesn't that get through. I believe in oralism and signing, yes, but together but you must have sign and fingerspelling, must! Must! When they grow up and get out there, they can please themselves. I have noticed many deaf people at school or whatever but when they leave school the mothers and fathers teach them things and they pick things up. It's good. No need to worry about talking. Language, first language - they need it. Very much. I hope many teachers realise that. Let them talk in sign language, it's easier. With the mouth movements, it's good. When it's oral

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you say "Bah, bah". At school, children had to put our hand up to the chin with a feather all morning we would practice "moTHER, moTHER, moTHER". They would ask the children "What does mother mean?" and the children didn't even know what it meant anyway. It was a waste of time.

WANDA STEWART

IN SCHOOL, DID YOU HAVE A SIGN NAME?

Yes, some. Depends "small". That was because I was very small. Or there were two Margarets. One was "tall, Margaret" one was "short, Margaret", so the deaf knew which one.

SO WHEN SCHOOL FINISHED, DID YOU HAVE A NEW NAME SIGN?

No, it became less.

THEY JUST CALLED YOU WANDA?

Yes, just Wanda. Yes.

I first learned to lipread. Simple words when I was five, six, seven when I learnt to lipread. No signing, not at all. No fingerspelling, no signs, nothing.

AT DARLINGTON?

Darlington, yes. The children only learnt from watching the bigger ones and grabbing on. It was the only way we learnt it from the other deaf. Fingerspelling and signing. Then, when I was six, seven, eight, we did not learn much because we didn't grasp what the teacher was trying to teach us. We didn't grasp on until one man, a teacher, he was a very, very good teacher, and at first we were scared of him, because he was so different to all the other teachers. He was a rather good teacher. He asked us to write and found we had very, very bad grammar. He was dedicated to teach us and we worked very hard. He worked us very hard until we grasped more and more and got better. Then we learnt better due to him having so much patience. He was a good teacher. His name was Mr. Stearn. He was very good.

ALAN JONES

GOOD. IN SCHOOL DID YOU LEARN TO SIGN OR DID YOU LEARN TO SIGN BEFORE GOING TO SCHOOL, WHICH?

I have a brother who is hearing. He is one year older than me. He was very quick to learn fingerspelling and practised. So when I went to meet my brother, he would fingerspell and I would sign. I was surprised my brother was so clever at fingerspelling. We had a private sign language, which we shared, and over the visits it improved. He was very close to me.

DON THORNTON

DID YOU HAVE ANY HEARING AIDS?

Yes, when I was young but I threw them out. I don't know why and because other deaf people didn't have hearing aids I just followed them.

AND WERE YOU A BOARDER OR A DAILY?

Yes, I was a boarder during the weekdays. When it was weekends I went home.

RIGHT. THE TEACHERS, WERE THEY GOOD COMMUNICATORS? ORAL? HARD TO UNDERSTAND?

Some were simple to follow. There was Mr. Shaw or Mr. Davis, Mr. Jones, who could fingerspell and sign. It was simple to communicate with them.

JOY WARBY

WHAT ABOUT SIGN LANGUAGE

Yes.

IN THE FAR WEST. DID YOU HAVE ANY?

No.

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AT WARATAH?

Yes.

NOLA COLEFAX

OKAY. WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME, ABOUT THE BEST MOMENTS YOU CAN REMEMBER AT DARLINGTON?

Well, I remember Kingsford-Smith, Charles Kingsford-Smith visiting the school. He picked up the children in his arms. I didn't know what or who this person was. They were taking lots of photos and he was in the newspapers. I want to show you. This is Kingsford-Smith and this is me. (Shows photo)

LOVELY.

I was five then. This was on Sports Day. He brought a replica of the Art Union prize, the plane, the "Southern Cross" in gold. That's it here. That's me and there he is. His pet charity was helping the School for the Deaf and Blind.

I remember I saw him at school twice and flew with him all over Sydney. I was about seven then. We sat on forms on the sides of the plane, not in rows, on the sides and held hands. Our hearts were thumping, it was good!

WONDERFUL!

It was called the "Old Bus". Not the "Southern Cross". Very light and small.

RIGHT! IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT FROM DARLINGTON?

Yes, the school building was very beautiful. I want to show you a picture. (Shows picture) The right side was for girls, the other part for boys. The far right was the playing field. The boys had their own field, and behind, the blind had their own field. The fields were in different places (Points to towers in picture.) These towers here. No one dared to climb up the towers. We were told that a ghost or a bad man lived up there. We were terrified up there.

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DOES IT STILL LOOK THE SAME NOW?

Yes. The school had its 100 Years Celebration and another visit - OPEN only for the deaf. We did go up into the tower and found there was no bad man living up there. It was nothing. (Laughter)
They are the towers.

BOB HERMAN

I will never forget Sir Kingsford-Smith, the flier. He offered to give flights around for free but had to wait and ask mothers and fathers for permission. My parents gave it. Some parents said yes, some said no for their children to go on the flight. Three or four children couldn't go because their parents didn't give permission. Poor children, they cried a lot. They said "You're are lucky you can go on the plane." It was good. Anyway, they called him "Smithy" for short. He was a good-hearted man and he really loved the deaf school children. He gave generous donations. He was very good to the deaf.

AND COULD HE SIGN?

No, no. He was a hearing person.

YOU SAW HIM QUITE OFTEN?

Yes, around. He loved the deaf.

HE WAS A WELL KNOWN MAN. YOU WERE LUCKY TO HAVE MET HIM.

Yes. Good. Anyway, I have a funny story. One night in the "Day Room" we were talking with each other, suddenly we got a fright. A deaf boy came in holding a flying fox in his hand. It was flapping wildly. He was showing it to us and everyone was scared. He was running around going "Ahh, ahh". It was from one of the big Fig Trees around. The teacher said, "Get it out". We all laughed so much. He threw it down.

AND WHO WAS THAT?

His name was John Kennedy. It was so funny!

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I REMEMBER YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT PLAYING YOUR SPORT ON RAINY DAYS IN THE CELLAR.

Yes.

IS THAT RIGHT?

Yes.

CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THAT?

When it was raining heavily and we didn't know what to do, so we would go down into the cellar. There were pillars which made it hard. We played cricket using a tennis ball, hitting it about. If it was cold, we would play soccer, kicking the ball dodging the pillars. We would be running around, playing and it would be exciting. It was near the woodwork area. It was a big area. We were lucky to have that area.

THAT MUST HAVE BEEN A BIG CELLAR?

Yes, huge.

DID THE TEACHERS PLAY THE SPORTS WITH YOU ALL?

Yes, we competed against them in cricket and soccer. It was exciting, very good.

I remember some nights at school, in the "Day Room" with the others, talking, playing cards, table tennis. They called us over to put on gloves for boxing. Some would, some wouldn't, they were frightened. Some said yes and got into it, others were scared. Some even got serious. What other things did we do? Teachers asked if we would like to go to the pictures. We'd say, good, yes. At night, we went to Enmore Theatre for films. . We walked along, all marching in line. People would look at us as we went along.

FROM DARLINGTON?

Yes. At night from the school, marching along in procession. It was free. They were silent movies with the words on the screen. It was good. Another one, The Hub.

WHAT WAS THAT?

In Newtown, that is what it was called. We would alternate

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theatres. Not weekly, maybe once a month. It was good.

AND DID THE TEACHERS ONLY TAKE YOU TO SEE SILENT MOVIES WITH THE WORDS ON THE SCREEN?

Yes, yes. It was good with the words.

VERY GOOD!

It was interesting.

Then, the Annual Sports for Athletics held every year at Rushcutters Bay. All the parents, brothers and sisters would come in crowds, big crowds, every year. We had running, hurdles, the girls had theirs and us boys had ours. We'd run around the track. Then two would straddle a high beam like a horse and hit with pillows.

REALLY, PILLOW FIGHTING!

Yes, and they would pillow fight until they fell off and there was tug of war, it was great. Every year we did that.

DO THEY STILL DO THAT NOW?

Not sure. Haven't heard. I don't know what North Rocks do there.

I remember before, I used to be in the Boy Scouts. A regular night, every week. I think there were two or three Divisions shown by the markings on the sleeves, like Kookaburra, another one called Magpies and a third. We'd have competitions, lessons. It was good. We'd go camping twice a year.

GOOD!

We'd have instructions on setting up camp. Photography, that was good too.

AND HOW DID YOU GET TO YOUR CAMP? IN YOUR TIME?

By train, steam engine. We get off the train carrying our things over our shoulders and we had to walk along a bush track to where we would camp. Our Scout Master who instructed us was a hearing person. He was good, he had been good to us all. His name was Tom Hallister, I think. He was good.

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ALAN JONES

DID YOU HAVE ANY DEAF TEACHERS IN YOUR TIME?
Not teachers, No. There was a Supervisor, Mr. MacGregor. He was very good to me. On weekends, and sometimes in school time, we would go out on outings. On weekends, at school I was lonely - so we'd go out. Mr. MacGregor would take us out to lots of different places. I remember with six others we were allowed to go out and walk to Mascot Aerodrome when that area was a swamp. But now, now it is completely full of houses and factories. It was such a small airport at the time but now it is so big. I remember that time.

I'd hang around until I got to my brother's school gate. He would come and meet me and we would play together every day for three weeks because we went to separate schools.

SO WHEN YOU LEFT SCHOOL, DID YOU GO TO WORK?
There's something else, can I change the subject?

SURE.

I remember about soccer. I was Captain at the School for about one or two years. We won every game but we never had a major win, so we asked why. We found out it was different in winter. We had three week's holidays but the hearing teams still played. So we had to forfeit our points. What a waste of points which put us behind. I congratulate my team for all the wins. I remember playing against Marrickville 27 - nil, in soccer!

Another thing I praise - in school when I was nine, I was drowning and a friend's relative saved me from the Murrumbidgee River. I had drowned but was revived so at school I learned to swim well. I won so many medals. I also got my Life Saving Certificate, and other Certificates. I really praise the School for teaching me.

DON THORNTON

At my school we had a good playground. I will never forget one

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thing we had and that was a billycart track. We would have four or five races around the track and the teachers would allow us to play there until there was an accident so then they stopped it. We were so disappointed because truly the bilycarts gave us such a good time.

WHO HAD THE ACCIDENT?

Barry Regan. He ran over his finger and he was sent to hospital so the teachers said we had to stop it.

I SEE!

Some out in the back, had a garden and we used to dig and work in the garden. The teacher asked us what we would like to do after school. We said we would like to do carpentry so they said we could come in and do some carpentry and we used to do that at night. Sometimes we'd play in the field, football. When there was no competition, we had just all deaf teams and would go out and play. We never stopped.

DID YOU HAVE YOUR OWN SIGN NAME IN SCHOOL?

Yes, "First Brother" because I have two other deaf brothers. They called me "First Brother" then there was "Second Brother" and "Third Brother".

ARE YOU STILL CALLED THAT TODAY?

I don't know.

They just call me Donald Thornton, that's all.

DOROTHY SHAW

During school times we had wonderful teachers. Dedicated, they worked for many years. I know of one, Miss Jeffreys. I forgot to say that I went to St.Kilda School for the deaf in Melbourne. The teacher, Miss Jeffries started there when she was seventeen and stayed until she retired at 60, 65. That's most of her whole life. The same as Miss Saunders too. Miss Saunders was my teacher. Okay.

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ANY DEAF TEACHERS?

No, there were no deaf teachers there but I remember there was one deaf man who started teaching there around 1935 or 1934. He started teaching for six months then after that due to pressure from other teachers or the Department of Education, objecting because he did not have qualifications although he was clever and intelligent. Maybe he should have been allowed to learn, given studies the same time as teaching, but he went probably due to pressures from the other teachers who probably said "I've got my diploma, he hasn't. It's not fair". It is like the Trade Union, rules and all that stuff. No ticket, no work like you see on notices around. But going back to Miss Jeffries and Miss Saunders, they started with no training. They learnt at their work. They picked things up and improved and so on. There is no difference really. At the time, it depends on what rules apply. School!

My brother has some hearing. I am very deaf and was put into a manual class. Whereas my brother was put into an oral class because he has some hearing and I think that's sensible too, that's what I think. It's not worth trying to force very deaf children to concentrate on oral. I'd rather the manual method. It's good. Oh, well!

END OF TAPE 2

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TAPE 3. SCHOOL DAYS PART 2

JIM WILLIAMS

DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS, WEEKENDS OR HOME DAYS, DID YOU GO BACK HOME OR DID YOU STAY AT SCHOOL FULL-TIME?

I stayed there full-time. When all the other school friends were asked "Who wants Jim to go and stay with them?" First they made phone calls and then I'd be told that tomorrow I would be going away.

BOB HERMAN

WERE YOU ALWAYS A DAILY STUDENT AT DARLINGTON SCHOOL?

No, one week I'd stay one week. On weekends, I would go to and from home with my sister. When I grew up I went by myself, I caught the tram and the train. Then, some deaf who were from the country, stayed almost all year. They were lonely, poor things - they stayed right up until Christmas then went home. A few were 'daily' - only a few. Most went home on weekends.

DOROTHY SHAW

Right, I was a weekly boarder. Good, thanks for asking me - it makes me think of my boarding times. We, as children, loved to play up in the dorm. When the Supervisor had gone, we'd get up and run around. The beds faced each other in rows in the dormitory, all in a row. We'd play up until the light went on, we knew she was coming, so we jumped back into bed. She'd lift the blankets, if your feet were cold, you'd get a spanking. If they were warm, you'd been asleep so it was okay, then she'd check the rest.

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THAT WAS CLEVER!

Good, and we children, the girls, had to wash... ahh, dry-up, wash and dry-up, at lunch times and at the evening meals. Right. And we had to sweep the dormitory floors, scattering the tea leaves, scattering them to settle the dust, to stop it rising, and we'd sweep them up. It was a good idea. Well, today, we just vacuum now.

Well. We'd have bread, spread with dripping, for our tea. Ummm?

WHY DID THEY GIVE YOU DRIPPING AT YOUR SCHOOL?

They couldn't afford butter, maybe. I don't know. Dripping was spread on the bread. We'd sit around a table and at one end was an urn of tea. Tea would be passed around the table and there was a pile of bread spread with dripping, sometimes jam, sometimes syrup. At midday, we'd have a hot meal, Aghhh! Some were awful! Anyway, we had to eat them or we'd starve!

BILL QUINN

WERE YOU A DAILY OR A BOARDER?

A Boarder at first, until I was thirteen. At weekends, I'd go home.

DID YOUR PARENTS LIVE IN SYDNEY AT THAT TIME?

Yes, in Paddington, then they moved to Ramsgate. Mmmm!

MMMMM!

PEG CHRISTIE

One small thing perhaps there was a long table in the dining room, a long table, with 22 girls down the sides. One little girl who always put her elbows on the table. We could not stop her from putting her elbows on the table. So one day I got two small plates and went quietly behind her and put one down on either side. She saw me as I put her elbows on the plates. She started to cry. She ate her dinner and we left her there. From then on she never put

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her elbows on the table again. It's good to teach them small things. And I taught them how to be quick with setting plates on the table. When we'd finished we had maybe 5 to 10 minutes before Grace so I always had time to teach them little things. From my pocket I'd get maybe a 6 pence, the old money, 6 pence or a penny to show them the different coins. It was lovely.

Another time, in the dormitory before going to bed and putting the lights out, we'd always say a small prayer. Kneeling beside our beds, each one of us in turn would come and say "God bless Mum, Dad, brother, sister, baby, dog, pussy." If I, as a little girl, had forgotten something, all the others would say "Hey, you forgot, you forgot dog, you forgot dog!" "Can I say it again?" "Alright, again." "God bless Mummy, etc." It was good. Then time went by. Sometimes I was a bit cross because the teachers in the school would sometimes ask me to explain to the children. Why ask me? They were the teachers! They should've explained, but no - blah, blah, blah! and they couldn't understand that. I'd sign to them on the quiet, in private. Why was that bad? The teachers should've taught them in the school rooms. It was very hard. It's still a bit like that now perhaps.

HOW LONG HAD YOU BEEN WORKING WITH THOSE DEAF CHILDREN?

In England?

YES, IN ENGLAND.

Eleven years. Eleven years, then I had some problems, my own personal troubles. My two brothers came here, so I followed them out here. But at first when I came here I had nowhere to go. No work, nothing. One teacher at the English school knew someone here - Mr. Lobb, from the Queensland Deaf School before. She had given me a letter of introduction, so I wrote to him and he wrote back saying when I arrived, to visit him and he'd give me a job there. Good, cause my brother was in Queensland too! So it was good. When I came out here I went to see him but there was nothing at all. He wasn't interested in me at all. Oh, I was so depressed. I don't know. I was upset. No job, not much money. I was with my brother but I felt tied to him. I didn't like it. So, I

thought about Adelaide! There was a Mr. and Mrs. Barkham, the Headmaster and the Matron at the school in Adelaide. Their daughter and another friend working there, were two of my little children in England. I was their Supervisor. So I wrote to them and asked them to give me a job. They said "yes," but, Queensland was where my brother was Adelaide, it was such a long way. My brother said "No, it's easy to save money and catch a plane." So I went there. I was there for three years but, to be honest, I was not impressed because.....it was not, the school, was not one big school, but bits and pieces all over the place. In one, there were a few oral, in another, a few blind, little babies in another one, and the deaf in another again. They weren't all together in one school, no, all over the place! In the Deaf school there were not enough children to make good classes. Only one boys class and one girls class. In that class there were girls aged 12,13,14,15,16 and 17. How can you teach 12 year olds at the same time as 16 and 17 year olds? You can't! I didn't like it very much but I had to stay there for a few years. Umm, what happens then?

WELL FOR THOSE YEARS, DID YOU FIND THAT THE DEAF CHILDREN WOULD FOLLOW YOU MORE THAN THE HEARING TEACHER?

Oh yes.

THEY'D WATCH YOU?

Yes, but many times I was told off for signing because I'd work with the deaf children first, at the Adelaide School, then sometimes they'd put me to work with the oral deaf and they must not sign, must not! One day the teacher and I were in the Day Room. A small girl, she was 7 or 8, came in and left the door open. She came in and the teacher mouthed to her "Shut the door." The little girl smiled and nodded. The teacher said again "Shut the door" and the girl kept smiling and nodded. So all I did was sign "Shut the door." Oh, the teacher blew her top and said "Don't sign!" That little girl understood me - I gave meaning to the words and language... Oh, you must not sign there in the oral school. It was bad.

ALVA CROSS

DURING YOUR SCHOOL DAYS, DID SOME THING HAPPEN DURING YOUR WHO WERE YOUR TEACHERS?

As, I was boarding at the Deaf School.

BOARDING?

Yes, boarding, I loved it. It was good! I stayed there because my mother and father lived in the country. My school teacher was Miss Hautrive for ten years. That's her name-sign. (Demonstrates) Yes, for ten years. Later, after a while, I was put with Miss Jeffrey. Do you know Miss Jeffrey? Just for a few months then I finished and left.

ALAN FAIRWEATHER

At school, in the dormitory, every morning we'd get up and I'd make my own bed, then go and collect the used tea-leaves and scatter them over the floor then sweep it all up. The thrown tea leaves were swept up so the tea leaves weren't wasted. It left a lovely, clean floor. If we used bad manners, or were in trouble with the teacher - for being rude, cheeky - the teacher would note it down, until one day the teacher would call the bad boys from the list. Line us up and be told "No school for you!" In single file we had to pick up bricks and carry them far away to another area, then come back to collect more. Back and forth for one or two hours. We'd have to carry them across and leave them. That was our punishment for being naughty.

REALLY! YOU WERE A BOARDER?

Yes, I was a boarder.

FULL-TIME OR WEEKLY?

Yes, full time. Every month I'd go home even though Drummoynes was close. My mother said "I was a boarder when I went to school." Darn! I said "What about the other boys?" She said "No!" and so I had to put up with it.

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The food was so, so. I missed my mum's cooking - I'd been spoilt. I hated the school meals. I had to wait for the monthly trip home, while I was 7,8,9, 10 then when I was 11, I joined the Scouts. I told my mother "I really want to go home for the weekends. Please sign the note." She gave permission and Mr. Earlam approved it. I was so excited to go home for the weekends. At last! At 14 or 15, I asked to go home every day. Mum refused "No". I kept asking until finally I was a daily. I loved going to the movies, out at night, going out all the time. I will never forget those times.

ALAN JONES

IN SCHOOL DID YOU ACHIEVE ANY THING? DID YOU SUCCEED IN PERHAPS BEING TOP OF THE CLASS OR DID YOU DO WELL IN SCHOOL?

Well, I was always happier there than being at home, my parents home. It was awful at home. It was better at school because I would never see my brother during my holidays. He had different public holidays. My holidays were in winter but the 'hearing' had theirs at Easter. I'd arrive home but my brother and sister were still at school. I'd hang around then go to their school gate. Finally, they'd come then we'd play and play every afternoon for three weeks, yes three weeks, so our holidays were at separate times. It was bad luck.

At school, when I was thirteen, the teachers always put us on the trains to go home every school holidays. The teacher had put me on the wrong train at Central to - I don't know where, it wasn't until it arrived at Tumut, I found it was the wrong train. I thought about my parents waiting there at Narrandera. I thought "Oh, poor things." I met the Station Master at Tumut and asked if he could wire a message to my father who worked as a railway clerk at the station. He sent the message but I had to wait to go home. I waited for hours so I did some work cleaning the train carriages, sweeping the floors. I found some money so I handed it in but he let me keep it. I went shopping for food, waiting to go home, I had to wait for hours, until the afternoon. I caught the train then changed over to a Goods Train, I was taken into the guard's van, that was at

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Cootamundra. We travelled and changed trains at Junee. Travelled further until I got to my father, at Narrandera, that night, I arrived one day late. My father came up to me and saw I wasn't crying for home. I was happy, travelling was great!

BEN TAYLOR

It was interesting. When we finished, out of hours, I'd play games, like cowboys. I always enjoyed activities with my deaf school mates all the time.

SO THAT MEANS YOU WERE A BOARDER?

Yes. Home every four weeks for one weekend - every 4th week. Some deaf children went home every week. They were lucky, it was different for me. I lived, I lived in Manly which was close. Other deaf school children lived far away and yet they went home every week. Me! Every fourth. Why? I don't know what my parent's reasons were for me staying longer at the school.

DON THORNTON

ANY MORE FOR NOW?

I will never forget when I was boarding in school, when it finished and I had to go home, I should have caught the electric train but it was better to catch the steam train. When it arrived at Lidcombe, where I lived, my brother and I would race up to the top of the platform and wait for the train to come back. The steam would blow up from under us as the train passed through. We had such a good time with the trains going past. When we arrived home, my mother would say "What's that?" My shirt was covered with black spots. I knew it was because of the steam trains.

When my mother asked me to do the shopping, my brother and I would go but I knew there would be lots of groceries so I'd take the billycart. We walked to the shop, filled it up and pulled it home again, every weekend, every Saturday.

BILL FLAHERTY

After the games had finished, a hearing Brother would line us up and select some boys to do the gardening and say "You get the fork and a hoe," telling us what to do. He would say "Your group do the gardening." Another Brother would supervise the gardening, others would do the lawns with clippers.

CLIPPERS?

Yes, all the lawns using clippers, right through. When all was finished, at four o'clock and all the gardening was done, at four o'clock, we turned everything off, then everyone came back for afternoon tea when it was finished. Then the next morning, on the farm we had milking cows. We got such a lot of milk. It was good. Before then there was only a little but now a lot we wondered why and told Brother "We have so much milk!" Brother said "Good, good. I wonder why?" Finally the Brother found out a boy had forgotten to shut the gate and the cows had eaten all the cabbage.

OH TERRIBLE!

There were no vegetables left. That's why we had plenty of milk. We were given punishment and were not allowed to see movies for seven weeks. (Laughter.)

**OH POOR BOYS! THAT WAS SAD!
WHEN YOU...(Pause) YOU TALKED ABOUT THE SWIMMING POOL. DID YOU AND THE BOYS HELP TO MAKE THE SWIMMING POOL AT SCHOOL!**

Oh yes. We boys, with buckets full of dirt would carry and empty them. The Brother would shovel dirt into buckets and the boys carried them over their shoulders. The Brother counted how many times each boy carried. He did a tally for each boy. Then when we finished, the Brother would give lollies. If it was eight buckets, we got eight lollies.

GOOD!
Yes.

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POOL NOT THERE NOW?

No, no more.

JOY WARBY

Sisters told us all to do the work, the rooms, the washing up, set the tables.

WHAT WAS THE BEST MOMENT OR A TIME YOU CAN NEVER FORGET AT SCHOOL? WAS THERE SOMETHING?

Games at school, sewing, things like that.

YOUR MOTHER, SHE STILL LIVED IN COLLARENEBRI?

No.

SHE TRAVELLED.....

Oh yes, she travelled up and down. My mother worried about me, how I could travel by train. Then my mother thought she'd better sell the house in Collarenebri then move to live in Mayfield in Newcastle. It was closer to the school. I was a boarder in the Rosary Convent at Waratah and even when my mother moved, I stayed and visited Mum once a month, stayed the weekend and went home every three months - or term - I would go home for holidays, then later, do the same.

DID YOUR MOTHER LEARN TO SIGN WHEN YOU WENT TO SCHOOL?

Yes, not sign language. Only or mostly the alphabet. Yes. Same with my three sisters, used fingerspelling, very few signs, natural sign language.

CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT WAS THE BEST MOMENT AT WARATAH?

Sisters telling us to do the work, rooms, washing up, setting the tables.

WHAT WAS THE BEST MOMENT OR THE TIME YOU CAN

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NEVER FORGET AT SCHOOL? WAS THERE SOMETHING?

Games at school, sewing, things like that.

ALBERT JACKSON

CAN YOU REMEMBER YOUR SCHOOL TIMES? WHAT HAPPENED WITH TOM HOULCROFT?

He was younger. I was his guardian. I washed and combed his hair.

YOU LOOKED AFTER HIM!

I cleaned his teeth when he was small. Tom Houlcroft. (name-sign demonstrated.)

DID EACH OF THE BOYS HAVE AN OLDER ONE TO LOOK AFTER THEM, ONE TO ONE, DID ALL THE OLDER BOYS HAVE TO LOOK AFTER THE YOUNGER BOYS AT ST. GABRIELS?

We had a woman. She looked after the younger children. It was a woman, she was the mistress we had.

JACK McGREGOR

I left school when I was sixteen. I had only six year's education but I caught up with all the other children. I was too smart, they just kept putting me up to higher and higher classes.

Well, well when I left school at sixteen I went to my home in the country. At that time my mother had re-married. She was a sheep farmer. We liked it very much. The farm was 5,000, 5,000 acres. It was not a big one. Other farmers had 10,000, or 20,000. As the farms went west, further and further it in the far west, they didn't have much rain so there was so little grass. There were few sheep, the same as my father had near the coast. Some farmers in the Northern Territory or Central Australia have half a million acres now.

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not really Captain, I was vice-Captain. When football season was over Mr. Goldsmith, remember him? Wanted all the team dressed, to get into their football clothes to take a photo of us. Well, we were all together and the Captain of the team was very unpopular with all the children at school. He was a bully. Some of us were sitting down, sitting in rows, and others were standing at the back. Mr. Goldsmith didn't like the bully so he took the football from him. The date on the football was "1916". Mr. Goldsmith took the football and gave it to me, I was sitting next to him. He was angry, the captain, he said "I'm the Captain, not him!" Mr. Goldsmith said "Stop it. He's the Captain now." (Laughter!)

All the team were pleased. He was a bully. We disliked him. I wish I brought the photo today with me.

PITY, PITY!

It's this big. He looked very angry and I'm there with a big smile. (Laughter)

WHEN YOU WERE WORKING THERE AS ONE OF THE STAFF, BOOT REPAIR TEACHING THAT, AND YOUR OTHER DUTIES, WHAT WERE THEY?

Just be on duty, because the teachers lived at home they left after school had finished at 3 o'clock. They'd eat at school, they'd come in the morning to work and go home at 3 o'clock. Not all, but most did. Well, I did duty from when school finished at 3 o'clock to tea time and do more at 7 o'clock till bed time. I saw them to bed. Saw them to bath every night and get them all off to bed. I was glad to be rid of them. (Laughter) When they were in bed all in a row, I warned them, "Behave yourselves, don't play up when I am gone." Often they did, so did I when I was at school! I knew well. (Laughter)

DID THOSE BOYS DO SOME HOMEWORK?

Yes, they did.

DID YOU HELP?

No. There was a teacher for one hour every evening, I was with

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When I left school...mm..... at sixteen, I, ...Mr. Earlam wanted me to stay at school and be a teacher. I said "No, I want to go home." I liked riding horses. I liked shearing. I could sheep, shear sheep well at the time

GOOD!

but after being there for six, yes, six and half years, I became fed up with farming. It was very lonely for deaf people. The nearest town was 30 miles, other farms were two or three miles away, or five or ten miles the other way. We never saw people except the mail man who brought, ohh, the mail.

Well, I came to Sydney. It was during the Depression. Mr. Lang was the Premier of N.S.W. He was a bad one. I roamed the streets for a job for one, one and half years. Could not get one. Then Mr. Earlam heard of me walking the streets. I had a letter from him and he said "Come to see me." I didn't know why. I went to him. Errr....He said "Can't you find a job in Sydney? Why did you leave the farm?" I said "I, nobody talks to me at home. No other deaf people." Well, Mr. Earlam said, "I have a job for you." "Have you?" "I have, yes!" "Yes." I said "Where is it?" Mr. Earlam said "Here! I want you on the staff."

GOOD. LUCKY OPPORTUNITY.

I forgot to tell you before. Two or three years before, Mr. Earlam's son became a Jackaroo at my home so Mr. Earlam wanted to pay it back to me and my people.

GOOD!

Well, my job was to teach the children shoe repairing at school. I learnt it myself while I was a child at school. It's still the same shop, err..... boot shop.

Well, I taught them there for about 25 years and when not in the boot shop I was on duty with the children. I wasn't all day in the boot shop, only afternoons. I'd do duty out of school hours and I, for a time, was Sports Master playing football.

GOOD!

I was a good player when I was at school. I became Captain, but

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the little ones, playing with them till they went to bed. And I lived at the school. It was my duty to call the boys at half past six every morning too.

TAPPING THEM ALL!

“Get up, get up, everybody.” Then I’d go down to the other dormitory and say, “Get up, get up.” And to the next one and get them up. I’d see them make their beds. They had to do it themselves. I made my own bed when I was a kid at school too. Same for them. They had to do it. Then sweep the dormitories as well every morning except weekends. Then I rested.

SPORT

ALBERT JACKSON

DID YOU PLAY SPORTS WITH THE DEAF?

Yes, we competed against hearing High Schools. Soccer and cricket, drill, exercises, swimming, and others.

GOOD!

JIM WILLIAMS

DID YOU PLAY SPORT AT SCHOOL?

Yes.

WERE YOU GOOD AT SPORT IN SCHOOL?

Yes, soccer and cricket.

WHEN YOU FINISHED SCHOOL, WHAT DID YOU DO FOR SPORT? WHAT DID YOU DO? CONTINUE PLAYING SOCCER?

Stopped.

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STOPPED?

Then I started playing again.

AND CRICKET. DID YOU CONTINUE PLAYING CRICKET AFTER SCHOOL HAD FINISHED?

Yes. When school finished, I played.

WITH WHO? WHO?

A few boys.

DEAF OR HEARING? DEAF?

Yes. Yes.

WHEN SCHOOL FINISHED....., WHEN YOU FINISHED SCHOOL...

Yes, when that finished then we played cricket.

OH, CRICKET, AND SOCCER? YOU PLAYED SOCCER, IS THAT RIGHT?

Yes, when it was the hot season, too hot to play, we would change over.

OH, TO CRICKET?

Yes. Cricket!

AND THAT WAS IN SCHOOL AND AFTER YOU LEFT SCHOOL?

Yes.

NOLA COLEFAX

DID YOU PLAY SPORT?

Yes.

WHAT SPORT? WHAT DID YOU ACHIEVE?

I'm not much of a sports person, but I played basketball, tennis but I wasn't fantastic.

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BOB HERMAN

ON THE WEEKENDS YOU WENT HOME? GOOD. DID YOU LIKE SCHOOL?

Yes, it was good. I liked it.

TEACHERS AND SPORT? DID YOU GET TO THE TOP?

It was exciting. I want to tell you more about it. There were over 100 boys. A lot of us. It was good. We played cricket and soccer. We competed against hearing teams in cricket, travelling all over. Same with soccer, against the hearing teams travelling, going to different venues. It was exciting. And, The HERALD, they published the results, the cricket performances, all the scores, who beat who. The scores were published in the HERALD. Now, there's nothing, it's different. Before, they put everything in, regularly. It was good.

We'd go swimming, often we'd go weekly by tram, tram to Coogee Beach for swimming. It was good. Other times we'd go to the Domain Park for Life Saving Lectures. We'd put on our costumes, had our exams and passed. Then into the pool. It was good.

DOROTHY SHAW

I did exercises, rounders, and tennis in the school. We didn't, didn't play against the hearing, not in my time. But we had gym, oh yes, gym, gymnastics. I liked that, it was good.

One evening a year, a special evening. We children had to line up and walk to Prahran Town Hall to give a display of gymnastics. People in the audience watched - parents and friends.

When, perhaps from 7 till half past 8 or 9 when it was finished, and we all had to walk back in lines, back to school. When we arrived, the school was dark with one small light. We filed into the Dining Room, and there were cockroaches everywhere. We were surprised to see them. In the day time we never saw them. At night, we children jumped with fright and toddled upstairs to bed.

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ALAN FAIRWEATHER

I didn't like playing cricket, or football but I liked tennis. Sometimes I played tennis. Not much football, they weren't my type. I'm more gentle, I'm not the rough type, no.

ALAN JONES

I remember football, soccer. We always won. I was the Captain in the school for 1 or 2 years. We always won but we never had a major win. "Why?" When we asked, it was different: My school, in winter, had three weeks off. But the hearing continued. Our games were forfeited. What a waste of points - we dropped behind. I praise my team - for all their wins. I remember playing against Marrickville. We were 27 to 0, 27 in soccer!

DON THORNTON

DID YOU PLAY SPORT?

Yes. Cricket and soccer. Soccer was according to weight, 7 stone 7 lb, so my team were the lightweights, and the others were heavyweights, they were out. My team, sometimes we won, sometimes we lost.,

Sometimes we played basketball depending if someone could come from the University to watch and teach us to play basketball, so then we'd play basketball.

GOOD. WITH SOCCER, DID YOU COMPETE AGAINST THE HEARING TEAMS?

Yes, against other hearing schools. Yes.

VIOLA ALEXANDER

DID YOU PLAY SPORT AT SCHOOL?

You mean at Waratah?

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BOTH SCHOOLS!

Tennis, basketball. Those two in Darlington. At Waratah, nothing. Little bit of tennis, that's all.

JOY WARBY

Only played Vigoro in the old days. We played hide and seek. Very good! There were different games. We would stand in a circle, someone would drop a handkerchief and then there was a chase. It was very good. Yes.

AFTER SCHOOL

ALBERT JACKSON

WHY DID YOU LEAVE SO EARLY?

One Sunday I was in Church, the deaf were all at the Church. When it finished, we all came out and the Priest asked me to please smooth out the quilts on all the beds in the dormitory. I told him I'd finished, I'd done the beds. I said "I've finished!" He said "Please go and do it again." I said "I've finished." Then he lost his temper; he smacked me and punched me and I cried and cried and I walked to my neighbour's house near the school, and explained him hitting me. So the neighbour went to see the Priest and had a talk. After one week my mother came and spoke to the Principal and they said I must leave, at 13, leave the school because of the trouble.

When I was 63, I went to Ireland and visited the Deaf School at Cabra. I met the Priest, the same one who had belted me. We shook hands and he told me I was clever, I was surprised. We talked, had a nice talk. The next year he died.

LUCKY YOU MET HIM BEFORE HE DIED.

Yes, lucky I saw him. Forget the past and what he said.

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BOB HERMAN

For many years there was a great tradition, down the generations. There were pictures of soccer and cricket teams, pictures in sequence on the walls. It was good.

Then that stopped and later on, the school was sold to the University. It made us deaf people, many of us, sad! It was a painful loss. It would've been better kept for future generations. What a loss. We had to bear it. Then it moved to North Rocks.....tsk!

Now, they've improved it. I went back and visited the school. It had closed and now belongs to the University. I had a look around and there are big improvements, they're fixing it up. Oh, such a pity, I miss it....Oh well.

DO YOU WISH YOU WERE STILL THERE NOW?

Oh yes! It was good. Now I notice deaf schools are in different locations. That's a big difference to my time, we didn't have small units. It was better, well I prefer one big school for the deaf where we can all come together. The wonderful tradition can be passed on. Anyway, I think that's all I have to say.

TOM HOULCROFT

AT ST.GABRIELS, DID YOU HAVE TRAMS RUNNING UP AND DOWN?

Yes.

CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT IT?

Yes, when we began at school, we caught the tram. First, the steam tram.

YES, STEAM.

Then secondly, motor. From Castlehill to Parramatta, only three pence, three pence.

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THREEPENCE!

Yes. Threepence. Now the price has gone up to \$1.00 and soon it will be \$2.00.

WHERE DID THE TRAM COME FROM? FROM PARRAMATTA TO ST.GABRIELS?

Yes, it went past the school. We would get off at the school, on our left, go down and up through the paddock to the School. It would terminate at Rogan's Hill.

DID YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER OFTEN COME BY TRAM TO VISIT YOU?

No, I came from Melbourne. Other times for picnics, we'd go by train.

YOU SAID BEFORE THAT WHEN THE TRAM STOPPED, THERE WERE MANY PARENTS RIDING ON IT AND WOULD GET OFF AND WALK THROUGH A Paddock. IS THAT RIGHT?

Yes, cow paddock, they'd walk through and up. It was near the gate. I'd forgotten that. It's been years. The trams went along near the road from Parramatta at ...

NOT THERE ANY MORE?

No. Now it's all changed to buses.

DID THE SCHOOL HAVE A FIRE ONE YEAR?

Yes.

WERE YOU THERE?

No. All the boys had gone home for holidays. I heard about it from the wireless and in the paper. "St. Gabriel's Fire". An electrical fault. Half of it was burnt down.

IT WAS BUILT UP AGAIN?

Yes.

THE SCHOOL WAS NEW?

Yes. In the same old place, but built up again in 1937.

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THERE'S A PHOTO OF THE BUILDING THERE? (Looking at photo.)

I took that photo. I climbed a tree and went up and took the photo. There are two.

WAS THAT THE NEW BIT?

Finished and new!

INTERESTING.

DON THORNTON

WHEN YOU WERE AT DARLINGTON, DID YOU KNOW THERE WERE OTHER DEAF SCHOOLS OR DID YOU THINK IT WAS THE ONLY ONE?

I knew of one in ummm..., where the blind school was. Later when I was reading history, I was surprised there was another one at Pymble. I never knew about that one. Other deaf children told me, they went to school there but only for 3 years. I was surprised. I thought there was only Darlington, but there were others.

I KNOW YOUR PARENTS MAY HAVE TOLD YOU SOME OF THEIR STORIES FROM THE OLD DAYS. CAN YOU REMEMBER SOME TO TELL ME?

Yes. He said that in Darlington School there were only two floors in the building, just two, but I noticed there were three floors. How come they made the extra floor? It was because of the increase of deaf children, so they built another level. He said, always in the mornings, they'd go to gym. He asked "Did I go to gym at school and I said, sometimes, sometimes. But in his time, they went to gym all the time. I didn't.

Later when my father left school, and my mother was still there, she said she could remember there was another room added for eating and bedrooms upstairs. I was surprised, it wasn't always there. She said it was new, and also another wing had been added for classes. I never knew about that. Later, when I was to start school in 1945, I was stopped because the R.A.A.F. were still

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there, but once they moved out, I went in. My mother was then surprised to see a third room was added, and how different it looked.

RIGHT, SO DARLINGTON HAD CHANGED FROM YOUR MOTHER'S TIME, MOTHER AND FATHER'S TIME, TO YOUR TIME? BIG CHANGES?

Yes, since my father was there, then my mother, then me, my brother and my other brother who spent half his time at Darlington, then over to North Rocks before he left.

JOY WARBY

TODAY, DO THE WARATAH BUILDINGS LOOK THE SAME OR DIFFERENT?

Same. There are the same old buildings as before, but now there are also some new buildings.

NEW? WHY SO MANY CHANGES?

A fire damaged it in 1948, yes.

HOW COME?

I don't know what from.

PEG CHRISTIE

Yes, it's the same old story. Please! Please teachers, allow sign language in the schools to help with language. Speech is secondary. They will pick that up after, when they have language. Without language the deaf will always be low. It's true. Deaf people are not stupid! No! Clever! Some are better than the hearing. Their brains are good. But they must have language to talk with. Must teach language first! Signing and fingerspelling as they grow is good.

END OF TAPE 3.



TAPE 4 EMPLOYMENT

ALBERT JACKSON

I started working at fourteen in a radio assembly factory until I was eighteen. I left there because the company went bankrupt. Then I found work at Marquis Mouldings at Arncliffe doing radio assembly work, for three years. Then when I was twenty-one, I was put off. At 21 I was put off. I then found work collecting for the Deaf Club collecting in Bulli to Bega and to Eden and continued doing that for six years. I left that and started work ironing and pressing at Jones Dry Cleaning doing pressing and ironing for a few months. I left there and got a job as a factory-hand at "Dairy Farmers" in Ultimo, milk processing for six years. I left there, got another job working as a painter under the Government Public Works Depot for about six years.

GOOD!

For thirty-two years, I worked there, 32 years.

VERY GOOD. NOW, WHEN YOU WORKED AS A COLLECTOR AND YOU HAD TO TRAVEL FROM BULLI TO BEGA, HOW DID YOU TRAVEL? BY CAR OR WHAT?

I walked, caught trains, travelled by car, caught coaches, travelling from place to place, going house to house, for six years.

SO YOU CAUGHT THE TRAIN TO THE COUNTRY TOWN, DID WHAT WORK YOU HAD TO DO AND THEN WHEN FINISHED YOU WOULD GO TO ANOTHER AREA BY COACH. GOOD, I HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION. WHEN

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YOU WORKED AS A PAINTER FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, WHAT KIND OF BUILDINGS DID YOU PAINT?

Any buildings, outside and inside, all over the area.

HOSPITALS, OR WHAT?

Yes, Government House and Parliament, the Lands Department, Premier's Department, Mental Hospitals and Welfare, Boy's and Girl's Homes around the place, Hospitals and Public Schools.

SO IT WAS VARIED?

But mostly my work was at Police Stations,

GOOD.

Police Stations all around.

GOOD! HOW DID YOU TRAVEL AROUND? DID YOU USE A CAR FOR WORK?

Yes, I used a car.

GOOD.

I used to ride a bicycle when I was fourteen until I was thirty-eight then I gave up my bicycle.

YOU MUST HAVE BEEN FIT!

I used to ride my bike to Newcastle to see the deaf school at Waratah. I'd cycle with four other deaf, we would ride our bikes..

UP AND DOWN THE HILLS?

Yes, up and down the hills.

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VAL HOLE

GOOD. AFTER YOU LEFT SCHOOL AND WENT TO WORK..., DID YOU GO TO WORK?

Not straight away, I left school. When we were at Paddington and my father worked at the Darlinghurst Jail, I became a tailoress.

DID YOU GO AND LEARN SEWING?

Yes, for three or four years at Tech, I did an apprenticeship at Tech.

WHERE WAS YOUR APPRENTICESHIP?

Gowings, yes, Gowings Brothers.

AND DID HEARING PEOPLE TEACH YOU OR A DEAF PERSON?

I had a friend and a neighbour, a few houses up and the three of us used to go together.

GOOD.

The wages were so very small.

HOW MUCH DID YOU EARN AT THAT TIME, CAN YOU REMEMBER?

Oh about one pound, I forget.

WHEN YOU LEFT SCHOOL, DID YOU JOIN THE DEAF CLUB, DID YOU GO OUT WITH THE DEAF?

At Parramatta, just with some friends and my sister. When my sister went away and got married, my brothers went off to work, my friend and I would go together to the city from Parramatta to work, backwards and forwards. Eighteen years, I was a tailoress.

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JIM WILLIAMS

**WHEN YOU LEFT SCHOOL WHAT WORK DID YOU DO?
WHAT WORK DID YOU DO?**

Coal.

**DID YOU WORK DOWN IN THE MINES, WITH A MINER'S
HAT?**

Before.

DOWN IN THE MINES.

No, not all the time, just one day, the Manager got angry and told me to get out. He was cross.

**CAN YOU TELL ME A BIT MORE PLEASE? CAN YOU
TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED?**

Well, I went down with a fitter who took me down with him and I went down with the men, the miners were surprised and warned me "You shouldn't be down here!" But I just pushed the skip aside, and the lift went down and up again. It was good. The fitter told me to wait, stand up and move aside and watch for the noise of the explosion. And I said "Yes, I know what you mean. I know, it's alright!" We waited, then there was the noise of the explosion and I felt the shock and the wind pushing against me. . The skip came along and we moved aside. The skip came, it was good. It was over and we went on home. The next day, I was stopped and I was told not to go down. All the men loved me. They were afraid for me to go down and they worried for me. It was better for me to stay here.

SO YOU WORKED WITH COAL, WHAT DID YOU DO?

I worked on the surface. When I left, when I left the mine-shaft,

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I came up and worked in the daylight. I worked on the surface digging, laying railway sleepers and building railway tracks. Lots of them.

WERE YOU THE ONLY DEAF PERSON WORKING THERE?
THE ONLY ONE?

No, there were three. There was Max Ryan. Do you know him?

YES, I THINK I HAVE HEARD HIS NAME. HE WORKED
WITH YOU DOWN IN THE MINES?

Yes, with me, and Ellis, my brother, and there was another man, he's dead. His name was Tomlinson.

HE WAS DEAF?

He's dead but he was deaf.

NOLA COLEFAX

Yes, first I went to train in a College to learn floristry for six months. It was my first job.

WHERE DID YOU LEARN FLORISTRY?

In the city, in King Street. Very private and small. There were about ten of us there.

WHO TAUGHT YOU IN CLASS?

A hearing person, a hearing lady.

THIS WOMAN, COULD SHE SIGN?

No, she wrote, point things out and demonstrated. That was easy to follow.

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I had to bring my own flowers. My mother was keen on growing flowers and I collected them from my home.

I SEE, AFTER THAT WHAT DID YOU DO?

The War came and I was sent to do manpower work because all the men had gone into the Army or flew off to War. I was sent to an ammunition factory and I made "walkie talkies", the radio type, at that time. I worked there from when I was twenty until I got married.

WERE THERE ANY DEAF PEOPLE WORKING WITH YOU AT THAT TIME?

Yes, only a few. I think just three.

In 1981, I got a letter from the Government, The Governor General. I wondered what it was. It said "Confidential". My daughter and husband came to see what was so important. I opened it and was surprised... and very excited. It was because of my dedication to the Theatre to keep it going and going.

LOVELY! (Shows O.A. Medal.)

THAT'S GOOD. (Shows smaller medal.)

WOW! (Certificate.)

Adam Salzer was still there when I received it. He was our Administrator for the Deaf Theatre. I think it was him who encouraged and asked people and got me that medal. (O.A.M.)

YOU WERE VERY LUCKY!

Adam Salzer worked hard and is a wonderful man. When he first

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came, he looked awful, long hair, a real hippy look with a split on the side of his trousers showing his leg. He smoked a lot and always used a cigarette lighter. That's why we called him Adam, "cigarette lighter". He was a "non smoker", oh stupid. I mean "non-stop smoker." We'd sign "Where's Adam - the Cigarette Lighter?" When he left, he went to the A.C.C. - the Australian Caption Centre. He now dresses better, wears a tie, has a neat haircut, it's hard to believe from when I first met him to look at him now. We were very excited that he became Chief boss of the A.E.T.T. It's incredible. To think back to what he was like in the start to see him now, it's wonderful.

DO YOU STILL SEE HIM?

He is a busy man. I have not seen him for a while. When Adam left to be involved with the development of captioning, I didn't know what that was for, until it happened, the captions were wonderful, a big breakthrough. A lot of deaf people praised him, and his wife Alex Hynes. That "FFF" performance, Adam directed it, and Alex did a lot of work writing the script. We deaf people told her about the problems of our deaf lives. The oppression, the things we were denied and she would put it all down. A bit like "Pinocchio", the pointy nosed wooden doll. Then Ian Watson came along. I liked him. He directed the plays. He directed another big play, a major production called the "Three Penny Opera," this sign: "3 Penny Opera." It was about the gang land criminals and prostitutes, I was the deaf narrator, not acting. When someone spoke, it would be signed, then, someone would voice, when I signed for the deaf audience. We practised and practised, and about one week before or a few days beforehand, we had a big row and almost disbanded our Theatre. Two people didn't like or never got on with Ian. They preferred Adam and liked his way of directing and favoured him and criticised Ian

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Watson. It was very frustrating and I fought and fought but just before the final opening, we booked the Cell Block Theatre at East Sydney Tech, bookings, the press and radio announcements were done, but, these two mean people walked out. It created havoc and the next day we had to crawl, begging and pleading for our sakes. So, they both agreed to come back and finish the performance then, after two weeks, they left. Those two were very promising actors. It was very sad to see that happen. It was a pity that Adam had created such a close relationship with us because it was a big break, him going and the new one coming in, we couldn't get used to it. We had to get used to lots of different Directors. I am sure Ian Watson was a wonderful man and a good Director.

THE THREE PENNY OPERA, WAS THAT SHOWN AROUND AT DIFFERENT PLACES?

Oh, no. Only in public venues. We'd stay in the same spot, like with the "FFF", we continued doing this play at the Seymour Centre. And there were other plays too. The same with the Cell Block, we played there for two weeks. Since doing the "Winter's Tale," the Shakespeare play, I directed that play and Ian directed the songs. As you know, Shakespeares songs are very hard to follow. He was good at translating them and did a lot of work. I directed the play, then it was finished. Both deaf and hearing professionals worked together. That was the last time they worked together then they split. The professional actors went their way and the deaf did not do any public plays, only concentrated on the Deaf Community because the professionals had lots of their own work to do, like rehearsals and they always had lots of new plays to do. They didn't have time for the Deaf Theatre. In my time, I worked for both Amateur and Professional Groups. Both of them. It was a heavy work load. I forgot to tell you about when I was offered a job full time as Assistant Artistic Director helping the

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other director full time. We got funding from the Government and School's Commission, the State Government, and a fourth, anyway they gave us funding and it was a hard decision for me to leave work. I had been there for nineteen and a half years, which choice should I make? I did decide to leave. I only missed by six months - I would have received a watch but I still got a watch through a collection, a collection as a farewell gift. My close friend, named Pat Johnston, a deaf woman who worked with me was determined to go to all the different floors and raise enough money to buy me a watch.

OH LUCKY YOU!

Yes! After I left, I never regretted leaving. I thought the work in the Theatre gave me a lot of life, meeting hearing people, I enjoyed working with hearing children, travelling all over, going to country towns, travelling around. Oh, I went to Paris in 1978 by myself. I arrived in Paris for the International Visual Theatre "I.V.T.". There was a crowd of us, eight deaf, yes, eight deaf, I'm sorry, fourteen deaf from eight countries came together. None of us knew each others' sign language. It was a wonderful experience. It was for one week and was sponsored by UNESCO.

WHAT DOES THAT STAND FOR?

U for United, N for Nations, E for Education, S for Scientific, O for Organisation.

IMPRESSIVE! SO YOU WERE IN PARIS FOR ONE WEEK, WAS IT WORTH IT?

Oh yes! I made a lot of friends, sharing and having fun. I stayed...., I was billeted with a hearing person. It was a big disappointment that it wasn't a deaf person, because the deaf people, the French people, didn't know about the arrangement. They were surprised

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that all the visiting deaf had been billeted with hearing people. Then after one week, for the next week, deaf people took me and they looked after me. It was cold in January and snowing there then.

GOOD! WHEN YOU WENT TO PARIS AND MET DEAF PEOPLE FROM OTHER PLACES AROUND THE WORLD, DID YOU LEARN SOMETHING FROM THEM? FOR EXAMPLE, GETTING ATTENTION ON STAGE, OR KNOWING WHOSE TURN IT WAS NEXT?.

Yes, mainly we learned from a, from a picture so deaf people would describe what was in the pictures, the audience wouldn't see the picture, it would just be signed. They might understand or might not. So then we showed the picture, they could see if they were right. It's called poetic signing or, like gestures so we could understand the meanings.

THAT'S WONDERFUL. ARE YOU STILL INVOLVED WITH THE THEATRE OF THE DEAF NOW?

Oh.. Okay, after Ian Watson left, we had Ben Strout who was from America. He had worked with N.T.D. but had left and worked somewhere else. Ben came but I didn't have much involvement with him. I was doing mostly my own workshops, travelling around, and performing. When Adam, when I was with him, he showed me, he came with me to Schools to help me build up my confidence because it was all new to me and I panicked. It was only for a few months. I began to develop on my own and my Workshops, I wrote them myself.... mostly from my own mind. Apart from that.... and Ben, there was another person, Margi Brown. She was in N.T.I.E., a hearing member. She had directed a play called "The Selfish Giant". It was adapted into, as if I were..., as if I were myself a child, then becoming old. I'd

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visualise, and sign and act as if I was a child, in my past. Okay, I was still on my own, then two years later, I became less involved, trying to retire.

BOB HERMAN

I was doing carpentry and woodwork. That went well. Then things went bad, people were put off, it was the Depression. Work was halved. People were looking for work, men were job hunting, there were only bits here and there, but I went into the Union, I got a job. But you had to look around. It was bad in my time, in those years, before the war-time. It was hard. Later, when war broke out, there were plenty of jobs for the deaf. I got a job easily, changed trades. Things were good.

DOROTHY SHAW

I left school..... At that time we had no vocational training. We didn't know what we would do. We just had to pick up, whatever was available to us. I believe some went to Business College. Those families who could afford it, but my parents couldn't afford to send me there. I would've liked to go. At first I wanted to become a school teacher. But they said "You can't, you're deaf." I thought they were right. (Cough, cough.) Then I thought about working in an office. I thought I could do office work but it meant having to pay Business College fees so I gave up on that idea. Nevermind. Then I left school and found a job through a cousin of mine, a hearing cousin, who worked doing tailor....tailoring, right, tailoring and sewing. I hated sewing but did it anyway. After a year, I left and found another job doing process work in a

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factory which was during War-time. That was good. But in the tailoring job, my first pay was 7 shillings and 6 pence - 7/6p, 7/6p in the hand. I gave my Mum 5/- for board and 2/6p was for myself. Somehow, I managed, I think. The tram was only 1p or 2p a trip or I walked to work. Okay, then, that was for a year, then I was a process worker in a factory and I got 4 pounds, 50 pence. I felt rich compared to the other job. Anyway..., ... Go ahead.

WERE YOU THE ONLY DEAF PERSON IN YOUR JOB?

In the sewing job, yes. Then at the factory I was, then, yes, I was the only one. Yes.

HOW DID YOU COMMUNICATE WITH THE HEARING WORKMATES?

I taught my work-mates how to fingerspell and sign. I taught them. I had a girl who worked with me on a machine. I would put in tubes. Metal tubes for toothpaste, they were empty tubes, empty, and put them on the machine. It had spokes on a wheel, the machine had spokes or sticks, and as it went round the tubes would be printed. When it finished the girl would take the tubes out and put them on racks for the printing to dry on a conveyor belt. When the printing was dry, they would be packed, then sent to the factory, they would be filled up with cream or whatever, all sorts of things, but I was only printing them. I had to quickly put them on the machine. At first, I might miss a few but eventually I got the knack and I could put them all on at the one time. The other girl would then take them off. So that's how it worked. Gradually, we both became so good at our work that we even had time to talk to each other in between fitting the machine, we'd talk and fit. So, we became experts at talking, and working at the same time. By the time I...when I tried to speak with her, the girl corrected me. By fingerspelling the pronunciation, how to say the word, the

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pronunciation. It was good. I was thankful to her for telling me then I realised that when I was at school and they were teaching us how to speak, it was without fingerspelling the pronunciation. They'd pat parts of our face, tell us where to put our tongues, to the back or to the front.... and we couldn't really understand, how could we improve? I think this girl's way was a big help. Oh well, anyway we had to learn by some system. Okay, that was work, then I got married to a man, a deaf man from Sydney, Jack Shaw.

BILL QUINN

WHEN YOU LEFT SCHOOL, WHAT WORK DID YOU DO?
During the Depression years, I saw lots of people out of work but I didn't come to my senses as to why. When I left school I asked my father, "Why aren't these people working?" He said, "They're out of work." "What does that mean? Because I had two jobs myself, both jobs were next door to each other. "How come they're out of work?" After five years, I left for Sydney for a better outlook. I got a job at 30/- a week. Room was 30/-, 3/- a week. Cakes, all meats were one penny each, newspapers, 1 penny each. Cafe meals, seven...., no, twenty-one meals for 17/-. How did I get the 17/-? I went to dole queues, I got paid, went to another queue then another. Each one was 16/- for two weeks and food tokens too were used for the 21 meals at 17/- and I spent 30/- for room, board 3/-, from wages at 30/-. So that was good..... till the War came. I left to join a dry cleaning firm at Marrickville where many deaf people worked as well. There were shifts, night, afternoon and morning shifts, in rotation. I worked three shifts then after four years I left and went to Melbourne for better pay. I stayed there for fifteen years. Then I got married there and I moved to Queensland. During the War there was no travelling, no trains, or

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boats or planes, not for people, but the buses were not touched so I took a bus to Queensland. Then I went to New Zealand for five years, my boy went to school there, then back to Melbourne and then New South Wales.

MMM. DID YOU WORK AS A COLLECTOR FOR THREE QUARTERS OF N.S.W?

Yes.

DID YOU MEET WITH SOME DEAF ABORIGINES?

Yes, I met only two deaf Aborigines. One in Wilcannia and one in Griffith. That deaf Aborigine was educated at Darlington but he went astray. That's an Aboriginal habit.

WHEN YOU MET THE ABORIGINES DID THEY USE THE SAME SIGN LANGUAGE AS YOU?

Yes.

YOU SAW THEM OFTEN?

Yes.

WONDERFUL!

One, he stayed at school for ten years. We thought he would become like one of us but he just went home.

RIGHT! RIGHT!

My work collecting, was not as an ordinary Collecting Officer, I approached good people on the stations round the state and made good friends. They knew my regular calling times..

GOOD.

..and expected me. When I resigned, they asked me to go back if

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I wanted to live with them at the different stations.

AND DID YOU COLLECT UNDER THE DEAF SOCIETY?
No, for the Deaf and Blind Institution at North Rocks. I worked for the administration, not at the school.

ALVA CROSS

I used to work at, at Victoria at Davis Co-op Textiles, I worked as a weaver, spinner and on the looms, that sort of thing. I stayed for almost fifteen years. Then I transferred to New South Wales and did the same work there. Then a few years later, they closed, so I had to find another job and worked at Boots Bros, for thirteen years. Now I've retired, finished.

THAT'S GREAT!

JACK CHRISTIE

GOOD. WHEN YOU LEFT SCHOOL, DID YOU GO TO WORK?

Yes, but it was in the Depression Days. It was terrible. I had to do farmhand work. Seven days a week. Up at six in the morning until seven at night. Milking the cows, with hay, feeding the animals.

WITH DEAF PEOPLE?

Yes, one.

JUST YOU?

No, there was another one, a deaf man named Albert Overton. We

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worked together for three years but for the other years I worked alone with the other hearing people.

HOW DID YOU COMMUNICATE? DID YOU TEACH THEM FINGERSPELLING?

Yes. A few were terrific, a few couldn't be bothered. Oh well.

ALAN FAIRWEATHER

YOU LEFT SCHOOL, WHAT WORK DID YOU DO?

When I finished school, I wanted to be an Artist, I wanted to draw. My father worked as a Photo-Engraver for the paper, The Daily Mirror. My Uncle, my father's deaf brother, he worked as an Artist. Before, at school, my Uncle asked "Do you want to work with me?" and same with my father. He said, "You can work with me." I was excited. I left school in about 1939-1940, it was war-time, I asked them both, but they said I couldn't. The War made it difficult. My Grandmother tried hard to help, one of my father's sisters, my uncle's wife, she had her own clothing factory. It was a well-known clothing manufacturer. My grandmother said I could work there. I was trapped. I didn't want to go. I wanted to draw. Maybe nowadays I would have rebelled but at that time I just obeyed and did the work; drafting and cutting patterns. The work was okay. And Drawing, copying clothing, drawing, working out measurements and times and that type of thing. That was my job for about 14 or 15 years. I left and changed jobs to a milkrun for a short while, about two years, gave that up, and became a Collector for about two years then went to Western Australia. I worked as a Cutter again for about seven months and I met and fell in love with a girl in Western Australia. I stayed there for a while longer but unfortunately, that business went bankrupt

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and closed. I asked my girl-friend to marry me. We'd been together only seven months, we got married, then I brought her here to Sydney. I worked again as a cutter for seven years but the lady boss died of cancer. That was bad luck and the business closed. It's hard for deaf to find cutting work. So I took a job at Good Year instead and they were like this (shows expression). I wasn't used to it, rough and common but they were quite nice to me. I had to trim the rubber from the tyres as they went past. It was dirty work and I wasn't used to it. I had to make a living to feed two children. So I did that work. Somehow they got to hear that I was good at drawing. I said yes. "Can you copy photos?" I said "Yes" so from the photo, I'd copy into oil paintings. I'd charge five pounds, that's about ten dollars. So at night-times, I would do painting because we needed the money and I did all the paintings. I worked three shifts. I hated it. It made me sick. So I left and found work at Grace Bros. in the Delicatessen. I liked that. I worked there for twenty-one and a half years. I have just retired and at first I was a bit upset and missed it but after a few weeks it was fine. I felt better.

OKAY, SO THROUGHOUT YOUR WORKING LIFE DID YOU EVER WORK WITH DEAF PEOPLE?

In my first job as a Cutter, yes, we had about eight girls there, who were deaf, on the machines. There was my sister and the other girls and they'd talk together but the men, the cutters, I was the only deaf one. So mostly there were machinists at Snowball Bros. After I left, there were no more, I was the only one.

HOW DID YOU COMMUNICATE WITH THE HEARING PEOPLE?

I used gestures, when they asked me questions I'd gesture back at them. I didn't need to write. We understood each other. It was

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easy using signs. I'll never forget at Grace Bros, Delicatessen, they'd ask for "Sausage". I'd go like this (puffs cheeks) for "thick", or "thin" and they'd understand that. It was easy. So I showed them thick or thin. Thick or thin.

And for ham, shoulder ham, I'd say ham up here, or leg ham, down there, and for cornedbeef I'd mouth "BEEF" for short. So it was easy to communicate. It was quick using gestures.

WANDA STEWART

Yes, I worked as a Film Examiner for M.G.M. at Central near the Railway Station for three years. It was a boring job so I left there and got a job as an Overlock Machinist. I liked that and stayed doing machining and sewing. It was good. So since then, I've always been an Overlock Machinist.

DID YOU WORK WITH ANY DEAF PEOPLE?

I used to work with three deaf. Yes, Peggy Kennedy, we worked together. She left when she got married. Another deaf woman came in. Shirley Page then she left, then I went and found another job and I was the only one. Then another deaf worker came. Then I left when I got married, went to Adelaide to live for one and half years then came back to Sydney.

WHEN YOU WERE WORKING ON YOUR OWN, HOW DID YOU COMMUNICATE WITH THE HEARING PEOPLE? DID YOU TEACH THEM SIGNING?

Yes, I taught some of them how to fingerspell. Yes, I taught them to fingerspell. They mostly fingerspelled - very few signs, mostly fingerspelling.

ALAN JONES

I went back to live with my parents in the country at Narrandera. I worked in Joinery and Carpentry and did well for nine months but then the Japanese started the war at Pearl Harbour with the bombing. My workplace was closed by the Government. They stopped building homes and everything. I had been repairing windows in houses and had to travel long distances. But it closed, unfortunately. I then went to a soft drink machine, no, factory for soft drinks, and worked there for one year. That was fine but when I was on holiday here in Sydney, I met up with some old school mates who all seemed to have very good jobs. Mr. Lonsdale who was the Superintendent of the Adult Deaf Club, encouraged me to look for work here because of my friends. So, back home, I persuaded my parents to allow me to come. My first job was with HMV at Homebush. I worked there for six years. Then when the war ended there was nothing to do, my old Supervisor, boss, took me back as a locksmith for three years but that went bankrupt. I could have burgled all the homes. But I might have got caught. Then I worked for Gadsden's tin factory making tin cans for paint and other things. I worked there for 38 years, finally finished. I was glad to work there. It allowed me to buy my home, I have no debts, nothing, it's all finished after 38 years.

WHEN YOU WORKED AT GADSDEN'S, WERE THERE ANY OTHER DEAF PEOPLE THERE?

Yes, yes there were three. Jean Richard, another was Alan Fisher, and Graham Jessop but we didn't work together, we worked in different sections from each other, but at lunch time we would get together and have a chat then go back to our sections.

SO IF THE DEAF WORKED IN DIFFERENT AREAS, HOW DID YOU COMMUNICATE WITH THE HEARING PEOPLE AROUND YOU?

Many at my work were migrants, Greeks, Italians, people from everywhere, Turkey, Lebanese. We could all talk quite well with each other using gestures and sign. We got on, never argued. We got on well. Especially one Greek fellow when he first arrived, he couldn't speak a word of English. Eventually, our communication improved and now we're very close. It's good.

BEN TAYLOR

I found a job at W.D. & H.O. Wills, a Cigarette factory at Kensington.

FOR HOW LONG?

I have now worked there for forty three and half years.

THAT'S A LONG TIME, THAT'S WONDERFUL. WHEN WILL YOU RETIRE?

I am hoping early in the new year, January or February sometime. Once recently, earlier I was supposed to retire but it's been delayed.

YOU'VE WORKED THERE FOR FORTY-THREE AND A HALF YEARS, HOW DID YOU COMMUNICATE WITH THE OTHER STAFF?

It was no problem. I, since I started working there, I've had a stack of fingerspelling cards that I give out each time a new person comes. I have always given out the cards, to make sure they can all fingerspell and use plenty of signs. All my mates through the

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full 43 years, there has never been a time when no-one could sign. There's always been someone there who could sign right up until today. Even new or young ones, I'd give them each a card. I've always had a stock of cards so they can fingerspell. Some can't be bothered and I don't worry about them. If they're interested, they communicate.

TOM HOULCROFT

WHEN YOU LEFT SCHOOL, YOU WORKED AS A KITCHEN HAND, HOW LONG DID YOU WORK AS A KITCHEN HAND AND THEN WHAT LATER ON?

I worked for two years for no money. Brothers gave me clothes, accommodation and food and I began on .50c per week.

RIGHT. DID YOU, I WAS TOLD ONCE, YOU CUT HAIR!

Yes.

YOU CUT HAIR?

Before, cut like a "basin cut". I used a hair shearer. I cut their hair for forty years, every month.

FORTY YEARS?

Every month. I would cut the hair for all the boys, teachers and the Christian Brothers and others from around the world who had come to the school. I'd cut their hair.

THAT'S GOOD.

Brothers and Priests, I'd cut their hair, but for no money!

IN THE LAUNDRY, DID YOU DO FOLDING?

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Yes, folding. In the old times, big belt washers. Big boiler for water. It was heavy work on my arms.

MANY YOUNGER ONES HAVE TOLD ME HOW WONDERFUL IT WAS THAT YOU COULD DO LOTS OF JOBS AT ST.GABRIELS. I BET THE BROTHERS MISSED YOU WHEN YOU RETIRED!

Yes, when I finished, there was nothing to do. It was no good.

SO YOU'D RATHER WORK THAN BE AT HOME!

Yes, well I have bad eyes, before they were good but now they're not good.

HOW LONG DID YOU STAY AT THE SCHOOL AT ST.GABRIELS?

For ten years then left school. Changed to do work at St.Gabriels. Sometimes in the kitchen and as a bootmaker. When it was War time, I used to cook for 100 boys, Christian Brothers and Staff. When bootmaking, leather was too expensive and they had to close that. I changed to farming and milked cows and ploughed. Then I changed to be a painter and a cleaner.

HOW MANY YEARS ALTOGETHER?

Altogether 58 years.

AT ST.GABRIELS FROM SCHOOL UNTIL YOU FINISHED?

Yes, yes.

PEARL BEATH

Don't like to say until I am old. I worked with the children who

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were boarding. Did washing, took care of the children going to bed. Made sure they ate their food and washed up after dinner. Every Monday in turn we washed all the clothing. Sheets, every Thursday, in turn. And washing up every morning in turn. I had to get up at six o'clock, butter bread for the deaf children's breakfast. Then everyone was up at 7 o'clock ready for Mass. My work was to tidy up the dormitory then teach the little school children. I didn't like teaching the children. I liked doing the needlework for the Priests Vestments. I liked doing that but for a long time, I didn't like it. It was hard work putting it together. It was frustrating and I was unhappy. I did not have any friends. I was all by myself. If I had relations, I would have felt better. I have a friend in Newcastle named Mary Miller. I would often go to her home on weekends. Mary is a nice lady.

I thought to ask Winnie Stark's mother to ask the Nuns if I could come and live with her. Sister said yes, but the Nun had to write a letter to Western Australia to ask if I could leave Waratah. The Sister in Western Australia said "Yes, we would love to have her back." But the Sister from Waratah said "No. No deaf friends in Western Australia, lots around Sydney." Answered back "Yes, if it is your wish!" I was happy to leave. I was tired of working and finally I left. I went to Winnie's home, I worked with deaf people, three deaf. You know Mrs. Lovett, Mrs. Wilbow and Mrs. Walker. I sewed their clothes. I worked as a finisher doing hems.

VIOLA ALEXANDER

AFTER SCHOOL, DID YOU GO TO WORK?

Yes, at Arnotts Biscuit Factory. Then Lewisham Hospital. The two only. That's all.

Yes, folding. In the old times, big belt washers. Big boiler for water. It was heavy work on my arms.

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WERE YOU THE ONLY DEAF PERSON WORKING AT ARNOTT'S IN THAT TIME?

No, there were plenty of others. Kitty, an old lady, Ann Fox, me and Doreen McLeod, Molly Jackson, the four of us. Bob Mills worked at the back on the baking oven. We worked there.

AT THE LEWISHAM HOSPITAL, WHAT DID YOU WORK AS?

I cleaned the nurse's rooms, like a dormitory with rooms on both sides in a row.

I would clean both sides.

DID YOU TALK TO THE PATIENTS AND NURSES?

No. No-one was there. They would all go to work when I cleaned up their rooms.

OKAY, AFTER WORKING IN LEWISHAM HOSPITAL, WHAT DID YOU DO THEN?

I went to Western Australia. Stayed there. Looked for work there. Worked in the Bank of NSW, stayed there for eight months, then moved to Melbourne. Got a job at Holeproof stockings. Stayed there in Brunswick in Melbourne then came to Sydney and stayed here ever since.

IN W.A., WHAT WORK DID YOU DO IN W.A.?

Just a Housemaid. Chopping wood for the fire, stirring the copper for washing, pull the stick up to make the line higher. Chopping wood for cooking, in the fuel stove.

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DON THORNTON

WHEN YOU FINISHED SCHOOL, DID YOU GO TO WORK?

Yes. It had been difficult to find though. But my Aunt told me to try and ask a boss about a carpentry job. I wasn't sure but I asked one firm of carpenters and they said "Yes, you can come and work here." After a few years they closed down because after the boss died, it was given to his son, the business failed because of poor management.

I SEE. DID YOU GO TO TECH FOR TRAINING IN CARPENTRY?

No, I failed because of my poor written grammar.

SO MEN IN YOUR WORK TAUGHT YOU HOW TO DO CARPENTRY?

Yes.

GOOD, WERE THEY ALL HEARING?

Yes.

HOW DID YOU COMMUNICATE WITH THEM?

Some, luckily, could communicate with me. When I went to my new job, they asked how do we communicate and I gave them fingerspelling cards. They learnt that, and then asked me, how do we use it? So we conversed often. But when I left work, I still did carpentry work at other places and now I still do carpentry, still.

WITH NO QUALIFICATIONS?

No, no need.

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THAT'S GOOD!

I was working there ten years then I became a Leading Hand. Now, after thirteen years, I am still at the same firm but no-more, as the Leading Hand because the kitchen-making was phased out. So my team of men was transferred over to window and door-making, and they already had a Leading Hand. So I thought it was better to quit but the boss said, "Don't quit, stay here on the same pay, stay here, at the same place."

AND NOW, DO THEY ALL SIGN OR FINGERSPELL?

No, they're migrant people mostly.

WHAT ABOUT GESTURES?

Some can sign, it depends, if they're migrants. I can read what they mean.

GOOD!

END OF TAPE 4.

TAPE 5. DEAF COMMUNITY PART 1

NOLA COLEFAX

CAN YOU TELL ME HOW YOU GOT INVOLVED WITH THE DEAF COMMUNITY AFTER YOU LEFT SCHOOL?

Well, my mother wouldn't let me go to the Deaf Club for two years because she heard there were bad things involved in the Deaf Club. So I went to Y.W.C.A. and took activities there. Went camping, went on hikes, it was good. Until at the end of the two years I met up with a deaf person who was my old friend who I grew up with named Katie. She told me a lot of exciting things were happening at the Deaf Club so I rebelled. I became a rebel and told my mother, "I must go to the Deaf Club!" I have been going ever since. I remember I first got involved working with the "Younger Set". That was from 18 onwards.

DOROTHY SHAW

What else?

WHEN YOU MOVED TO SYDNEY, DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE DEAF COMMUNITY THERE AS WELL?

At the beginning, I did. There was Women's Guild, Tennis, then I withdrew because I had children and stayed at home. Then I went to work for a period of twenty years maybe. Then when the children had grown up I came back to community involvement, yes.

JACK CHRISTIE

OKAY, WHEN YOU LEFT SCHOOL, HOW DID YOU GET

INVOLVED WITH THE DEAF COMMUNITY? HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED?

I went back to the country and didn't see much of deaf people, except for Collectors. They would come, say hello, have a friendly chat, then after a day, they'd be gone and moving around. I was in the hearing cricket club. There was no soccer in the country where I was. I was with the hearing team. We mostly wrote to each other. The locals learnt fingerspelling and a few were very good.

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE DEAF COMMUNITY? DID YOU HELP ON COMMITTEES IN SYDNEY?

Yes. Sydney.

OR NEWCASTLE?

No, Sydney, Sydney.

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE DEAF?

It's because the War had started. The soldiers had gone away. Things changed and deaf people were moved in to replace them so I came and found work. I found work here and later I played soccer with the deaf and cricket with the deaf.

AND AFTER SOCCER FINISHED, WHAT NEXT?

Cricket. I alternated, soccer was in winter, then cricket in Summer.

ALAN FAIRWEATHER

Well, I used to live in Drummoyne. I lived with my parents. My whole life I've lived in Drummoyne. When I went to the Deaf Club, I could go by tram but I'd prefer the Ferry. I'd walk down and catch the Ferry and I could see the Harbour Bridge being built. First the pylons were built. Continuing the journey, I'd get off and walk to 5 Elizabeth Street to the Deaf Society. And at night, I'd catch the ferry again to go back home and each time, I gradually saw the bridge being built. First the pylons then the arch till it met in the middle and then the framework went down and the road went to both sides. I went back and forth till it was finished in 1932 for

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the Opening. But, I didn't go on Opening Day. When it was finished I asked my Dad, "Can we have a look?" "After," he said. Finally, we walked and had a look. It was interesting. I walked pushing my sister in the pram. It looked so big.

The Deaf Club was great in those old days. I'll never forget Friday nights. There were meals. 9p for a hot dinner, 9p. Sweets, 6p. Every Friday, I'd go and there would be dinner. Often my father, or I'd be at school and my mother would pick me up and we would go to the Club and go upstairs. All the women would be sitting around sewing, knitting and chatting. I'd watch and play and wait for father to come when he'd finished work and bring a pile of chips. Everyone sat at a long table eating home-made meals. Delicious. And Dad brought the chips for us to eat.

WANDA STEWART

SO WHEN YOU LEFT SCHOOL, HOW DID YOU JOIN THE DEAF CLUB?

Through one deaf person's mother. She told my mother I should go to the Deaf Club because it was good socially and I'd meet other deaf people. I first went to the Deaf Club when I was 17 because I hadn't known where it was. When I left school I was alone. I felt isolated. I asked my Mum to find out where the Deaf Club was. She found out and Dad took me to the Deaf Club first. I've been going ever since.

DID YOU FIND A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SIGNING AT SCHOOL AND THE DEAF CLUB?

Yes, quite a lot different. I think the signing at the Deaf Club was better than at the School. At the deaf school, it was rather backward signing, childish, but at the Club they used proper adult signing.

ALAN JONES

GOOD! AFTER SCHOOL, HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT OR

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GET INVOLVED WITH THE DEAF CLUB?

I have always had a strong loyalty to the Adult Deaf Society for many years, since I was 18 up until today. I am still loyal even after 48 years working as a volunteer and a lot of other things. On the Kitchen Committee, Matara and what else? Oh, the name escapes me, sorry.

THAT'S A LOT OF THINGS.

Before I was on more. At 5 Elizabeth Street, there were many. I think I was on eleven Committees, but now that's reduced to only three.

AND HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE DEAF CLUB? HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT IT?

When I was nine, I remember the Booths, they took me, not to 5 Elizabeth Street, but to another street, another street, I can't remember the name. Sorry, it was the Deaf Association. That was when I was nine until at school, I heard about 5 Elizabeth Street and I went there when I was 16 until it eventually closed down and moved to Stanmore.

DON THORNTON

SO WHEN YOU LEFT SCHOOL, I KNOW YOU SAID YOUR PARENTS ARE DEAF BUT HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE DEAF CLUB?

Of course, when I was a little boy, my mother and father used to take me to the Deaf Club for the children's Christmas Party. I used to meet a lot of deaf there. That was until I left school then I asked my parents if I could go to the Deaf Club, they said, "Yes, go!" so I went to the Deaf Club for many years. So I know the deaf well.

SO, YOU WERE REALLY BORN INTO THE DEAF CLUB! Yes.

MARY MILLER

WHEN YOU FINISHED SCHOOL DID YOU GO TO THE

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DEAF CLUB?

Yes.

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE DEAF CLUB? WAS IT GOOD?

I met in town some deaf and they said there is a Deaf Club there. I liked to go there and chat with them. I met my first husband Phil. He boarded at the Club.

AT BLACKWELL HOUSE?

Yes.

DID YOU GO TO ANOTHER ONE BEFORE BLACKWELL HOUSE?

No.

PEARL BEATH

WHEN SCHOOL WAS FINISHED, HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE DEAF CLUB? HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT IT?

Oh, Winnie Stark and I went to Catholic Club, near the city. It was small. We met Father Malone, played cards, had a conversation, played games. They asked if I would like to join the Committee of the Catholic Club but I was getting married. It was nice and small.

AND WHAT IS YOUR NAME-SIGN?

“P” (Demonstrates)

FOLLOWS THE “P” (Demonstrates.)

Easy - “P”

“P”

Yes (demonstrates again)

THAT’S GOOD.

JOY WARBY

WHEN YOU LEFT SCHOOL HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THE DEAF CLUB?

I met my friend named Joan Baldwin. She told me I better go to the Deaf Club. Oh yes, so I asked my mother and she let me go. I went over and met lots of new friends and every Friday night, I would go regularly until I got married, then with children I didn't go for a while then sometimes I would visit the Deaf Club.

VAL HOLE

HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE DEAF CLUB AT 5 ELIZABETH STREET?

Of course! First there was a small place. I can't think where. Was it Castlereagh Street? It was a small place. I didn't know who the people were. They were old people who I didn't know. I met with one deaf person but we didn't know anyone but they asked me to go there again. Then it moved to different places.

IT MOVED?

Yes and then it went to the Y.W.C.A. which was somewhere down in Bathurst Street in a small place.

BEFORE AT CASTLEREAGH ST. DEAF CENTRE, WHEN YOU WENT THERE, DID A LOT OF PEOPLE GO?

Yes, a lot of people. Mostly, there were a lot of people, mostly older. I was young and there was just a few of us who were young.

RIGHT AND DID THE OLDER ONES COME FROM DARLINGTON AND WARATAH OR WHICH SCHOOLS?

Oh, another place somewhere in Oxford Street. I don't know where. There was a smaller place before the new School was built. That was the first. It was the oldest. Someone told me they were from there but I didn't know it because I was from Darlington. They were older people too and I didn't know them. They were a good lot. Some of them were well off and clever, very clever.

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RIGHT!

On Wednesdays, sometimes on Wednesdays sometimes, I'd play tennis and on the weekends a lot.

AT THE DEAF CENTRE WERE YOU ON ANY COMMITTEES?

Yes.

AS PRESIDENT?

Yes, and before on the Committee as Treasurer collecting yearly membership but now they don't seem to do it any more. The membership for one year was 50p. Collected from everyone and we put that money in for the use of the Women's Guild.

NOLA COLEFAX

I did some concert plays. When I was at school I did some concert plays. I remember very well my part as a rat among the rats with the Pied Piper. I remember singing to everyone at the annual Meeting, Little Miss Muffet and a lot of others.

USING YOUR VOICE SINGING?

Yes.

WONDERFUL.

Then I became very involved in the Theatre when I was over 50, my son was married then. How it happened, there was a poster at the Deaf Club with a notice saying for anyone who wanted to join Drama. I looked at it and thought no, it was for young people but the poster was still there as the weeks went by and only a few names were up there. John Ferris approached me and asked me to encourage the others. I said okay. So I got about 25 deaf people into that. It was lead by Nick Neary, he was a Welfare Officer from England. He had seen British Theatre of the Deaf and was very interested to start that. It was encouraged by Kenneth Tribe, he was a Board Member of Management for many years. He also wanted to see the deaf develop a Theatre. He went to Nick, then Nick came to the deaf. Nick was looking for the right person to

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direct that so Nick went to University of N.S.W. and met a lecturer of Drama who agreed to come and give his services voluntarily for the next eight months.

He directed Peer Gynt. I thought he was great. Then he left. Nick took over directing with Don Burnett, another Welfare Worker who helped him. Then Nick left and got another job and moved to Victoria. He was worrying because he did not want to see the Theatre collapse. He approached the A.E.T.T. - Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust who agreed to take it over. Carol Long from A.E.T.T., a working member, was very interested and took over and helped to run it. That was in 1973 and the following year the American National Theatre of the Deaf came to Australia for a visit. They put on a show and performed. That raised hearing people's awareness of the Deaf. Then about the same time, two months later, I was invited along with two other deaf from Western Australia and Victoria to go to Connecticut in America. We did six, no, five week training workshop.

IN AMERICA?

Yes!

AND WHO WERE THE THREE PEOPLE?

Rae Gibson from Perth, John MacRae from Melbourne, John knows American fingerspelling and sign language. We were hopeless when we arrived in America. John was good and did well to help us for a few days then he wouldn't help. So we had to learn to read American Sign Language. We managed to pick up some things but in only five weeks we could not become complete experts.

WHEN IT FIRST STARTED, THE THEATRE OF THE DEAF, DID YOU HAVE A SUCCESSFUL FIRST PERFORMANCE?

Yes, but I was going to tell you about when I came back from America. One year later in 1975, I was given the job of Assistant Artistic Director but with no money. I was still working outside, working with Plesseys for many years. I worked at both, it was a lot of work. What did you say before?

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DID YOU DO YOUR FIRST PERFORMANCE WHEN THE THEATRE FIRST STARTED OR LATER?

Oh good, thank you for telling me. Nick Neary had left the A.E.T.T., Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust, found a Director named Adam Salzer. He came to help. Adam thought the deaf people wouldn't be good but was surprised at our potential so he found a grant to get tutors to teach us mime, acting and different things. It was wonderful therapy, all the learning and training, Adam worked us very hard. He pushed us to sometimes three nights per week training. He started the performance called "King Lear". Our first public performance. I'll show you, we deaf made our own costumes, pennants, to look more like a carnival very bright and colourful. (Nola shows a costume.)

THAT'S LOVELY!

That was worn by Peg Christie. She was the leading Actor as King Lear. There was no sign language in it. None, only gesture, mime and so on. This is what I wore. This is mine. (Nola shows a costume.)

THAT'S LOVELY!

About 15 deaf wore similar things with long puff sleeves and slacks and this. (Shows hat.) I played as one of the King's three daughters, my name was Goneril, a wicked, wicked daughter.

OKAY, HOW MANY PERFORMANCES?

Sixteen performances in four weeks. We all had to go to work in the morning and perform at night. Next morning, go to work and back and forth. We'll never forget, we were very tired but we all enjoyed working together growing up like a family.

AFTER THAT YOU STARTED DOING PUBLIC PERFORMANCES. IS THAT RIGHT?

Yes, before the professional team came up. We worked on our Theatre with little thought that our Theatre would become history. Amazing!

I WAS JUST WONDERING WHAT WERE YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE THEATRE OF THE DEAF?

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We performed lots of plays. Another one that was a good name was "5 FFF" that was "Five, Five Flights to Freedom." It's the same as the story about deaf life, work, work, work in a factory and going without any improvement so we performed that same life in the play. We'd work, work and work and want to improve but always got put down so that's the story of "5 FFF".

I HEARD YOU MADE SOME MASKS FOR THAT SHOW. IS THAT RIGHT?

Yes, my main interest is in mask plays. I made these. (Shows masks.)

WONDERFUL!

This was from the "5 FFF" play (showing the picture of the performance and where she is standing). This is me as the boss man ordering everyone to do work, like in real life, the deaf do as they are told by the boss who thinks of them as dumb and with low intellect. This (showing mask) I made from the same as from the other mask.

WONDERFUL!

In 1978, I was sent to Tasmania to learn about their Theatre in education, T.I.E., for short. This was to teach me how to run workshops. I was there for three weeks, came back and went to N.I.D.A. - National Institute of Dramatic Arts to learn for four weeks before I was to start travelling around schools for the rest of the year. Then the next year, 1979 was the first professional T.I.E. with two deaf and two hearing and I was included making it three deaf and two hearing. Our first performance shown around schools was this. (Nola shows photos.)

SO THERE WERE THREE, YOU, COLIN ALLEN AND DAVID LONDON.

Yes, Colin Allen, and David London.

GREAT!

Yes. We made masks of animals and birds. At the same time it was the week called the National Wildlife Preservation week to wise the children up as to why they should leave animals alone because some animals could become extinct.

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WAS THAT IN SCHOOLS ALL OVER N.S.W.?

Yes, touring all around. A few country tours but mostly around Sydney.

THAT'S WONDERFUL.

I remember playing this part (This is me in the photo.) I was spraying everywhere to get rid of all the animals and the audience of school children really hated me. They were really angry at me.

WHY WAS THAT?

Because they didn't like me killing all the birds. It was only talcum powder that I was spraying and the dummy birds fell down and the kangaroo (a person wearing a mask) I sprayed and they all fell down dying.

BOB HERMAN

OK, WHEN YOU LEFT SCHOOL, HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE DEAF COMMUNITY? HOW?

I heard things but it was my brother who helped me. I went to the Society. There was another place called the Deaf Association. There were two Clubs. I went to one to have a look where my friends went. Then I would go to the other one. People called me "two-faced." They would whisper, "Bob Herman, there's Bob Herman. He goes to the other Club too." I never worried about that. I only wanted to see my friends, my mates so I would go to both of them. At the Association, they had Collectors. The Society also had collectors and the two organisations had conflicts. In one street a deaf person would be collecting for the Society. The hearing person would donate some money and later, another deaf Collector would come and the person would say "I've already given!" The Collector would say "It's different. It is for the Association". Word got around and there were public complaints. The Government heard about it so they said not two organisations, there should be just one. So there was a vote and the Society won. The Association was cancelled and everyone moved across to the Society. It grew really big. Two small ones? No,

better to have one big one.

YOU THINK IT'S BETTER TO HAVE ONE GROUP?

Yes, it is better to have one big group of deaf. Rather than having to go choose one or the other. It's more peaceful with one.

DOROTHY SHAW

Oh yes, the signs here (in Sydney) are different to Melbourne. But I picked it up and got used to it. Okay, when I was (pause), talking about signs in Melbourne we had this sign. (Dot shows sign.) The sign means "Club." So, this sign, how it came about was that in the past, a long time ago before I was born, most of the deaf met together for church services. This was the tolling of the bells. Church bells. Deaf people gathered for the services. Later it turned into the sign for "Club." That sign is still used today. But here in Sydney they don't use that sign. They spell "Club" and for "Church" (this sign) because of the preacher giving a sermon. Different to CLUB. Now lately I have noticed when Oral Deaf people get together and talk, they use the sign "Deaf C" for "Deaf Club". (demonstrates) Right! At the Hostel at Stanmore, there is a hostel at the Deaf Club. This was the sign they used for Hostel (demonstrates) where we would stay and now that sign has become "Stanmore." That's how!

Right, my father was a Welfare Officer at one time. He was called a Missioner before, when I was small. He would give sermons in Church. There were Church Services for the Deaf. In turn various lay preachers would give sermons. Then he was a Welfare Worker and eventually moved into and lived at the Deaf Club. We lived in the Deaf Club for a period when I was about nine until I left at 21. While we lived in the Deaf Club, my father would meet with deaf people and also as caretaker of the place, closing it up after the deaf had gone. I'd say "bye, bye" they would say "Oh you're lucky! I have to walk and catch the train home, you only have to go upstairs to bed. Lucky you!" I used to think it would be good fun to go home on the train but I only stayed in the building. It seemed nothing to me.

REALLY! SO YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE DEAF COMMUNITY?

All my life. When I was little, I watched my father and mother talk about their involvements with the deaf community. Then when we moved into the Deaf Club, I would see all the people who wanted to see my father. I met so many deaf people.

Right. When I was small my father was one of the Founders who set up the Australian Cricket Association as Secretary from 1923 until 1947. Then it was Ashby, then a man from Adelaide, I forget his name, anyway my father would always go to all the sporting carnivals. He would be the Manager and looked after the arrangements. I remember he, I don't remember the event, but I remember looking at the photo of my mum and dad with a tennis team competing against deaf people from Sydney. They had come down for the first tennis match. Maybe 1923 or 1924, thereabouts. My father found a court near our home, he booked the court and invited the deaf people to come and stay with friends or billets and we'd have a tennis competition. Val Hole was in that team. Val Hole and my mother knew each other very well. Val is still alive at the age of 92. My mother died when she was 86, some years ago. Right! My father died when he was 60, a long time ago in 1951. Anyway, people say that I take after my father being very involved in the deaf community and I continue to do so.

BILL QUINN

There were two clubs. One called the Association for the Deaf and the NSW Society for the Deaf. Two different Clubs and I used to go to both of them. I was involved with both. They were in opposition. It would cause trouble if you went to one then next time go to the other one. The Government Charity Department found out there were two Collectors for each of the two Societies. There should have been one. The Society was the official one, not the other one. It closed. Since that time, those young people are now the Senior Citizens. They never bothered to go to the other Centre and so they started the Senior Citizens Centre, those people from the Association. that group wouldn't go to the Society. Now

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at the Centre there are no older people, they meet at Granville.
RIGHT, SO WHEN DID THE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE
START?

Maybe two years ago.

AND WHO STARTED IT?

Mrs. Pat Johnston. She was deaf. She started it. Now the number
are attending are about 60 people - a month.

ALVA CROSS

SO WHEN YOU LEFT SCHOOL, YOU WERE STILL KEEN
ON THE GUIDES BUT YOU HAD TO STOP GOING A
WHILE?

Yes, that's right!

WERE YOU INVOLVED WITH THE DEAF COMMUNITY
AND THE DEAF CLUB? IS THAT RIGHT?

Yes, that's right! I was in the Younger Set Club. I was one of four
Founders who first jointed the Younger Set and that continued for
quite a while, then when I moved to New South Wales, it just faded
away, faded away. Bush walking, Yachting Club, we used to have
that, Bush walking. I was with hearing people, Cycling too. It was
wonderful. It was a good life.

GOOD. YOU WENT TO NEW SOUTH WALES. WHAT, OR
HOW, MADE YOU MOVE TO NEW SOUTH WALES?

When it was about 1945, there was the Queensland Carnival, so I
went to Queensland to play in the sports and I met him. Then
later...(pause)

WHO WAS THAT? HANG ON.....

Bill Cross, my husband. That's where we met. Then later I stayed
at Stanmore Hostel for four years. That was very good. Stayed
there for four years then I had to leave to go to Melbourne to get
ready to be married.

JACK CHRISTIE

OKAY, DID YOU GO TO THE DEAF CLUB AT STANMORE?
No, before it was at 5 Elizabeth Street. I would go there regularly. There were good crowds attending. It was a smaller building but good crowds went there. We had billiards downstairs, and table tennis upstairs, the hall was quite big and the office was small. It was good. Shops were nearby and very easy to get to. Before the shops closed at nine o'clock, some would do their shopping and bring their things then have a cup of tea, and a chat. They would have their shopping with them.

WAS IT OPEN EVERY DAY?

Yes, from Monday up till Saturday mornings.

IT WAS OPEN?

Yes, the Welfare Officers worked in those days for 44 hours. On Saturday afternoons it was closed. Everyone would be gone, playing different things but on Sundays, yes, for Church. Every Sunday regularly the deaf would come to Church. It was good.

DID DEAF PEOPLE GO THERE EVERY DAY?

Yes, about 20 or 30, yes, yes.

EVERYDAY, THEY WOULD GO THERE?

Yes.

WAS IT OPEN AT NIGHT?

Only on Friday nights, Saturday nights, sometimes, depending if there was a Social. Wednesday night was table tennis, that's about all.

AT 5 ELIZABETH STREET, WHEN DID THAT CLOSE?

It closed in 1970, 1970, because 5 Elizabeth Street was very old and small. There were white-ants downstairs in the basement, in the ground and the billiard table had white-ants too. Then it was moved to Stanmore. It was much bigger and better.

I SAW IN A NEWSPAPER THE OTHER DAY THAT THERE WERE DEAF PEOPLE VERY ANGRY ABOUT 5 ELIZABETH STREET BEING CLOSED. THEY SEEMED ANGRY AND WERE ALL STANDING OUTSIDE. WHAT HAPPENED?

Oh no, it wasn't about that. That was in 1927 because Mr. Lonsdale at that time he couldn't fingerspell. Could only sign bad, good and that's all but they felt they must select someone who could be an interpreter. They selected a person from England who came to Australia in 1925 and he could sign very well. The deaf liked him and not Mr. Lonsdale. He couldn't communicate with the deaf. Not one deaf person. That was until 1927. I don't know how they got rid of him and why. Then Mr. Hursee left and many deaf people followed him. He looked around and found a room finally and called it the Association. That was in Goulburn Street and stayed there for nine years. It closed in 1938 because the Government said there were two Clubs and that was too many.

WHAT WERE THE TWO CLUBS?

The Association and the other was the Deaf and Dumb Society. Collectors from each group would go and collect money from hearing people. People complained that there were too many collecting for the deaf and reported it to the Government. The Government thought it was better to have only one and had to vote for one. They decided it would be best to have the Deaf and Dumb Society because they owned their premises and the Association was only renting for nine pounds a week, only nine pounds!

THAT WAS A GOOD PRICE!

Yes, then the Association staff moved to the Society and the Collectors too. It became one group together. Numbers fluctuated.

UP UNTIL NOW, IT IS AT STANMORE!

Yes.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE STANMORE HAVE IN THE FUTURE?

WHAT DO YOU SEE IT SHOULD HAVE?

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Oh the older deaf people won't go to Stanmore. Only on Bowling Days. They go to other hearing clubs in small groups around the suburbs. The young ones still go to Stanmore. That's good.

MMMM, I SEE!

But now all the deaf they want liquor. Stanmore used to have liquor before the bar was closed.

WHY WAS IT CLOSED?

Because of the Police By-Laws under the Liquor Act which must be followed for 52 weeks a year. And you're not allowed to sell privately but must be licensed. You have to ask for approval, must look after the money to pay the tax, and things like that.

WHEN WAS IT CLOSED?

Three years ago, yes, three years ago.

UH HAH!

I remember there was a growing number of oral deaf and there was a group of deaf too. But on Wednesday nights it was only for Oral who were allowed to go to the Deaf Centre. For me or other deaf people who could not speak we were not allowed. You had to be able to talk. Pen or paper was not allowed. A few deaf people tried to get in but were told they were not allowed to go in. You had to be able to speak. That was on Wednesday nights. Yet on Friday nights, the Oral deaf were allowed to visit the Deaf Club so they had two chances to attend. Friday nights was the one chance to attend but Oral deaf had Wednesday and Friday and they mixed together. I thought about that and felt it was wrong so I wrote and reported it to the Daily Mirror. I was not sure if they would print it, but the Daily Mirror was surprised to hear this and they wrote to the North Rocks teachers and asked what they thought. They thought it wasn't good and called it like an "Apartheid". So then it was put in the Daily Mirror and they thought it was not fair. Later on, the Oral Group finished and both deaf and oral had to mix together like these days.

REALLY, NO MORE ORAL CLUB?

Oh yes, it's still allowed but for social nights they mix together,

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it is not like South Africa. Nothing like that, no!
TRUE! WHEN WAS THAT?
About 1972, 1972!

I'VE HEARD THAT YOU JOINED THE THEATRE OF THE DEAF?

Yes! Yes! I was with Peg, Nola Colefax, Margo Allen, and Colin Allen, all of us together. It was good. We were with hearing people, at the Elizabeth Trust. I think how it was started was by deaf Americans who came to Australia for the first time and performed really well at the Newtown Theatre. Later on, Mr. Neary, he came from England and worked on the Welfare Staff. He tried to get the Theatre started and it turned out quite well. We learnt at Newington College. They taught us how to perform and we played a few places. Then Mr. Neary left us and moved to Melbourne. We then had a new hearing person and his name was Adam Salzer. He was willing to help us. He was only young, 19 or 20, long hair, pierced ears. He learned to fingerspell and directed us well. The Theatre performed at various places like the Newcastle University. I've been there and Wollongong, I've been there too. Mostly it was here in Sydney. King Lear, the name of the performance, that was very good. It had beautiful decorations, and things like that.

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER AS THE BEST THING ABOUT THE THEATRE, WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER AS THE BEST?

I think King Lear. The story of King Lear and there was a story of a bank robber all done in mime using body language, hands, gesture for stabbing. Directed not by Adam, his name was George Ogilvie. He was good.

ARE EITHER ADAM OR GEORGE DEAF?

No, no, both hearing.

OH HEARING!

They are professionals. Both of them.

DID THEY BOTH SIGN?

George, no, but Adam, he was good.

IT'S GOOD TO HEAR THAT AND ARE YOU STILL INVOLVED WITH THE THEATRE OF THE DEAF?

No, no! I finished eight years ago, I finished. I'm too old now and I moved to a new house near Gosford to relax us and enjoy the breeze and fresh air.

PEG CHRISTIE

I WAS JUST WONDERING, WERE YOU INVOLVED WITH THE DEAF COMMUNITY IN ENGLAND?

Yes, but it's the same trouble as here. The Government won't help. No! The Deaf people have to fight. We had, wait! I used to work in Margate Deaf School and we had a Deaf Club in a room there but it wasn't a proper club. The Government didn't give us any money, nothing. Not much at all. I got fed up there and came here. I wasn't involved here until I got married to Jack. I had enough of it but he was involved in the thick of it. So I had to join him. but I've been happy. I want to say to our many, many deaf friends we have here, thanks very much.

GOOD.

It's been lovely.

GOOD. I HEARD THAT YOU JOINED THE THEATRE OF THE DEAF!

Yes, my husband Jack and I were involved for nine years. Oh, it was wonderful. It was with Adam Salzer and Alex. They were lovely. Did very well there. Like I said, I was shy and nervous, I joined the Theatre and after nine years with them I am able to stand up and not be afraid of anything any more. It's good. Had a wonderful time there, wonderful. Now the Theatre seems to have gone down a little bit. It's not the same as it was before. We travelled, visiting hearing theatre groups, we'd go backstage and visit and meet with other actors. It's not like that now. It's a shame. Adam had to leave after about three years he'd enough. The new Director who came in, oh, we had many conflicts. He brought too many hearing people in and they were pushing the deaf out. That was bad for our Deaf Theatre. Other people thought it was

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wonderful to have hearing people there. I can see that but it was wrong. It was a deaf theatre. The hearing were taking out our own art. So a few of us withdrew. Jack and I withdrew and moved to Gosford. I like it very much there. Deaf people are coming there, the numbers are growing. We have been there for seven years.

I'VE HEARD THERE IS A NEW DEAF CENTRE AT GOSFORD?

No, no, no. At first, we used to meet together in houses or in hotels. Then some deaf wrote to Gosford Rugby Leagues Club asking if we could use one of the rooms there once a month. Oh, they were very nice to us. We didn't have to pay anything at all. It was lovely. So for about two or three years we'd get together there about once a month. They came from Gosford, Sydney, Newcastle gathered there. About 30 to 50. It was good, it was nice. We get along well with the hearing people there. They gave us that room. Not many hearing people go into that room. They leave it to us. At the moment, that room is being renovated. So we are in another one. We hope it will only be temporary. We hope!

IS THERE A DEAF CENTRE OR A DEAF CLUB?

There is a room but we don't have a Deaf Centre. Pity! The numbers are growing. We do need a Deaf Club there but no money!

RIGHT, WELL HOW DID IT REALLY START IN GOSFORD, ALL THE GROUPS GETTING TOGETHER?

There are a lot of deaf people coming to live in Gosford. Retired people, some young people. Sydney is too full and spreading out. We meet at shopping centres. They would ask where will we meet again, say at the Leagues Club. Alright. Someone else might come along. There would be two, three or more people meeting. Now it is like a regular fixture there. Hopefully, we will still meet there.

HOW MANY PEOPLE GO THERE NOW, ROUGHLY?

About 40 or 50. They come from Sydney, Gosford and in Gosford itself, I think altogether with children, and everyone, a good 40 or so. I haven't met them all but there are around 45 people there. It's good. I wish we did have a Club there. It's very hard. Money!

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Do you know how to squeeze money out?

NO.

BEN TAYLOR

GOOD! AFTER SCHOOL, DID YOU OR HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE DEAF COMMUNITY? HOW?

I had heard at the Deaf School about the Deaf Club. Verbally talking - with deaf mates saying "There's a deaf Club there!" No official announcements were made by the deaf school teachers. No, just the talks about the club. When school finished, in the first week, I went to the Deaf Club in town at 5 Elizabeth Street. I went in and met some old mates who I hadn't seen for five or ten years. I met with them again. I went there regularly meeting them for company. It was good. I was happy being involved regularly.

I HEARD THAT IN THE OLD DAYS, YOU WERE INVOLVED WITH THE "YOUNGER SET," THAT'S IN THE OLD DAYS, IS THAT RIGHT?

Yes. The "Younger Set" was the first of my activities where I became involved with a Committee. It was the first. That was when I was 19. The first Committee, that I became involved with. It gave me a chance to increase my knowledge about organising things. It was that which taught me to develop and then I became involved with other sporting committees because of the "Younger Set". I always enjoyed the "Younger Set" getting together because we were all in the same age group and we would go out on hikes, camping, social functions, games, parties, making arrangements regularly every month. It was really good, the "Younger Set". Truly wonderful. It is sad to see that now it has dispersed. Maybe because there are so many other clubs and activities that have grown. But the "Younger Set" has just dwindled away.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT IN THE DEAF COMMUNITY?

Nowadays?

OH FROM WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED UNTIL NOW.

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When I was involved with the "Younger Set", I had a big lesson from the deaf group. When I first went out on a hike, we had to travel on a train and meet at Central Station at 8.00 a.m. That was alright, I went home and at home, my mum packed my food, I got dressed and had put on my tie, jacket, trousers, shoes and tie. In my case I packed my lunch, snacks and closed the lid. I wasn't experienced about hikes. I went off carrying my case and when I got to Central, all the deaf were laughing at me. "What?" I asked. I had a tie on, they had back-packs and boots, cap, and I was with a tie, coat and carrying a case. We went off anyway and when we stopped for lunch they were still laughing at me. I became downhearted about that but I enjoyed talking with them. Nearby there was a muddy pool of water and the deaf said to stand around it in a circle and look at the water. One of the deaf played a trick on me. While looking at the water, one of the deaf behind me threw a rock over my head and it splashed into the water but at the same time the deaf had jumped back away. I was left standing there and got soaked. My sports suit was all covered in mud. They gave me a lesson. So the next time, I bought a back-pack, shorts and clothes more suitable. It's been good ever since. It was a good start for me to realise things because I did not have the experience nor did anyone explain what to do when going on a hike. Because at the deaf School, we never went on a hike. I just never knew!

END OF TAPE 5.

Tape 6. DEAF COMMUNITY PART 2

ALAN FAIRWEATHER

At 5 Elizabeth Street; I liked the old Club more than the new centre with so many doors. At Elizabeth Street, it was easy, they only had one door so everyone went in and out the same door and it was safe. But at Stanmore, there are so many chances to steal things. There are problems - a TV was stolen. There are too many doors. (At Stanmore) there is the big front door plus the back, but at the old club there was just one so it was easy to keep shut.

THAT'S A GOOD IDEA!

The Caretaker was Sam Philips, we call him Philips (as shown).

PHILIPS (Copies Sign) LIKE THAT?

I don't know why we used that sign. He was the watchman. Sam could speak well. His son was a good table-tennis player for his age. They lived up in the attic so he just wandered down and played table-tennis. I haven't forgotten that.

WANDA STEWART

AND WERE YOU INVOLVED IN ANY DEAF CLUBS?

Yes, I was Secretary for the Younger Set for a year. I gave that up, then I thought I'd like the (Women's Guild) Committee so I could argue and debate things. Eventually with the Women's Guild, after my marriage after 2 or 3 years, I left because I was having my two children.

**AND DO YOU REMEMBER ANY OF THE GOOD TIMES
WHEN YOU WERE IN THE YOUNGER SET?**

Oh yes, I think it was more fun that nowadays, comparing them, their different ways, from what I've seen of my daughter. We had such good fun going dancing to socials. We used to go on hikes. Sometimes on a Sunday we'd go on hikes. It was good fun. It was lovely.

**DO YOU HAVE MORE TO SAY ABOUT THE DEAF CLUB?
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY?**

I've noticed in my 30 or 40 years things have changed and changed. Before, it was good, then with the next generation it's really different, there are different ways. With divorce, people think there is no harm in it. That's different, that's changed and there are different outings, they never go on hikes, no dances. They like disco's; our ways are very different. I think mine were much more fun than theirs.

ALAN JONES

11 or 12 years, then 9 years and then 3 years ago, I was with the deaf as a volunteer to go and to see the World Deaf Games; in a group after group. It was good.

**RIGHT, WHAT ABOUT YOUR TRAVELLING; YOU WENT
OVERSEAS?**

Yes, yes.

DID YOU ALWAYS BRING AN INTERPRETER?

No, none. We had to pick things up ourselves. It was good in Europe, we did well without an interpreter. We picked things up. Europe was beautiful. Then England - we went there but it was pouring rain.

AND DID YOU SEE ENGLAND'S DEAF CLUBS?

Yes, called "The Shepherd", the Shepherd's Bush. When I went in it was a church building with a bar downstairs; it was licensed. I was surprised. Upstairs was not a church but the deaf centre with a bar downstairs. But one thing with supper after nine o'clock the club closed, so we had to go to the bar, we'd go there for a drink.

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They made money there. I was surprised. It is different here at the Stanmore Canteen Committee. I've worked in the Canteen Committee for ages, nine years I think. I hope one day, a new person will volunteer to replace me. I hope so. Please?

In the past, when the deafI was boarding in different places, I'd left Narrandera and was moving about from place to place. I was waiting as Mr. Lonsdale told me there will be a new Deaf Hostel. Where? We had to wait till a new one was found. Then Mr. Lonsdale drove me to Stanmore. When we arrived it was an old house, all overgrown, it looked terrible. "Is that it? Are we going to live there?" No, it would be pulled down if one day we'd demolish it. So we got the deaf together on a working bee. A crowd went over and worked and cleared till the site was bare. Then we waited for the new one to be built and finished. I heard it was ready to open and got a letter from Mr. Lonsdale saying I was to be the first person in the Hostel. I would be the first boy staying in the hostel. So I arrived with my suitcase and finally went in and I was happy to be there. But the Matron said "No, ladies were to go in first." But I showed her my letter and she said "Oh, alright you can come in." I was first and I was very pleased. I made history, I was the first.

BEN TAYLOR

I SEE. OKAY, I'VE HEARD YOU HAD BEEN LIVING IN THE HOSTEL. IS THAT RIGHT?

Yes, when my mother died and my father died, there was my brother and his wife so I lived with them. When the Deaf Society opened a new Hostel at Stanmore, I asked my brother about it and he said it would be good and agreed so I put my name down and I moved there. It was good, comfortable. The accommodation was good, the food was wonderful. The Hostel was a good home for country deaf and for city deaf who had no parents. I stayed for nearly three years. Then I met a deaf girl from the country who had come down; I met her and I caught her. We got married and left the Hostel. Really, I was sad to leave the Hostel but we had to because we got married.

AND WHAT WAS THE AGE GROUP WHEN YOU FIRST LIVED IN THE HOSTEL? THE PEOPLE THERE, WHAT WERE THEIR AGES?

Mostly from 40 down to 16. Mostly from the country, deaf people who had come down. It was good, it was a nice home.

AND WAS THE HOSTEL FULL?

Yes, it was full and had a long waiting list. Waiting for people to marry and move out so others could come in. It was good, the staff were good and taught us well and we were well treated.

RIGHT., AND WERE THE STAFF HEARING?

Yes.

AND COULD THEY SIGN?

Yes. On the Kitchen Staff there were two deaf workers doing the cooking and washing up. The Matron, the Nurse, and the office people were all hearing and they co-operated very well.

I HAVE HEARD THAT YOU ARE NOW A MANAGER OF THE BOARD OF THE DEAF SOCIETY. IS THAT RIGHT?

Yes. Correct. A Director of the Board of Management. There are now four deaf people on the Board.

AND WHEN DID THE DEAF FINALLY GET ONTO THE BOARD?

About five years ago. I heard that in the past, in the 1900's, there were a few deaf members. Later, the hearing members changed the Constitution so that the deaf were removed and it was only hearing people. That went on for about fifty years. Amendments to the Constitution allowed the deaf back on. First there were three now there are four. In past times, they would pick up hearing or deaf people by election chosen from the floor but now the constitution is changed and people are selected by invitation now. If someone goes, they ask someone else and if they accept, they bring them in. At Board Meetings there are Interpreters, two interpreters who work and alternate for the four of us deaf members so we can ask questions and get answers and discuss.

ANOTHER THING WE HAVE HEARD IS THAT YOU ARE A DIRECTOR OF A.D.S.F.? HOW IS THAT?

Yes, I am Director selected by the Deaf Community through all the different sporting associations. They all picked me on the Board of Directors. Now I have been in that position for five years. I became involved with A.D.S.F. through being Secretary of the Australian Deaf Bowls Association as Secretary. From there I got put on the Board of the Australian Deaf Sports Federation Ltd.

RIGHT, YOU'VE TOLD ME THAT THE YOUNGER SET PHASED OUT. WHAT'S HAPPENED AFTER THAT?

It was sad to see the "Younger Set" fade away but I've heard they reformed that Committee about fifteen or twenty years ago. It lasted only about one year then dissolved again. After that there was the Soccer Club Committee and the cricket team and then following on from that the Deaf General Committee, for all the clubs to be involved discussing and arranging things for the Deaf Community. It organised and evolved into the Deaf Games in Australia, where all the states would meet, I would go and be involved in the arrangements. It's wonderful how the Australian Deaf Games are held in each State every three years, really wonderful. It is good for deaf people to meet one another, for their knowledge to increase, all around Australia and that has continued. Later it linked into the World Deaf Olympic Games. So it has grown in steps to a world event running well. From the club level to A.D.S.F., back to the International organisation, C.I.S.S., back to the General Committee, that continued meeting every month and liaising with the Deaf Society Staff to discuss issues. Now the General Committee has closed and there has been a split. The Deaf General Committee joined the Deafness Council and the Sports Associations are together in their own group. Before they were all together but now it is separate and is running smoothly.

Back to the Deaf Community over at Stanmore, when Elizabeth Street was closed and things were moved over to the new Centre, everything was fine. But in my experience with the Deaf Society I have been disappointed - the Deaf Society should have deaf staff. I have been disappointed. We have asked and been refused. It would give help and encouragement. If the deaf were directly

involved, the hearing staff workload would be reduced. By sorting out things with the deaf staff first, there would be less work. Without deaf involved, the hearing are over-loaded. It could be bypassed. I firmly believe that. It has continued and so far there are no deaf staff, only office workers. We are asking for a deaf activities officer or a liaison officer. I have been greatly disappointed - they should have one. Interstate Societies have them but here in N.S.W., we have failed so far. I am disappointed. I hope that in the future there will be finally a deaf Activities person for more contact between the staff and community.

IT WOULD BE GOOD TO HAVE A DEAF PERSON WORKING THERE, FOR SURE.

WELL NOW I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU; WHEN YOU WERE SINGLE, AND WHEN YOU WENT TO WORK, HOW DID YOU GET UP EARLY IN THE MORNINGS?

I have an alarm clock in my mind in my brain. It always tells me when to wake up. When I was young, I lived in Manly, I'd get up at 5.30 a.m. to catch the Ferry. I'd be spot on every time, I was never late. I'd wake up because of my brain. When I moved to the Hostel and I was boarding, I would still wake up at the right time. Now I am getting older, I need a flashing light to help me because of my age. My mind isn't as good. Flashing alarms are wonderful. A long time ago, there were no flashing alarms for deaf people, but now they're everywhere. Once they were available, I bought one. If I didn't, I couldn't be sure I'd wake up, now so it's better to have one. Same with the TTY for the deaf and flashing door lights, etc. In the olden days, we didn't have anything. We had to work hard and use our brains.

WELL, HOW DID YOU ANSWER THE DOOR?

Well, I had no idea. Someone might wave a piece of paper under the door or they'd be banging on the door or come around to the back yard and knock or find their way through. Or might go to the meter board and play with the switch to make the lights flash on and off and we'd wonder what it was. Now there are lots of improvements and the different aids are wonderful.

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the Deaf Centre as a cleaner. Only three days a week. And, oh yes, every Wednesday, other deaf people and I play indoor bowls and games and have conversations and that's good. Then sometimes there's a special social evening on a Saturday. Sometimes we like to go together on a netball bus trip. There are different things.

SPORT

ALBERT JACKSON

I'll tell you, in Paris, I saw deaf people signing at a soccer match. I went over to meet them. They were all Oral but they told me they didn't like using oral, they preferred to sign. They were all young, and signing, but they did things without any spelling, they didn't know how to fingerspell, only sign. They loved signing and said the oral was too hard, they'd stopped learning it. That's what they told me in Paris.

THEY DIDN'T EVEN USE THE ONE HANDED ALPHABET?
No, only signs. Oralism, they dumped. They were all young. The older deaf used oral, but these young ones - not interested!

AND DID YOU MEET DEAF PEOPLE IN ENGLAND?
Yes, in England. I went into four different Clubs.

VAL HOLE

One man named Mr. Taylor, asked if I would like to play tennis.

WAS THAT MR. TAYLOR?

Yes, Mr. Taylor asked if I would like to play tennis. I thought yes I would like tennis, so I agreed to join. We went to Mrs. Richards' mother's court. It was good. Membership of the club grew and grew. Then we decided to go to Melbourne. We agreed to go and selected four people, was it four?, yes, four! the same with the men as well. So we all went and the women won and the men lost.

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OH, THEY LOST. WHEN DID YOU GO TO MELBOURNE, WHEN WAS THAT?

Oh, I can't remember. It is on the back of one of my photos.

RIGHT, CAN YOU REMEMBER WHO WENT, OF THE FOUR WOMEN THERE WAS YOU....

Kitty Ocean(?), she's married. Second was Alice, she's married, third was me, and the fourth, oh, damn, I can't remember. Anyway, they were old ones. They all got married and me too.

AND HOW LONG DID YOU STAY WHEN YOU WENT TO MELBOURNE?

Oh, one week, or two weeks; one and a half.

WAS IT YOUR FIRST TIME?

I met Jack, no, Dot Shaw's mother and father. I knew them so we talked and had great conversations. It was easy.

AND WAS IT YOUR FIRST TIME IN MELBOURNE? FIRST TIME?

Mmmm, yes.

DID YOU GO AGAIN THE FOLLOWING YEAR TO MELBOURNE?

No, every three years, every three years.

DID YOU CONTINUE EVERY THREE YEARS?

No, only until the second World War, we had to stop. Then we had to leave and go to a different place - Bellevue Hill tennis court. We had to pay rent. But then we went back again, back to the same place.

GOOD.

Oh, it was such a long time ago, I forget.

BOB HERMAN

The Deaf played sport - we played cricket in Moore Park for many

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years. That was good. The Herald Newspaper published our results and performances. They were put in regularly for many years and that was good. Before, we won the premiership. Later, a few years later, the deaf won it again. We won it twice. That was good. Later on their performance went downhill at Moore Park. I was surprised. What a pity! Anyway, soccer was good as well. We played at Cook's River, Tempe and played different matches. After a few years, the deaf won a Premiership. Now that's all changed and different.

WITH SOCCER WAS THAT A DEAF TEAM?

Yes.

AGAINST HEARING TEAMS?

Yes, against hearing people.

AROUND SYDNEY?

Yes, it was very good.

HOW MANY TEAMS WERE THERE?

One for soccer - just the one, for cricket, one, sometimes two - it went up and down. It was good. The Society's cricket or soccer teams would play against the Castle Hill Deaf Team. They were friends, so it was exciting when we went to play cricket and soccer and tennis. We'd go to Castle Hill School, and have a good time. I will never forget, those were the good times.

IS IT STILL HAPPENING?

No, no more. It's different now.

I SEE, IN THE DEAF COMMUNITY, DID YOU ACHIEVE ANYTHING - IN THE DEAF COMMUNITY?

Yes, I was good at cricket, secondly, at soccer I was okay. Thirdly, I was lucky; when I finished with cricket, when that was finished, and my age was about 43 or 44, I was lucky to hear they had lawn bowling. That was just right for my age. I'd just finished with cricket and I found out about bowls, good timing. I'm thankful for bowls. I've kept going. I love bowls, I've been playing for over 25 years. It's been exciting. In the past for the old, there was

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nothing, no bowls - when you were old and finished with cricket and soccer, it was bad luck. I was lucky.

It was good timing, so I could just continue on.

DID YOU KNOW JIM WILLIAMS?

Yes.

CAN YOU TELL ME A BIT ABOUT HIS SPORTS?

Yes, I went with the deaf to watch Jim play soccer in Ibrox Park in Leichhardt. It was great. He was in Westoon. Once, I went to watch, but he travelled all over. We heard he was spot on with goals, a crack shot, dead accurate. Everyone was talking about it. Did you know he nearly got picked for the Australian team - almost?

THE HEARING TEAM?

Yes, he nearly got in for N.S.W. but he was deaf. He was always in the papers. Oh, he was well-known. There were other pro's selected for Australia, from the same club, that was great, we admired him.

DOROTHY SHAW

AFTER YOU LEFT SCHOOL, DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE DEAF COMMUNITY?

Yes. Yes, I did. I played sports with deaf people and competed against other hearing teams. Yes and basketball, which is now called netball. Before, it was called basketball but now it's changed to netball and basketball has a different sign. Okay, and tennis, yes, I played tennis, with just against hearing teams regularly on Saturdays, it was good.

And what other sports? Oh, hiking. We loved to go hiking on Sundays. We'd catch the train. A lot of deaf would meet. With back-packs on and food packed. We would walk with jodhpurs on or slacks, jumpers, because in winter it would be cold. We'd catch the train and go to a country town. We would get off, walk a circuit

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track, or go for a walking trip or across to another train line. Maybe walk ten to twelve miles in a day's walk. Half way, we would stop and eat by the river. We would keep to the track though and not go into the bush. We enjoyed it, the deaf together. We had old friends like Ern Noble with us and a few others. They were my age group.

BILL QUINN

There were State Games, Victoria, N.S.W. against Queensland, only those three at first, run by the Society, there were no Associations, only the Society was involved. Now there are World Games.

WONDERFUL!

But the trophies then were better than nowadays. They were real gold or silver medals, cups, shields. Now gold is only given to the winner. Before it was to casual winners.

I SEE, IT'S DIFFERENT.

It's different. I was a champion swimmer and high diver. But before there was no competition.

THAT'S DISAPPOINTING!

JACK CHRISTIE

In 1943, I was chosen as Captain of the Cricket team at Moore Park. The deaf were winning and winning, and the hearing team going so-so, but the deaf were winning except for one day there was a weak team which nearly beat us on the second day. The first day they did beat us, but the second and final day it was a two day match.

There was one more over until the finish. It was five to six. They were nine for something and this other hearing team came over to watch. The umpire said, one more over and the crowd started to

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yell and shout. Thankfully, Mr. Lonsdale had come over to watch for the first time. He heard and argued back at them and the umpire said, no, there was still one more over to go. And we won. But the finals were between all those people yelling and our team. We beat them and for the first time we won the shield since 1927. The deaf team in 1927 was a better team than our team. They were better, they were B Grade and we were C Grade. Now there has been nothing since 1943. Nothing.

NOT A WIN, WHAT A SHAME! PERHAPS IT WILL BE BETTER IN THE FUTURE.

Yes, I hope so.

I THINK WE'VE COVERED EVERYTHING FOR TODAY. IS THAT IT?

No, Soccer Days.

YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT SOCCER DAYS? GOOD.

The Association had a different name. It was called "Helen Keller". My team was named after the American woman who was blind and deaf so that was our name. We won a lot of matches. We won for two years in succession, two wins, 1943 and in 1944 we won. After that we won some other times as well. It was good.

DID YOU GET CUPS?

Yes, I got cups and pennants and I have photographs of the cricket and the soccer teams. I still have them.

CAN YOU REMEMBER WHO WAS IN YOUR CRICKET TEAM THAT TEAM WHICH WON, IN 1943?

I was with, in 1943 I was with; Syd Fullerton, Bob Herman, Les Barraston, Wally Thorburn, Les White and Jim Tyquin. The soccer team was Alf Liston, Alf Allen, John Callaghan, Cliff Tozer, me and I've forgotten the others.

BEN TAYLOR

The Olympics started around 1926. It was very small with just a

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few countries from around the world. Australia wasn't involved for a very long time. We first joined them around 1960 and there was one deaf who went for the diving and swimming and it has grown from that. There was basketball, a few others, wrestling, running, cycling, it's expanded. And now we are going off to New Zealand in Christmas January, 1989, and there are 127 deaf competitors going to New Zealand for the Australian team.

THAT'S GREAT!

Twenty years ago, there was only one diver and now there are 127 Competitors. The next World Games will be in Bulgaria. There are a lot more deaf - it's really grown.

MARY MILLER

DO YOU PLAY BOWLING?

Yes, every Thursday with hearing people in Hamilton. Every Wednesday I go to the Deaf Centre to play indoor games and bowls.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN PLAYING BOWLS?

Ten years.

TEN YEARS! GOOD AND DID YOU PLAY SPORT BEFORE?

Yes, yes.

WHAT?

Netball.

WITH THE DEAF?

Yes, half with hearing with deaf, my four brothers, they played with Vigoars, I play with Paul's Bros.

SOCIAL LIFE

DOROTHY SHAW

I have photos of my mother and father, there is one of Dad with four other deaf men and the five of them went on a motoring trip to Sydney back in 1920 thereabouts. It was an open car, with a hood you could open and close and they drove this car from Melbourne through Cann River, then to Orbost, Bega then all the way up the Coast. And I think it was really amazing. I know now it is a long trip and we have good roads, but in those times it must have been hopeless roads. It would have been rough and bumpy and bushy all the way. But they got there and they were deaf people. They all took turns driving. If they had a flat tyre, they had to put a patch on it and pump it up again to continue on. When they got to Sydney, my father said he remembers seeing funny cabbage trees in the Bulli area near Wollongong. A skinny tree with a bush on top. It was strange in Victoria we didn't have trees like that, they were strange trees. But at Bulli Pass, he thought what a wonderful view, Bulli pass had a wonderful view, wonderful. They enjoyed Sydney and met friends, and then travelled back again. I think what an amazing trip they had for that time.

DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG IT TOOK THEM TO TRAVEL TO SYDNEY?

I forgot to ask and my father died a long time ago, I've missed out. I think maybe one, or two weeks. I don't know.

ALAN FAIRWEATHER

We had dancing, fancy dress socials. In my parents time, I loved to watch them dress up. My mother went as "My Fair Lady" with a hat and flowers and I loved it.

Then in my time, playing fancy dress, I went as Carmen Miranda with fruit on my head, and tie top, from Brazil. I asked my old

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WERE THERE ANY OTHER DEAF INVOLVED?

No, I was terrified once when we had to stand on parade and the top brass inspected us row by row. I was afraid he'd ask me a question and I would be booted out because I was deaf. I wanted to learn about the Defence Corp. To defend the country against the enemy, the Japanese, and the Germans, I wanted to learn. But I was happy to leave and come to Sydney. There were many deaf around the country, Henry Hespe in Lismore and others scattered around, there were more.

AND DID THEY DO THE SAME AS YOU, DID THEY LEARN HOW TO USE A RIFLE?

Yes. In Lismore, and me in Narrandera. The .303 was a good rifle, it was deadly!

DON THORNTON

DID YOU ACHIEVE ANYTHING OR DO ANYTHING GOOD IN THE DEAF CLUB?

No.

YOU JUST HELPED OUT?

Yes, just talked and made friends. When I got married I had four children who are now grown up. Now it's strange at home, it's lonely so we thought we'd go and see the Deaf Club. It was alright. Much the same. Sometimes there were new faces and I didn't know who they were. Later I heard that at Campbelltown, a new deaf centre was opening there. I thought I'd like to go there because it's near where I live. They asked for new Committee members so I volunteered to go on it. Now it will be 9 years.

REALLY? CAMPBELLTOWN'S BEEN RUNNING FOR NINE YEARS?

Yes, 9 years.

THAT'S GONE FAST.

Now I am working as President for the Campbelltown Deaf Centre.

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WOW! THAT'S GREAT! HOW DID THE CAMPBELL-TOWN CENTRE START?

Because of the increase in deaf people living in Campbelltown since the new housing estates developed. We deaf needed a Club, so we found a small club that belongs to the Council. I think about three or four times we've changed to different places. But now the Department of Education has given us a hall at no charge.

THAT'S GOOD, YOU'RE LUCKY. IS IT OPEN ONCE A MONTH?

Yes, every second Friday each month.

THAT'S GOOD AND DO YOU HOPE THAT IN THE FUTURE IT WILL GROW?

Yes, I hope so.

END OF TAPE 6.

TAPE 7 HOME AND SOCIETY

ALBERT JACKSON

GOOD. YOU HAVE, HOW MANY CHILDREN DO YOU HAVE?

Three.

THREE. ARE THEY ALL DEAF?

No, hearing.

ALL OF THEM HEARING?

Yes, all three. My daughter's daughter, my grand-daughter, is....
13. She wins at horse-riding - she's won in shows and has many ribbons of different colours all across the wall. Horse riding, she's good at horse riding.

And my grandson, since he was 5, 6, 7, 8, he's now 10, he's terrific at racing BMW's, BMX.

BMX.

He's been winning races, winning a lot, and he's got a row of trophies on display.

GOOD.

I still go out every day and every night now; I still always play euchre and bowls, indoor bowls in the St. George district. I still play bowls and euchre regularly.

OH GOOD.

I'm popular now with the old people through playing cards and bowls and chatting. They're nice people to me. We talk and it's good - those people, I bowl with them every day.

GOOD, THAT IS GOOD. HOW DO YOU COMMUNICATE? BY WRITING OR.....

Yes, by writing.

WRITING, GOOD. YOU MUST HAVE PLENTY OF PAPER
IN YOUR POCKET ALL THE TIME.

Mmmmm.

VAL HOLE

DID YOU MARRY?

Oh yes.

RIGHT. WAS YOUR HUSBAND DEAF?

Yes, from England.

HOW DID YOU MEET HIM?

Oh, through America....he wanted to see his Aunt in Canada. His mother's sister. He was 20 years old and he asked his brother if he could borrow some money enough to pay the 10 shillings to go to Canada. In those days, it was very cheap. He went there and met a lot of cousins, I think there were eight cousins. They were all married. He stayed there a while then he went to Seattle, in America, stayed there, then to San Fransisco and he travelled around together with some deaf people who were clever and could speak well. Yes, they were clever, - he said. He learnt the one-handed alphabet, the one-handed, that's different to the Waratah spelling, different. I used the one-handed, but now I'm very stiff and slow.

AND YOUR HUSBAND?

I think he spent about twenty years in America then he wanted to see Australia so he came out here. He wanted to go to Queensland, he told me later - I hadn't met him yet. He went to Queensland and came back and first got a job here in Sydney as an upholsterer, working for about... three or four years. Then he wanted to start his own business. I said "that's impossible." He said "I can write things," "Please, please." I said "Where? Upholstering! - I can't believe it. Who would you work with?" He said "Don't worry," anyway, he found a friend, you know, Jack Murray. Have you heard of him?

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MMMMmmm, NO, I WILL FIND OUT.

He was in racing, on the track, - he was good.

SO YOU KNEW HIM? DID YOU MEET HIM? DID YOU KNOW HIM?

Yes, well.

RIGHT. I DON'T KNOW HIM.

They were great friends, those two. They worked up in the garage doing the upholstery, then they found a building and bought it. That was good, so we stayed there. I did the paper work - I was treasurer looking after the money. If someone came and wanted to know where he was, I'd say he was busy on another job. They'd write me a note and I'd know they wanted a receipt for half the payment they made.

They'd say "Thank you", and in the till I'd leave a note with the money.

YOU HAD NO PROBLEMS BECAUSE YOU COULD SPEAK, CAN YOU SPEAK?

Oh, well.....

YES, HOW DID YOU MEET YOUR HUSBAND?

Oh, when I saw him, it was at the baths..

THE BATHS...

All the deaf used to go to the beach, Bondi and Coogee and the other ones...., La Perouse. I liked to go to Manly for a swim and the other beaches.

He said "Would you like to go with me?" He was always tormenting me and I kept putting him off. We'd play around with a ball. Later on, I forgot about it because I had to urgently go to Parramatta to see my sister. When I came back, I met him again, and eventually I fell in love with him. That's how it was.

GOOD!

He was jolly. He was a jolly man.

GOOD. DID YOU HAVE ANY CHILDREN?

No, none.

OH, NONE.

Before, it was hard work, in my life. I'll never forget it. My husband died, what'll I do? Who will help?" My brother and sister said to come and they had a neighbour, who was a good Jew. He was good. It was hard but they sold the business and got good money for it, good money. Same with the flat and got good money for that. So it was alright.

THAT'S GOOD.

I left everything behind, left everything, I just took what I needed. They paid me the money, I was surprised. Mr. Engel helped me.

MR. ENGEL, IS STILL THERE.

I love it. He torments me. He loves to torment me and tease me.

GOOD. YOU WORKED HARD. WHEN YOU HAD TO GET UP TO GO TO WORK, HOW DID YOU WAKE UP?

By myself. Something dropped on my husband, he'd wake up and then I'd get up to cook breakfast.

BY YOURSELF.

Then he'd go to work and later I'd make the bed. Then I'd go back to work, machining, machining to help make curtains and other things; cushions and so on.

CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT IT WAS, THAT DROPPED ON YOUR HUSBAND? WHAT WAS IT? CAN YOU EXPLAIN THAT?

He had a nail hanging down on a string, with a hook hanging off the nail. The hook would drop off and fall down.

WAS IT CONNECTED WITH THE WINDER ON A CLOCK?

No.

NO..

Just the ceiling.

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IT JUST FELL. WHAT ABOUT DOOR KNOCKS, DID YOU HAVE A FLASHING LIGHT?

Oh yes, we had a dog. It was good; it would tell us. It was a faithful dog, a kelpie. It died.

DID YOU TEACH HIM OR DID HE DO IT HIMSELF?

No, I taught him C.A.T, and he understood, and he'd chase after one.

DID YOU FINGERSPELL C.A.T. OR SAY IT?

C.A.T, like that!

C.A.T. AND THE DOG UNDERSTOOD?

Yes.

ANYTHING ELSE?

Yes. He would stare at me and I'd say "What's the matter? What's the matter?" and he'd tap my leg because he wanted to go to the toilet so I'd let him out. I knew, by him tapping and leading me to the door. He'd go out and come back in. He was good. He died. He was 11 years old.

WHEN YOU SOLD THE BONDI BUSINESS, DID YOU MOVE?

No. The Jew made an offer. I accepted and got good money for it.

YES, AND YOU LEFT, DID YOU LIVE ON YOUR OWN?

In a flat.

YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING DROPPING ON YOU TO WAKE YOU UP? WHAT DID YOU HAVE?

No, no, no. Just by myself. I was free. I'd finished work. No driving, it was finished.

NO FLASHING LIGHTS, OR ANYTHING?

No, nothing. Just myself. I was free. After about three years, a deaf woman, Miss Lockwood, you don't know her, an old woman, she asked if we could share. I said "Alright," because I was struggling, it was hard. It was a struggle. I will never forget it.

NOLA COLEFAX

WHEN YOU MARRIED, WAS YOUR HUSBAND DEAF?

Yes, my husband was deaf. Seven years older than me. He came from Murwillumbah - a country boy, he grew up on a farm.

GOOD. DO YOU HAVE ANY CHILDREN?

Yes, I have two. A boy born in 1949, and a girl born in 1947.

DEAF?

Both are hearing.

DOT SHAW

IF YOU CAME FROM MELBOURNE, HOW DID YOU FIND A MAN FROM SYDNEY?

Jack came down on holidays. A long holiday - seven weeks. I was impressed, seven weeks! Mmmm. He'd been working two/three years and his holidays added up, so he had a long holiday and came to Sydney, I mean Melbourne. He came to see his friends. I met him a few times, on picnics, outings, that sort of thing, and I thought he was a very nice man - well mannered and quiet.

So, we married and moved to live in Sydney where he had his job. He did spend six months working in Melbourne, while we were preparing to get married, then back to Sydney to his old job and he worked there. I have lived in Sydney, here since then. From 21, now - 40 or 45 years, I think. I'm a Sydneysider now.

IN SYDNEY, DID YOU BUY A HOUSE?

First we got a flat. We saved up and lived with Jack's parents at Campbelltown. While living there we saved up and bought land at Guildford and built a house. It was during war time. We had to find what....., sort....., what was available in houses. There were not many to choose from - only a few styles of homes. Anyway, we chose one. We built that house, we lived at Guildford for about 25 years then we sold it. Our children had grown up, the yard was too big so we sold it, and now we live in Carlingford in a unit.

WHEN YOU LIVED IN A FLAT, YOU LIVED WITH JACK'S PARENTS FIRST, AND THEN YOU MOVED TO YOUR HOUSE. WHO..., WHAT..., OR HOW DID YOU KNOW IF SOMEONE WAS KNOCKING AT THE DOOR?

Oh, right. That's right! The clock was very important in getting up to go to work. We had to think about going to work. Jack was on shift work - morning, afternoon and night, all different times. So Jack bought an old alarm clock, one with a winder on the back. He made a switch, an electrical switch, and attached the clock, and he fixed it so that when the winder started turning it flicked the switch and put the light on for him to wake up. It was his own invention. (WONDERFUL!) He made it himself. It worked fine. It was good.

Then, oh, and for the door, I heard there was a deaf man who could make....or do electrical wiring withwell, this deaf man made it himself, he tried wiring the door...no, um, they were round, oh yes, car blinkers, blinkers, parking lights. We had them in as many rooms as possible on the walls. So when the door bell was pressed, they flashed. It was good. We had a box, a relay circuit.... a relay system - a box that sent the signals out. It was good.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN WHEN THEY WERE BABIES, HOW DID YOU.....?

Oh, there was nothing to wake us. I had to keep waking up and when I thought of it I'd go and check the children then go back to bed and later, I'd wake and check again, or the children would come to me. When they were babies the cot was next to my bed. I'd reach out and feel for any movements to see if anything was wrong, it might be nothing and I kept doing it. We'd wake up often all our lives. Nowadays with modern things it's better, it's good, they're lucky. They're better off now.

YOUR CHILDREN THEY'RE ALL DEAF, RIGHT?

Yes, my three children are deaf. Now I have seven grandchildren, only one is deaf. Just the one. The others are hearing. They can all sign quite well.

AND WITH YOUR PARENT'S ANCESTORS, , WERE

THERE ANY DEAF?

My father had a deaf sister. She died when she was 26 with TB, tuberculosis. Nowadays, it's disappeared, but before there were outbreaks. Oh well, my mother had two, one, two, yes two deaf, a brother and sister, both of them, making it three. My mother is a twin. Her twin sister had very good hearing but my mother was very deaf - so it was one, and not the other. Anyhow, all the family could fingerspell, well. All of them. They were country people. Nine, they were a family of nine. My father was in a family of four.

My mother came from the country, farming people. My mother was good at training animals, dogs - teaching them, and she was good at it. She used to have a dog, a dog who rounded up the cattle for her. She didn't have to walk to the far paddocks, she'd just sign "Go and get the cows" at milking time. "Go..." with speech, she'd say "Go!" and the dog would take off into the distance, down the valley, up the hill to the next paddock, where the cows were grazing. The dog would run up through the gate and round them up, and then he'd stand and look. My mother knew oh, no, the dog had rounded them up and my mother saw one more cow in the far corner still munching, further away. She yelled out, and the dog turned and looked and she pointed at the cow. The dog watched her, turned around and headed in that direction and herded the cow back in. My mother waited until they came back, and all the cows were brought in. It was clever!

Then that carried on - well, till my mother got married and moved to the city and brought the dog. He was confined, and sad. He missed the open spaces, so it was better to take him back and stay on the farm. But the dog wouldn't do any work, he just laid around. My mother was the only one he'd obey. The others, like my grandfather or my uncles, would tell him to do things but he just lay there and refused, useless. So they shot him, they had to shoot him. Poor thing. He was a useless dog so they shot him. My mother was so upset. Oh dear.

THAT'S SAD

Oh, one more thing, there's another story about her dog. In the city

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they had a dog, a Fox Terrier. His name was Sammy, he was white all over with one black patch on his eye, just one black patch, that's all. Anyway, that was "Sammy". My mother taught him to tell her if someone was knocking at the door, to tell her every time. He was a good watchdog. He also gave her messages, signals and things. He was good. My mother even said "Sam, go and meet Jim," that was my father. The dog was excited, running back and forth. My mother opened the door and the dog raced off to the station. My mother would be cooking, while the dog waited until the train arrived, and the crowd got off. He'd search around sniffing till he found my father, and jumped up and down. My father would pat him and together they'd walk home.

HE WAS A CLEVER DOG!

Yes, a clever dog. Maybe nowadays the traffic's too heavy with cars. But there was nothing then, it was quiet at that time, it was easy for him to go off and return - not too many people. Nowadays, there are crowds of people, it's different.

Alright, Sammy always slept on the front door verandah mat. He slept on that, when my mother and father went out for the evening, and would walk back home. One day my father stepped, put a heavy step on the verandah. Sammy, was fast asleep, woke up, with a start and bit his leg. My father, got such a shock, then Sammy realised it was "father" and was very sorry and licked and licked his leg. Dad said "It doesn't matter" but it kept licking and licking. He didn't mean it. He didn't realise. (GOOD!) Good! My mother told me stories like that. They were good.

BILL QUINN

I JUST WONDERED ABOUT YOU COLLECTING AT DIFFERENT PLACES, DID YOU HAVE TO GET UP EARLY OR NOT?

In the first year, I followed their regulations. After two years, I declined their regulations because of the big "jumps." Say if I was at Hay, they told me to go to Bega next. I had a good fight and they granted me to freelance.

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GOOD!

Now, I'm an Officer, I'd go to different places. In winter, I'd leave that area and go south to the Snowy Mountains during winter.

THAT'S GOOD!

In summer, I go....

GOOD!

.....to the far west. I'd go all over, to Broken Hill, down to Eden, across to Wollongong - or Eden to Dubbo on a circuit, to Hillston, then I'd finish. What was left was given to the other deaf.

WERE YOU ALONE?

Oh, car. A new car was given every year. Supplied, after I had a fight not to use my own car. I used theirs. I had 25 new cars in 26 years.

THAT WAS GOOD!

All petrol, parts, tyres, were paid for.

Mmm. GOOD. ON YOUR TRIPS WHEN YOU WERE TIRED, TO WAKE UP, HOW OR WHO WOKE YOU UP? DID YOU HAVE A FLASHING ALARM?

No, I was alone in the car.

WONDERFUL! WHAT ABOUT AT HOME WHEN SOMEONE KNOCKED ON THE DOOR, HOW DID YOU KNOW SOMEONE WAS KNOCKING?

My wife.

OH, RIGHT. SO YOU'RE MARRIED?

Yes.

IS YOUR WIFE DEAF?

No, hearing.

YOUR CHILDREN?

One son, he's deaf. Two grandsons, one is partially deaf and one is hearing. His wife is deaf.

ALVA CROSS

We were educated at St.Kilda Deaf School, yes, yes, till I was fifteen then I went to join the Guides. Every week I'd learn tracking, the Promise.....but never went hiking, camping in tents, no, but later, suddenly about three months later, for unknown reasons, it closed. I don't know why it closed.

So.... I still kept my Guide Badges. I kept them. I never thought that in 1966, I'd rejoin.

WHEN YOU LEFT SCHOOL, YOU WERE STILL KEEN ON THE GUIDES BUT IT DISSOLVED AND THERE WAS NOTHING FOR A LONG TIME. WERE YOU INVOLVED WITH THE DEAF COMMUNITY AT THE DEAF CLUB?

Yes. I was in the Younger Set Club. I think there were three or four of us who formed it and I was the first founder to join the Younger Set. I was there for a long while but I went to N.S.W., it dissolved, dissolved. And I had joined a Bushwalkers, Yachting Club yes, the Bushwalkers together with the hearing. Bike Riding Club I was with. Marvellous time. It was a good life.

GOOD. YOU WENT TO N.S.W. WHAT, HOW, WHAT MADE YOU MOVE TO N.S.W.?

In 1945, because of the Queensland Carnival I went to Queensland for the sports, and that's where I met him.

WHO?

Bill Cross, my husband. I met him there and then later I stayed at the Stanmore Hostel for four years. I stayed there, it was good, till after four years, I had to leave and go to Melbourne to prepare to get married.

GOOD. AFTER YOU GOT MARRIED DID YOU MOVE BACK HERE TO SYDNEY?

Yes. At first I left Melbourne to come here to live at Stanmore in a flat for a few years, till I got a house at Westmead. My daughter was a pupil at Stanmore Public School for a few months, then transferred closer to home.

GOOD, NOW YOU'RE AT WESTMEAD. RIGHT, HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN THE GUIDES AGAIN?

When my daughter joined the Brownies, the Captain of the Brownies used to come over to my house for supper. We'd talk and talk, we'd have lovely chats nearly every week, because the Captain would bring her home, so we'd talk. And often, I attended Christmas functions, Brownie Packs... and often my husband Bill helped the Brownies to go camping and worked on,.... well with the Guiding life, he helped out.

AND AFTER THAT?

Mmmm, one day, someone called at my house. I opened the door and was surprised to see, I knew one of them, but there were two Guide Commissioners, I knew one of them. I had seen her a lot at Brownie's. They came in, and I wondered what was wrong, was my daughter in trouble? They sat down, and I was stunned when one of the State Commissioners asked "Would you like to be a volunteer to help with the local Deaf Guides?" I said "No, not me!" But they pointed out that I should join because the Captain needed a deaf Guide to help with the children, because the children would understand a deaf Guide. I wasn't sure, so I said "No", but my husband was very interested and tried to push me to join. I still said "No!" but he said, "Please, please, try it for one month." I said "Alright. Ok, for one month." They said "You'll meet the Captain tomorrow night." "Good!" I said.

I waited till the next day when the Captain came, she was so young. I thought she'd be older but she only looked about 21. Her name was Judith Taylor. The fingerspelling was slow but she was so thankful and happy to have me, I was embarrassed. Anyway, then she said "Can you start tomorrow?" I said, "No, no." "Please, tomorrow." "Alright," I asked where. At the North Parramatta Scout Hall in Ross Street, Parramatta. I agreed. Judith would pick me up. She'd come.

We drove to the Hall and waited. A bus arrived with deaf school kids and when I met them, at first, I didn't know what the children were talking about! It was different because I was from Melbourne, and Sydney has different signs.

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I struggled. I felt terrible so I rolled up my sleeves and did my best to help - after a few times I got used to it and loved them. Yes, and often....., it was good for the deaf every week to learn, go camping, hiking, and, the Guides loved to go camping and everything - they had a marvellous time. And I was really proud that the Guides got over 53 badges, they had passed tests like; Deaf Language and others. 53 badges!

GOOD!

Before that, they had none, none until then.

THAT'S GOOD.

Yes, it was good and we had about, oh.....more than ten Guide interpreters, they could all fingerspell.

THAT'S GOOD!

Because I taught them for the Language of the Deaf Badge. They all signed. It was a marvellous life, really marvellous. And the First Aiders came in and they could all fingerspell - they could all fingerspell, it was very good, a truly marvellous life.

GOOD. DID YOU GO CAMPING WITH THEM?

Yes, we went together. There were tournaments, swimming carnivals, competitions.

COMPETITIONS?

Yes, competitions. There were seventeen

WITH GUIDE GROUPS?

Yes, Guides, Seventeen Patrols. Seventeen Patrols attended.

At the starting calls, our girls couldn't hear, so I asked could they wave a handkerchief, for the deaf girls. Eventually, they allowed it. So we waved a handkerchief to make them go faster, and we came Third. Yes, we came Third. At the Sports Carnival, the deaf came First out of 17. Yes, we came top because of Merl Fisher. She was a good runner, excellent. Another one was Carol Fisher.. Prisk, she was good, and there were others too.

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GOOD. ANOTHER THING ABOUT GUIDING. HOW MANY YEARS WERE YOU INVOLVED WITH THAT?

Since 1966 till 1973 - eight years.

EIGHT YEARS?

Yes, I really was proud to join, the same day as Lady Powell's birthday, February 22, the same day as I joined, the 22nd.

Actually, there was a Regional selection from over 2,000, and one of them was me. Judith came as my Interpreter to visit and to meet Lady Powell at the Seymour Building at the University. We all lined up and shook her hand, she was pleased to meet a deaf person. Then we all sat and had supper. It was nice and we all chatted. It was good, really good.

THAT MAKES ME THINK OF MY TIME. I WAS INVITED TO MEET LADY POWELL.

Yeah?

AND BADEN POWELL WHEN I WAS 13 IN MELBOURNE, VICTORIA.

Oh really?

IT'S A WHILE AGO, BUT I JUST THOUGHT OF IT!

Good. We used to go to the North Parramatta Scout's Hall and there was another hearing Guide group and their Captain often used to help me to work on.... the Guiding. She was kind and big hearted with the deaf. Now, she's gone to England. She's ...ummm..... a leader, in Guide House, in England, now. She's done well.

GOOD. YOU KNOW FAMOUS PEOPLE NOW. COMING BACK TO THE PRESENT, ARE YOU STILL INVOLVED WITH THE DEAF COMMUNITY?

Yes.

DOING WHAT?

I'm on the Committee for the Women's Guild, mmm..... right. And the Senior Citizens Group at Granville as honorary Secretary/Treasurer.

GOOD. ANY BOWLS?

Yes, every Wednesday at the Stanmore Club. I play bowls regularly. Only in the Social Club. It's good, very good to be with the deaf, it passes my time. I like it.

JACK CHRISTIE

ARE YOU MARRIED?

Yes.

IS YOUR WIFE DEAF?

Yes.

HOW DID YOU MEET HER?

My wife, Peg, came here from England, and found work at the South Australian School for the Deaf. Then later, some deaf had told her that Jack Christie was a better man and she should try writing to him. Then she sent me a letter. It took me a while to think about replying. But I wrote, and she wrote back and our friendship grew. I finally married her in 1961.

RIGHT. WHILE YOU WERE WORKING AND HAD TO GET UP EARLY IN THE MORNINGS TO DO WORK ON THE FARM AND DO CHORES, WHO USED TO WAKE YOU UP? IN THE THOSE DAYS THERE WERE NO FLASHING LIGHTS LIKE WE HAVE NOW, SO HOW DID YOU WAKE UP?

I was with my Mother and Father and they'd wake me or I'd wake up myself. Then if I was with the deaf, whoever woke first would wake the other person.

I came here to live in a flat, there was another deaf person and myself. I wondered how I was going to wake up. I was doing night shift at Good Year. So I tied a string up to the ceiling and hung a roll of newspaper above the bed. The string was attached to the alarm clock and it was fixed to go off at 5 o'clock. I slept, and then when it went off, the newspaper would fall on my stomach and wake me.

And another thing, when visitors wanted to come inside but I was asleep, from my bed I had a string which led to outside under the front door. The string could be pulled and my bed would shake and I would then get up and open the door.

My house is at Tascott. The first time I went out at night, I came home very late, about 2 or 3 am. I didn't have a key, so instead I got a broom, and hit hard up at the floor above and my wife got a shock, came down the stairs and opened the door. "You frightened me," said Peg, "Frightened me!"

So next time, I didn't do it the same way. I gently tapped the broom and held it up against the floor. When I could feel her walking across the room then I'd go up the stairs to meet her at the door.

SO YOU COULD FEEL THE VIBRATIONS?

Yes, by holding the broom against the floor to feel the footsteps. By not holding it up I wouldn't know if she was coming, so I'd hold it against the floor to feel her footsteps. I'd feel the vibrations.

WONDERFUL HOW IT WORKED, YES. IS THERE ANYTHING MORE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY ABOUT THE DEAF COMMUNITY?

Yes.

PEG CHRISTIE

I have one brother who's a special pet. He's nice. He's an author and writes well. Sometimes he comes to visit us and we'd be talking about something and I'd say something wrong and he wouldn't go on until I said it right.

One day we were talking about lunch. I asked him "Would you like some asparagus?" I'd said it wrong - "asparajes." My brother said "What?" I said "Asparajes". He said "What's this Asparajes? Never heard of it! Come and show me." So I got a tin and showed him. "Oh, asparagus." "Asparagus" I said. Good, again and again, all day I had to say "Asparagus." Later on, "Asparagus."

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Then two or three days later, I asked my brother "What would you like for lunch?" He talked in the way I did before. "Asparajes!". He was teasing me. He was good, very nice. He never left me out. Always kept me going on and on and always made me go forward, not backwards, forwards.

My husband, Jack, he's deaf, more deaf culturally than me, I think, in ways of living. He's keen on the deaf life. I can take it sometimes. My husband, well, we've been married for 27 years. He's been good. He's a lovely man. No children - curse the Gods above! Oh well.

My brother, was at first, when I married Jack, worried because I was a snob before. I never wanted to sign with the deaf. I wanted to be with the hearing, I was born hearing! My brother was worried how I'd be marrying a deaf man. Got by alright, and as time went by, they grew to love him very much. He was a good bloke.

Now my brothers live in Queensland, two brothers and their families live in Queensland and I'm here. Jack, my husband's family are here. Jack's friends are here. He's on a Committee for this, and on that, and on that. There's lots to do here. But for me, I'd like Queensland, my family are there. For Jack it'd be sad - he should stay here.

I asked my brother many times "Can we be in Queensland with you?" My brother said "No, stay here! Jack's life is here, better than Queensland. Jack has everything here. In Queensland there's nothing - he'd be depressed," and "What about me?" I said. He said I'd get by alright.

But my brother realised that deaf people must be with the deaf, and Jack is doing very well. He's on the Board, and on various committees. Through my married life he's been on deaf committees after deaf committees. Hmm!

I'm proud of my husband. He's good. He's one of the biggest leaders in the deaf world, I think. At one time I think he was one

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of the best cricket players in Australia. I think so. Makes me proud. And how God let me have the opportunity to meet him.

I was, yeah, I was in Adelaide working there for three years. One day I received a letter. Opened it up. At first, I looked straight down to the bottom. I didn't know the writing, I saw "Jack Christie". I didn't know him. I read the letter and found that someone in Adelaide wrote to him and told him there was a girl there who wants to have a boyfriend. I thought "Alright", and wrote back. But Jack's funny because when deaf girls wrote to him, he would wait and think about it for one month. When I got his letter, I didn't think about it. I grabbed him quickly after one week. (Laughter!)

THAT WAS QUICK!

Grabbed him! Didn't want to be an old maid so I grabbed him. Then we got married and we've been happy!

YOU CORRESPONDED WITH EACH OTHER BUT YOU HADN'T YET MET?

That's right. He wrote and I was working at the School, he was working in Sydney, and we wrote to each other. When the school holidays came, he asked me if I'd like to go to Sydney to meet him. I said "Alright." He was boarding with friends and they offered me to stay there too for one week. I went there and met him. We got on alright but there were no kisses, no cuddles - nothing! Drats! Only quiet conversations.

When I was ready to go back to Adelaide, I asked him "Will you write to me?" "Yes" he said, and gave me a lovely scarf. It was good. I went back to Adelaide and we wrote to each other.

Christmas time came, it was the school holidays. I wasn't very happy in Adelaide, it was so, so. I thought about New Zealand. But, oh, it was so far from my brothers. Changed my mind and stayed there. Then Jack wrote to me and asked if I would like to go with him and deaf friends in a caravan and travel. I thought "Yes, that'll be alright!" I went back again.

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This time, oh, he was warmer - mmm!. In the caravan there were two friends and us two together. We visited his mother and father, then we agreed to marry, and we've been happy. Oh, little arguments, never big fights, - just little arguments. Nice. God's been good to me.

ALAN FAIRWEATHER

WHEN YOU GOT UP TO GO TO WORK, HOW DID YOU GET UP?

Where I work now, at Grace Bros?

BEFORE, WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG,

Before, I drove.

HOW DID YOU GET UP OR WAKE UP? DID SOMEONE WAKE YOU

Oh a light, by a light.

OR DID YOU HAVE AN ALARM?

Yes.

YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD ONE?

Yes, a light near the bed and that'd wake me up. Without it, we'd be dead to the world. The light helps me. If not, I'd have to check all the time. It's better with the light, I get up all the time.

GOOD, AT HOME WHEN SOMEONE WOULD VISIT AND KNOCKED ON YOUR DOOR, HOW DID YOU KNOW TO ANSWER IT?

Flashing light.

YOU HAD IT BACK THEN?

A long time ago, my parents had a dog. He barked at the door but it died so my father connected a flashing light. It was important to be in the most central place, seen from the Dining Room or the Lounge. When the light flashed, we answered the door so it helped.

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GOOD! DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN?

Me, I have a daughter and a son. My daughter's 31, and my boy is 25. Neither are married yet.

WHEN YOUR CHILDREN WERE BABIES, HOW DID YOU WAKE UP WHEN THEY CRIED?

When the baby was just born, she slept between my wife and myself. That's when she was newborn. If she woke, we helped her. When she was better, we moved her to a cot, close to the bed, so we could feel it shaking. We could tell if she was crying. She grew, it was okay. Then with Paul, it was the same, between us in the bed, then into the cot.

WHAT'S YOUR SIGN NAME? YOU HAVE ONE SIGN FOR YOUR NAME, LIKE MY NAME SIGN IS THIS (as shown). WHAT'S YOURS?

You mean, interpret it?

YOUR NAME - ALAN FAIRWEATHER - CHANGED INTO A SIGN, WHAT'S IT LIKE?

Oh, what do they call me?

YES, WHAT DO THEY CALL YOU?

They call me this (as shown). My father's was this sign (as shown). My mother's, this (as shown).

WHY THAT SIGN? (Mother's sign as shown.)

Oh, I think her hair was clipped. Dad's because he told funny stories. His brother was deaf too - always thought he was a big shot, swell-headed. Dad would sign, not write but his brother was clever at writing, boastful, a snob, not interested in the deaf. My father was interested in the deaf, but not his brother. My brother, ahh, my uncle wouldn't admit he was deaf. When people spoke to him - he wouldn't say he was deaf. He was ashamed! He was born deaf, born stone deaf! Didn't want to be deaf - he was a snob. Different to my father, they were different.

WHY IS YOUR NAME LIKE THIS (as shown)?

Rabbit ears - 'cos I had big ears, when I was little, they stuck out.

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As I've grown, they look better.

THAT'S LUCKY!

Mmm. My son doesn't have big ears, they're just right - he's lucky. It's because my wife used the right recipe, so he was born with small ears. My mother used junk food so I was born with ears like Jumbo!

RIGHT!

My father first got his driver's licence, first got it in 1926. He drove it around, his father, my grandfather, was rich - and had a car so he drove it around from 1926 till 1930. Mr. Winn was driving once and a policeman had never seen a deaf driver. He said "It's not allowed!" Winn said "But Alan Fairweather drives!" "Well it better go to court. There's nothing to say deaf people can drive." So Alan and Grandfather got the Policeman to go with them to the city. The traffic was busy then just like now. My father drove like an expert with the Policeman watching, and he passed! Now, many deaf drive. If it'd been refused, it would've been bad luck.

So my father drove, he'd passed his test. I remember going with the family for a drive to the country, to see my mother's relatives. We were travelling along - we were only small my sister and I - riding on the way to Swansea. We went over a bridge, it was morning, and suddenly it stopped. The car wouldn't work. People nearby called the NRMA. Luckily you could join a long time ago. You could join the NRMA even in those days. We waited till he came on a motorbike with a sidecar. He checked it over, and had to tow it away over the bumps. The axle was broken. He called for a mechanic. It was going to take all day.

We looked at each other. We saw a run-down house, and the people welcomed us in. We could see they were poor, but we still went in and sat down. They were very poor. They asked if we wanted hot lunch. We said alright, and watched for the mechanic. But the food was fantastic. The house was lousy but the cooking, ooh, it was delicious. We enjoyed it. We kept eating, and waited till 4 or 5 when the car was fixed. Dad wanted to pay and the woman refused but he insisted because of her wonderful cooking. So Dad paid her and at last we got back in the car so excited, we drove into the night. But it was late so we missed seeing

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Grandmother and all my Aunts. My sister and I slept on the back seat. It was too late for Aberdeen so we turned off at Muswellbrook to find a hotel. We found a place for one night. Next morning we got up and had breakfast and finally arrived at the farm in Aberdeen. We drove through one gate, then another and another - there were 16 gates! I opened the first gate and then my sister and I took turns to opening one gate after another, till finally we got to the last gate to my Grandmother's home. We drove through and everyone came out to meet us. I'll never forget it.

WANDA STEWART

ARE YOU MARRIED TO A DEAF MAN?

A South Australian, Yes.

RIGHT, DO YOU HAVE ANY CHILDREN?

Yes, I have two children but one was killed in a motor bike accident. I have one deaf daughter, only one.

WAS YOUR FIRST CHILD DEAF?

No, the first one was hearing, the second one is deaf.

OH, THE SECOND ONE'S DEAF. THAT'S EASY FOR YOU. RIGHT. GOOD..... DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER DEAF IN YOUR FAMILY BACKGROUND?

Oh, no. I'm the only one.

WHEN YOU HAD CHILDREN HOW DID YOU WAKE UP WHEN THE BABY WOKE?

I slept in a double bed and I thought it best to pull the cot up against the bed. I could feel the baby's movements and it would wake me. It never failed.

My father said I couldn't do it. I told him, "Wait and see!" Next morning, when he woke, he came in only to find I had woken at the right time. With the cot against the bed, the movements easily

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woke me so I could feed the baby and put it back. It was easy!
WHAT ABOUT GOING TO WORK, HOW DID YOU GET UP?
Flashing lights.

EVEN IN THOSE DAYS?

It was different then. Yes, but different. We'd set the alarm oh, I've forgotten! I have forgotten how we used it. We'd set the alarm - it was made by a deaf man in Adelaide and when the light came on, it would wake us.

WHAT ABOUT WHEN SOMEONE WAS KNOCKING ON THE DOOR?

The door bell. I described to a male friend what we actually wanted. That was okay, so he made the lights, like car blinkers. He knew what to make. It was good. You'd press the door bell and all the lights flashed on and off. It was very successful.

THAT'S GOOD..... IS THERE ANYTHING MORE THAT YOU HAVE TO SAY?

Since my husband died, passed away, I've had to find ways to keep myself busy. Now I have a new hobby, as a Stamp Collector. Yes, stamp collecting. I like it. It helps me to be more relaxed and calm. Or if the TV programmes are hopeless, for a change, I work on the stamps. I didn't realise just how many I had. I'd put stamps away in all different places. There were three I couldn't find so I bought stamp books. I was surprised. I've ended up with six stamp books. Also, my daughter went to a Deaf School and she learnt how to be a Stamp Collector.

WONDERFUL. I'M PLEASED TO HEAR THAT!

My daughter's teacher loved stamp collecting and thought it would be good to teach them all about it.

DON THORNTON

ARE YOU MARRIED?

Yes, I'm married to a Queensland girl. She came here and I chose her.

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IS SHE DEAF?

Yes, she's deaf.

GOOD. ANY CHILDREN?

Yes, I have four children. The first is a boy, the rest are girls.

ANY OF THEM DEAF?

No, they're all hearing.

ALRIGHT. WHEN THE BABIES WERE BORN, HOW DID YOUR WIFE OR YOU WAKE UP WHEN THEY CRIED? DID YOU HAVE A FLASHING LIGHT AT THAT TIME?

No. At that time we never had a flashing light. With the first baby, my wife knew when it was time to get up and tend to the baby. She was right, sometimes.

Sometimes, she'd ask me to "Please help" her because she was over-tired, so I'd help with the baby, yeah! With the second child, when she was a baby, the first boy used to get up to tell us when the baby was crying, so then I'd get up. He was a great help to us.

LOVELY!

Yes, he was only two.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR THIRD AND FOURTH?

Later, when we had the third one, we got a new flashing light. It was better for the other two to stay in bed because they had to go to school.

I SEE, GOOD! WHAT ABOUT GETTING UP TO GO TO WORK?

Oh, don't talk about that. But, at that time, there were new flashing clocks and I started using one so I would know it was time to get up.

GOOD. ANOTHER QUESTION. WITH THE DOOR, IF SOMEONE KNOCKED, HOW DID YOU HEAR?

I never heard it. The children would tell me when the door bell rang and I'd go and open the door.

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GOOD. UMM.....IS THERE ANYTHING MORE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY?

Yes. I have two brothers, both are deaf and both are married. One brother, Colin, is married to Barbara. She had a brother who was deaf named John Stathis. Colin has three daughters - all are deaf. Where they go to school is in an O.D. Class. My other brother, Ian, has a new baby, a boy and he is also deaf.

TOM HOULCROFT

HOW DID YOU MEET YOUR WIFE?

When Tess came here for holidays with her sisters, I used to take her on picnics with the other deaf, with other friend's wives, and we met each other often.

YOU MARRIED, HOW MANY CHILDREN DO YOU HAVE?

Eleven.

GOOD!

Seven boys and four girls.

SUCH A BIG FAMILY. ARE THEY ALL MARRIED?

Four are married. Next October, a fifth will be married.

RIGHT. SO FIVE ARE MARRIED NOW, HOW MANY GRANDCHILDREN DO YOU HAVE?

Five. First Leo, had a baby, born last Christmas. Second, Jo, has two children. Third son, Tony, has one, and the fourth, Kaye has one.

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN MARRIED NOW TO TESS?

Next Wednesday, on 19th July, it will be 36 years. (1988)

OH, THAT'S GONE FAST, 36 YRS.

Yes, yes.

LONG TIME!

PEARL BEATH

The Nun said to write a letter to a penfriend. So I wrote to Jack. He answered back, and we wrote to each other. He asked me to meet him. We were excited, remembering back to Waratah School days. We talked. I went to Canowindra to meet his mother. We were both very excited. Met mother brother and sister. They loved me. I stayed for one week. When I went back home, my boss was cranky with me for not asking permission and deducted money from my pay. I was upset, so I thought I'd write a letter to Jack. His mother knew I loved Jack and Jack asked "Would you like to marry me?" No-one realised I had a boyfriend. I asked Father Malone to bless our marriage. He was surprised that I had a boyfriend. He said "Yes, I will bless your marriage." I thanked him. We had private talks with Winnie's people. We married at Lilyfield Church and then went away for the night, then to the country. Later we had a baby boy. We called him Kevin. Later, we tried again for another child hoping for a girl, but it was a boy. Oh, well. Kevin and Robert grew up together. Kevin was hearing before, and went to a hearing school in Canowindra but they complained he couldn't hear. Maybe because of a blocked sinus passage. We went to Sydney, and took the two boys to see the Doctor. After that we went to Waratah to see the Nuns. Sister Anne was surprised to see us. She sat Robert in a chair and tested his hearing using head sets and found he was deaf. I was so happy that Brother O'Neil would take the two boys. I was so happy. The Beaths all went to the same school. Jack went there too. Told the children Jack and I will take you to school as boarders. Jack and I became lonely, there were no deaf in Sydney, I mean Canowindra. Jack's mother and sister thought it would be better to go and live in Sydney. I wrote a letter to Sister Esther asking if I could look after Mrs. Carmody, and she said I could so I took the children into the home. A deaf man, Ron drove us there. Brought our clothes. The children grew up there. Kevin married first, then Robert got married. We waited and waited for ten years to get a Housing Commission house. We went to Queensland and when we came back, Robert said "Good news! Housing Commission said okay in Cartwright, Liverpool". We were excited. The two boys helped with the moving and it was comfortable. Unfortu-

nately, Jack became very, very sick and was taken to hospital for some time. Then he came home when he was better, but again he had another attack and went back to hospital. Robert went to hospital for an operation himself. I was so worried, and upset. Visited everyday, until one Tuesday, a Priest came and anointed him with oil for his last rites. He left saying "See you again tomorrow." I was at home in bed, feeling upset and the door bell flashed, I wondered who it was. It was Kevin and the Priest. Kevin said "It's sad; father died!" I was stunned and couldn't cry but Kevin was crying and crying. I looked after Kevin, stayed there for a while. Didn't know what to do. Then I moved to Robert's place, then he got married but I stayed there for a while, but it was small. Later, I moved to a house in Lakemba then to a house in Orchard Hill, a beautiful, comfortable home. It was new. Later, Robert had children, first a beautiful boy, Brett, 5 years, goes to school. The second, oh very clever, can sign drink, say Nanna, very clever signer. Kevin has three children. First is a daughter, she is 12 and half deaf, the second, Shane is hearing, good, the third is Darren, who's deaf. He is like his grandfather, quiet, has a dimple and looks similar. I'm happy to have five grandchildren. I never saw my own mother but will never forget the Nuns who looked after me. I'm thankful to the Nuns.

CAN I ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS?

Yes.

GOOD. BEFORE WHEN YOU HAD THE BABIES, KEVIN AND ROBERT, HOW DID YOU KNOW WHEN THEY WOKE UP OR WERE CRYING?

Jack's mother woke me but his father was cranky about the noise. Kevin slept in a bed by himself but Robert slept with me. If Robert was crying and kicking, I would soothe him. I had to wake a lot with Robert, but nowadays, there are flashing lights.

YES, THEY'RE GOOD! AND HOW DID YOU HEAR A KNOCK ON THE DOOR?

The dog helped me hear by it's loud barking. The dog!

MARY MILLER

I boarded with my Aunt, then I met Phil Clarke at the Deaf Club. We went out, then became engaged then got married at the same time as the War. We had to struggle and be careful, we used coupons, got a loan of a wedding dress from a friend, a veil from another friend. We got married and had our honeymoon in Katoomba. Didn't have any children straight away. I had an operation for a goitre. At last, we had a baby son named John Clarke. Now John's been working in a bank in Wellington for four years. Later, I had another son, Donald Clarke. I thought Donald would never get married but he met a girl at squash. I'm happy for Donald to have a wife. It's better to have a wife to look after him before I die. They have two children and they visit every week to see how I am going. I get lonely. I've told the Deaf Club I would like to have a dog. They approved and got one brought over from Adelaide. I called her Penny. Wonderfully trained, she tells me who's at the door, when the kettle whistles, helps by patting my leg, tells me when the postman has been. She tells me and I go out.

WHEN YOU HAD YOUR CHILDREN, DONALD AND JOHN, HOW DID YOU KNOW WHEN THEY WERE CRYING?

I kept the cot close to my bed. The children would tap me to wake me up. I didn't have an alarm at that time.

WHAT ABOUT DOOR KNOCKS? HOW DID YOU KNOW?

I watched all the time for the door. And as the boys grew up they would tell me. They would hear the knock and tell me.

AND HAVING A DOG MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE NOW?

Oh, yes.

MORE COMFORTABLE?

Yes.

EASIER.

She watches me all the time; follows me everywhere while I'm cooking. I never worry any more about watching the door. I don't have to worry. She watches me all the time.

VIOLA ALEXANDER

Yes, I have four children, all married, and eleven grandchildren.

Mmmm.....IS YOUR HUSBAND DEAF?

Yes, he is deaf. He has three other deaf sisters too.

ARE YOUR FOUR CHILDREN DEAF?

No, they're all hearing.

JOY WARBY

Yes, I'm married. My husband works shifts and we have three children. First, Karen, second, Linda, third, Cathy.

WHEN YOU WENT BACK TO WORK. HOW DID YOU WAKE UP?

My mother sometimes woke me up, sometimes I woke up myself.

I SEE. LATER WHEN YOU WERE MARRIED AND HAD THREE CHILDREN, WHEN THE BABIES CRIED, HOW DID YOU WAKE UP?

I had the cot against my bed, to help me hear if the baby was crying. I'd pat her, feed her, tend to her.

Mmm.....WHAT ABOUT THE DOOR? IF SOMEONE KNOCKED ON THE DOOR HOW DID YOU HEAR?

When you (pointing to interviewer - her daughter) were children and someone knocked - I would look to see who it was, sometimes there was someone, sometimes not.

HOW DID YOU KNOW IF SOMEONE KNOCKED, HOW DID YOU KNOW?

Shadows passing by the door.

ALAN JONES

Yes, I'm married to Dulcie Shrivell. I didn't know or see her when she was little at school. She grew up, we met and married, after I caught her. Then we had two sons, then three grandsons. One of my grandsons, who is four years old, can sign. I've been teaching him.

IS THERE ANYONE ELSE IN YOUR FAMILY WHO IS DEAF?

Hmm, no!

NO...OKAY....YOU BOUGHT A HOUSE AND HAD CHILDREN. HOW DID YOU WAKE UP WHEN THE BABIES CRIED? HOW?

I can hear!

CAN YOU?

I can hear but sometimes I'd be sound asleep. I can hear a bit. Once my next door neighbour came and banged on the door. I woke to be told the baby was crying. I quickly went and got the baby. It was only once that the neighbour had to tell me by banging on the door. I was surprised. But now with flashing lights it's better than before.

I used to rest my hand in the cot and wake up, not my wife. I was the one who worked harder than her.

WHAT ABOUT A KNOCK ON THE DOOR?

Umm, before, my friend had an old flashing light that ran on 12 volts. Now I have a bigger one, works on 240 volts in all the rooms, even outside in the carport and workshop. All have flashing lights. My friend, Norman Vance, and I installed it. The door bell and phone both have flashing lights. The phone has a different flashing code so I know which one to go to. I think flashing lights are wonderful for the deaf. And also TTY's are great. Oh, TV is fantastic with subtitles, especially adventure shows. Subtitles have given me a new hobby in watching television. It's good.

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Subtitles are good because a long time ago when I was little, I watched silent films. First they'd show some words, then some film, then some words again, like Charlie Chaplin, I remember.

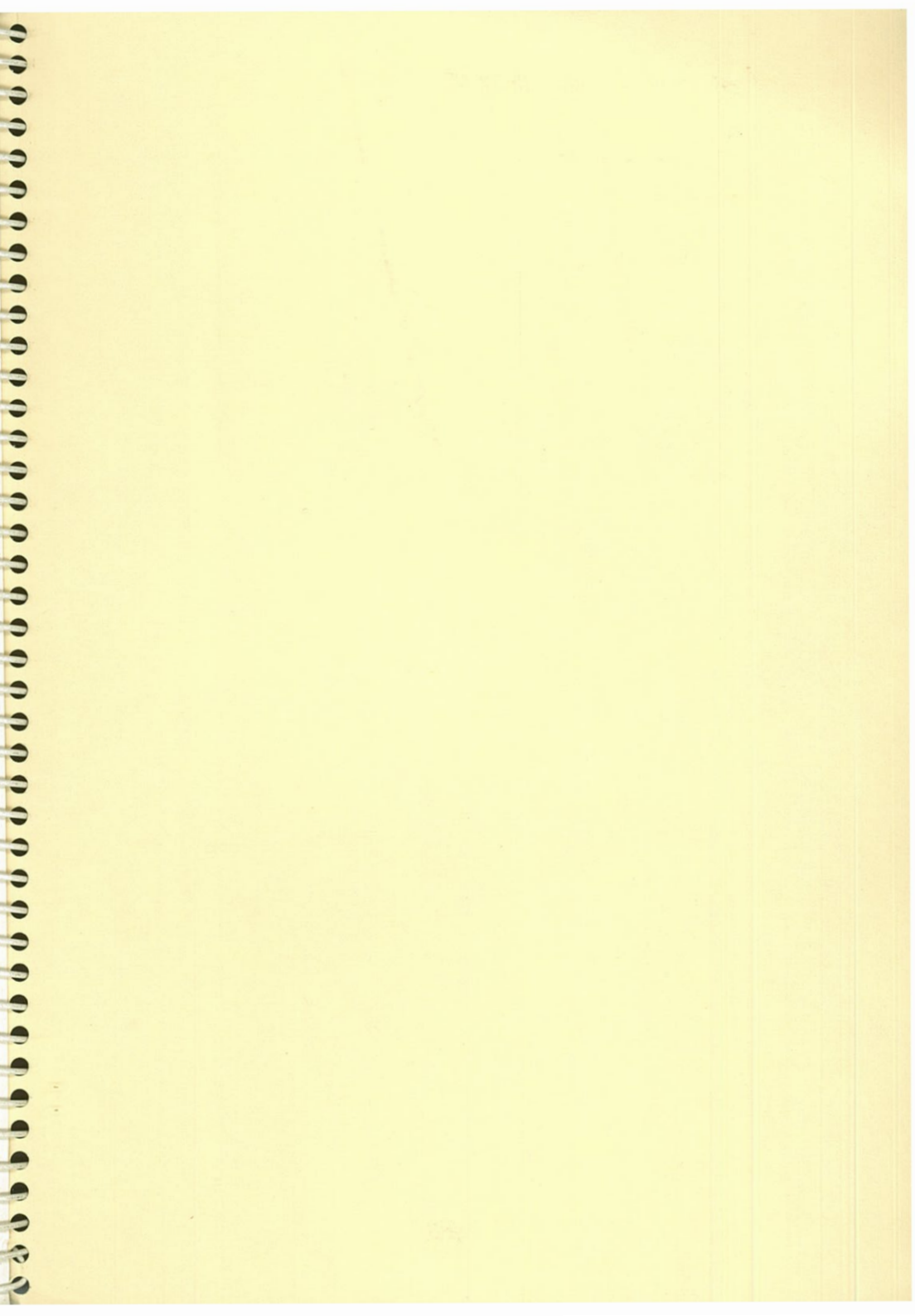
IT'S CHANGED YOUR LIFE REALLY?

Yeah, it's better than not having subtitles. It's best to have them. It's good. Saves hearing people being asked "What's that?" We can read it ourselves.

THAT'S GOOD!

END OF TAPE 6.

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