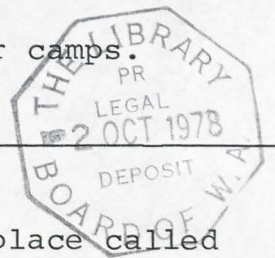


Mrs. Ruby Cutting was interviewed for the Battye Library Oral History Program on the 25 May, 1976. Mrs. Cutting's mother, Mrs. Spriggs kept a number of boarding houses for timber workers in the Pemberton Boyup Brook areas in 1912. Mrs. Cutting helped her mother in this work and on this tape describes her life in these timber camps. The Interviewer is Jean Teasdale.



My name is Ruby Cutting, born in Victoria in 1898 at a place called *Boomah-Noomoona* about five mile from Yarawonga. We were, my people were normally farmers but Mum was left a widow, and had six children left some of them being married in Victoria and she always had an inclination to get on to a farm again and at that stage they were trying to encourage people to come to Western Australia to open up the country and there was an awful lot of advertising done over there about Homestead Blocks which were one hundred and sixty acres and Mum thought 'well now that would be perhaps just about what she could manage for a start', so her brother brought her over, his name was Jim McMahon, they were very old settlers of Yarawonga and of course those days there were no trains or anything like that, we had to come by boat; a little old tub called the KYARA and it was all like one big long room and all the bunks were double deckers along each side and down the centre so you can imagine it was more or less like a cattle truck and we all came over and of course struck very heavy seas in the bight, the waves sometimes twenty foot high and we were battened down for three days and it was so rough that they had to take all the passengers off at Albany and was sent on from there by train to Fremantle.

We stayed for three weeks in Albany. Uncle rented a house there, a furnished house right alongside the Dog Rock and we stayed there for three weeks and then came on to Katanning where we at first rented one hundred and sixty acres and we stayed there and Mum used to for a start, she and the elder children got work in Katanning. Well we were working there for awhile and then another uncle came up from York, he had been over here some few years. ^{UNCLE} Jim had been asked to try and contact him. So, he advertised in the paper and as soon as he saw it he came up to see us in Katanning. Well somehow along the line, I don't quite remember how they were putting down a line from



Katanning to a place called Nampup which I now think is Nyabing and they wanted a boarding house at a place called Yellingup about twenty eight miles out of Katanning and we ran the boarding house there, that was her first step into boarding houses. Well when uncle Jim came back he was very annoyed at the brother for putting mother into that because he felt that was no place for her but she thought "well it would give her an insight into the country and it would be better than going out to work for the children" so that was how we started on the boarding houses and from then on it must have been arranged any Public Works that went on they transferred my Mother to those Works to run a boarding house which they had to have or they wouldn't have had men. From there we were sent to Boyup Brook. Now they were putting down a line from Kojonup to Boyup Brook and of course they transported all the utensils and everything like that, and when we, the line of course had only just been in the throes of being constructed and it was not open to the public so she had to ride with us on a flat-bottom truck. One of the men said "^{oh}old Mrs. Spriggs" (that was my mother's name) "you can't sit on there, wait a minute 'till I get you a box", so he got a kerosene case (I don't know if you know what they are) so she sat on that and we children just sat on the top of the truck and that was our trip to Boyup Brook. I'm not sure, but I thought the distance was about sixty miles but I maybe out there. Anyway when we got there they erected the camp or the boarding house which was made of canvas and bush timber stakes and it was thirty foot long and then we had three or four tents for sleeping and storage; they erected those, and when we came to get things going and put on the first meal we found the box of cutlery was gone. It was packed in a butter box, and of course they tried to check up and they found that two men knowing that it was coming through (they had come with the team from Yellingup) had stolen the box at Kojonup and sold it for drink. So of course they found out who they were and they were arrested and Mum had to go back to Kojonup to give evidence and she said "oh my goodness, I wouldn't put any men in jail, that's dreadful", and they said "Well I'm afraid Mrs. Spriggs it's out of your hands now, they will have to". So they got six months, and they used to write her from the jail and tell her that it was very hard

work there they were cracking stones all day on the road and that they learnt a lesson, so finally of course everything was sorted out and we started off. Well we had fifty boarders there.

Did you have, had they erected the kitchen with the wooden chimney? No wooden chimney - open fires. The stoves were just sat - we had an iron roof over the stove part, the rest was all canvas.

What sort of stove - just an open stove?

Just the ordinary Metters stove. We had two Metters stoves, just sitting on the outside edge and we cooked there and we had benches round for our cooking tables, and the dining room was I think about thirty foot long and our stools were made from fork sticks and a big long log sat in that.

A full size log or log cut in half?

No, it was just a round log, but they trimmed the top a little bit. Well then the tables were, I don't know if any one knows now but the corrugated iron used to be moved in case, it was about six foot long the length of a seat six or eight foot and had box sides and the iron used to be slid into that and those are what our tables were made out of.

With legs put on it?

With log legs.

And these would be made of pine would they?

Yes, oregon I think mostly, and there were stumps put in the ground like round post and that was nailed on to those and that was the table and stools, well then there was nothing else much in that like you know they were all closed up and be opened up like a tent flaps and we had three tents. One for storage and the other two for sleeping. The sleeping tent was rather a big one about twelve by fourteen because Mum liked to keep as many of the children in the tent with her, we had a double bed and two single beds. I think four of the younger ones slept in the double bed the two bigger ones head to toe and then Mum had one for herself, and the other tents were about eight by ten - the storage tent, and our clothes I think were all kept in tin trunks and there was one occasion in Boyup Brook I think the place must have been on a slight hill and they had dug drains around to take the water, but somewhere along the line it must have been very

heavy rain but it over flooded those and came right through the tents and at one stage was running as high as the ^tmatresses, and Mum said "now girls be careful, see nothing is on the floor, tuck your clothes up, tuck your blankets up because we don't know how far this is going to get", but anyway it started to recede then, and ^Ffor warmth we had a drum which we cut holes in the side and a little opening and we used to fill that with wood and burn ^{to get it} it until it was down to coals, then sit it on another drum in the middle of the tent and thats how we kept warm. However she managed with all those children under those circumstances I'll never know.

Did you use woggas on the bed - the old fashioned wogga?

No, bush rugs on the top, we had bush rugs - because of the dust and everything you see. But we had our water was brought from the Blackwood River, there was a man employed for that. He used to bring a big square iron tank on the dray, it was pumped from the river and then pumped into a tank for us, but it was so brackish that you could do nothing with it and with trying to wash for all those children it must have been a terrible problem. So finally she got one of the farmers wives ^Aand Mrs. Poole living on the way to Bridgetown and she used to come and pick the laundry up and wash it and iron it and bring it back which was a very big help. Well from there--

What about the day - could you describe the day, when your mother got up, when you got up and who helped your mother?

Oh yes.

What time did she get up in the morning?

Well she would be up about half past five, because breakfast started at half past six.

And she would have to light those stoves would she?

Yes she used to light those. Now she wouldn't start that early there because they were all working on the job. She ^{at} up there I suppose, oh she would be I suppose half past five, I just can't remember that.

And would you girls, the big girls, get up and help her?

Oh yes, well the others were going to school you see. We'd be up and our work was to get all the tables set, all the bread cut, you know the butter and sugar basins were all filled and Mum would be cooking the breakfast.

Now for how many men?

There, she had fifty men. And there was always a menu, she was a wonderful cook and she would have say bacon and egg, lambs fry and bacon, chops and steak with eggs or tomatoes and always that was on. Now where would those stores come from and how would she keep them fresh?

Well they had the shops in Boyup Brook there they used to come from there you see.

How often?

Oh well they would deliver them to her ~~you know~~, we were only about a mile out of town there you see. But there was one shop, one chap opened a shop on the camp, where was he it was at Boyup yes and he would supply us but we found that - I don't know whether to put this - we found that he was -

Charges a bit high?

Oh no he was a bit rough. He'd come over to us and say "how many boarders have you", well they paid a pound a week you see and we'd say fifty or whatever it might be, he'd work the accounts that it was just a little more than what Mum was getting from the men so she could never sort of get ahead with her stores you see. Well then he sold out and left, he used to get supplies from Katanning I think, but he used to get them from somewhere and he'd supplied bread, vegetables, meat and everything you see which was handy just at the shop. Well then he sold out he eventually went to Wongan Hills and then she had to deal with the local shop in Boyup Brook which was a Mr. Mouan, and she found ~~then~~ that her accounts were no where near so high and she said to Mr. Mouan, she mentioned this to him you see and he said well Mrs. Spriggs he said "you don't want to pay anything you owe, because if you want to go to Court, I'll give evidence and show them my books, because that has been an arranged thing", and of course Mum never suspected that anyone would do things like that you know.

Did you have safes and so forth to keep that food in the kitchen tent? No, we used to have a meat safe sort of built, which is like a little room all fly wired and then it was built around the bush, like a bush hut and this fly wire safe sat in it and of course there was a chopping block in there. She didn't use that so much there it used to be - I don't quite know where she had the safe there, but that was what we

used. I'm thinking of the big place where we had it mostly you know. She would have to cut up her own meat would she?

Well normally, when she had the big lot of men she used to buy a quarter of beef, one week it would be the hind quarter and one week would be the fore-quarter and she would buy three or four bodies of mutton or lamb, whatever she would have, mutton I suppose and a couple of bodies of Pork plus bullocks hearts -she was ^{As} a great favourite ^{shed} stuff bullocks heart and lambs fry and sausages and of course that all had to be hung you see in the safe you see, well it was cool you know I think the climates have all sort of altered, ~~when~~ it used to be fairly cold down there then, but she kept it alright you know thats how she managed.

Well now, when she cooked the breakfast it would be all ready by a certain time?

Yes, breakfast started about half past six. Of course they were building a dam there, thats why the boarding house was there and of course being close they came home to lunch. So straight after breakfast Mum of course had to start on the lunch which consisted mostly of cold meat ^{and} salads and hot scones always for lunch .

Sweets?

Yes, mostly apple pies or something like that. Well that went on then after lunch of course she had to prepare vegetables and all that for dinner at night and which was an awful thing peeling potatoes and all that sort of thing, she had no help because there was no labour to be got.

Except you and your sister?

Except the sister and I, the other children went to school at Boyup Brook. They had about a mile I would think to walk, maybe not so far, and that was really her day, ~~in~~.

Can you remember the work you had to do, can you remember doing all this?

Yes.

Were you very resentful or did you just accept it as part of your job.?

No, I was as happy as a lark, ^{We were} ~~happy as larks~~, kiddies don't sort of ^{think} ~~you know~~ because.

And you waited on the men did you?

Yes, the sister and I did all the waiting and looking after the tables

and of course washing up the dishes. Those times there was no stainless steel knives, of course we had to clean those every day, which was a job really and that was our work and of course we just made the beds and the tents and all that while Mum was doing the cooking. We did all the washing up and we had a copper boiling outside and we washed up in a tub sitting on a box near the table and we would bring the water in in bucket fulls, one day my young sister, she used to get home from school to lunch and she was about twelve year old, she would help with the washing up and somebody accidentally poured a bucket of water in ^{and} scalded all her arms, so all these little things happen. Was there a doctor in Boyup Brook or did you Mother treat her, and what did she treat it with?

Yes, there was a doctor, the doctor came and had a look at it and mostly picric acid he poured over it you know which is very good of course, but she soon got alright. Well now that was her day really at Boyup Brook, and from there, we were there I can't remember just how long.

Well, before we leave Boyup Brook, what of the social life, was there any, what did you do on the week-end. Did she have Sundays, ^{at} . . . on ~~Sunday~~ or not?

No, it was all work, there was no social life, except a dance. They used to have a learners dance on Friday night and of course we two girls wouldn't go because we were very self conscious of learning to dance because most of the people going there were the boarders from our place, and they used to have one thing that I ^{we} thought of, never heard of since, the girls used to take, their partners used to take a little sort of a box with cakes and everything that was the supper and it used to be auctioned and they used to raise quite a lot of money like that because the boys if they wanted a certain girl to have supper with they would bid up for her supper you see, and I think now if they could have something like that they would get quite a lot of finance for charity.

And did you ever go to these dances? and did you take your?

We went once or twice, but no we were ~~two~~ ^{too} shy . . . really ^{it was} a shame because we never ever went and learnt then. And now thats about her general life in Boyup Book, but of course it was all work no week-ends free or anything like that, but it was a lovely little town. Often

we'd have people call in to see us and all that kind of thing. Unfortunately she could never get away because of no labour.

And what would she earn for that. What money would she earn?

Well she got one pound a week board that was all, a pound a week from each man. Of course you had no sleeping arrangements, it was just boarding, ~~but~~ -

Then it would depend on what she provided as to whether she made a profit or a loss?

Yes, and actually she made very little profit because all went back she had to feed them very well, I've seen her make cakes fairly big cakes they would be, she was a marvellous cook and she would put eight eggs and a pound of butter in a cake, ~~and~~ We weren't very old and we used to say Mum "I don't think you'd better do that, that's too expensive, they wouldn't know, they wouldn't appreciate it", "oh no my girl" she said "you must give them good food", and so of course all her profits went into food you see. ~~But still~~ -

When would they eat the cakes, for afternoon tea?

Well they would have that for lunch you see. When you cut lunch, they would take it in their lunches you see. But when they came home to lunch they always had cakes, hot scones and things like that. So of course that's ~~where~~ that went. ~~It was a~~

Can you remember how long you were in that Boarding House, and what year you would have gone?

At Boyup. Yes we went down there in 191~~2~~, but I can't just remember, it would only be a few months I think, while they put the dam down.

Oh there's another little thing I would like to mention, I don't know whether anyone would remember these things. All the cement came in deal casks, you know with the little battens all round the sides. Well that was our bush armchairs. They used to cut them off so they would be about two foot six or three foot high and they would cut them off half way up and leave a space and cut off again to make arms and the lid that had been on the top was put where it was cut off that made the seat and then they used to pad them and they were beautiful little armchairs.

What did they pad them with?

Well they would fill them with anything, probably straw or anything

and put bag over them and then some of them would get to and get a bit of material and put over them and they looked quite attractive and were very comfortable. I often say, people waste such a lot of money on furniture now when it could be made you know. Well now that was a fairly big dam, I couldn't tell you the dimensions at all but it was all cement - I think it took a few months, but I can't just remember how many months. From there we were transported to Jarnidup which is now known as Jardee.

When you say transported you mean again by these flat top railway trucks do you?

Well no, we must have gone there, from there we must have gone by buggy. I can remember, I can't just remember how we got from Boyup Brook but I can remember driving out from Bridgetown and of course it's not so very far from Boyup to Bridgetown so we must have been driven to Bridgetown and straight out to Manjimup.

And the Boarding House, you wouldn't have taken that boarding house with you - could have gone on drays?

Well now I don't know - ~~that would go on drays, but~~ I don't know if they bothered because after in the weather they may not have been much good you see. I can't just remember whether they shifted the boarding house. But we got to as I say Jarnidup and they erected the tents there, it was what we call the main camp, they were just starting to put the Railway down to Pemberton, it was only a Spot Mill at Pemberton those days.

A Spot Mill? Whats that?

A Spot Mill yes, thats just the first little arrangement they put up you know perhaps just one little thing to start with, thats what they called it a Spot Mill, so they erected the tents, once again the big boarding house, big dining rooms and then the sleeping tents and we were at Jarnidup near the big bridge, near the big cutting and called the main camp, that was to start off for all the men. They had to clear the road out to Pemberton which was a very big thing those days because you must remember it was all virgin Karri. When I see the Karri now I think 'oh thats not nothing much', because in those days it was something and the men had to fall the trees and that line all had to be cleared and then the formation built and then

of course the line taken out and there we had eighty five boarders. Now there was some, we'd cut seventy nine lunches a night and there were five men kept, there was a horse yards, because it was all drays and everything and the five men worked around the place. Well it some, we used to deal at Manjimup, there was a Manjimup Trading Company run by Mr. Giblet and Johnson which their relatives are all there still now and the cutting of the bread for those lunches I can assure you was some business, because some of the men the timber workers took up to twenty slices, because they had to have, they used to leave home at daylight, half past six about they left for work so therefore they had morning tea at ten, because axe work was very heavy and they had lunch at midday, afternoon tea about four, so of course it took quite a lot for them, they were supposed to pay extra but of course they didn't.

How many pieces of bread would you have cut then?

Oh for seventy nine, now,

About two thousand?

I've never added it up to tell you the truth, I never eat a sandwich now because *of this* And of course cutting those lunches was some business because I had to keep, I used to do this myself, I had to keep a book, everyone had different tastes, some didn't like this or that, so I had to put every name down - Mr. Jones doesn't like mustard, Mr. Jones doesn't like pickles and that sort of thing so it was some problem, and we cut all those lunches and then they took four pieces of cake besides.

Now how, what would you wrap them in?

We had, there was no greaseproof, no nothing and they had to be wrapped in newspaper and of course we always had to get the newspaper from anyone who had their papers, thats the only means, ~~I often think~~ Quite a shortage of that though wasn't there?

Oh well yes, it was a problem to keep up the amount of the newspaper you know. Then of course there most of them took their lunches they weren't home for midday dinner.

Made it easier then?

It gave her more time for preparing the dinner you see, but I know there's occasions she's peeled a bag of potatoes, and when you do potatoes and you do beans and peas it was a full time job for her because she had

no assistance whatsoever.

Except you two girls?

Yes, well we were attending to the other part and we never had much time to help with that you see.

Did she have the same primitive kitchen?

The same way, built exactly the same way and we had two big stoves a No. 3 and a No.2 Metters and they just sat on the edge of the kitchen, we had an iron roof over the kitchen which was a help, and she cooked all on that, I don't know how she ever managed.

She didn't bake her own bread did she?

No, she didn't bake her own bread, no we managed to get the bread from Manjimup. But one night I don't know what went wrong with the baker I'm sure but, the bread didn't come out of the oven until after dinner at night and they ran it over to us and it was hot, and we had to cut two hundred loaves of bread because being hot we couldn't cut it, ^{secondly} couldn't cut it thin you see, but ^{Mum} Mamma had bought us a little bread-cutting machine it was only a little thing with a round blade and you turned the handle but still it was a help and she would be sitting alongside of us cutting all the meat up, she used to have to slice that by hand which was quite a quantity you know, so that was our day there really.

What time would you finish cutting those lunches in the evening?

Oh, it would be after nine o'clock before we ^{finish} finish you know, and then of course she was up very early in the morning because the timber workers they were piece workers more or less and they worked from daylight to dark so they were the first men out.

They wanted their breakfast before they left?

Yes, yes, but we used to set on these tables that I told you before, there used to be fifteen, thirty to each table really you see so of course we had, the early ones went first and then we set them all, we'd put them through in less than an hour which was a lot you know because there were only two waitresses and they used to say when they went anywhere else, ^{any of} only the men, we'll get our two waitresses back and they did too you know. But she used to cook a wonderful meal but in the end she used to buy all her beans and peas and things like that by tin, you know, she would buy them by the case, she would buy the jams and all that by the case, the ideal - always ideal milk all by

the case. Eggs by the crate, butter by the box and of course sugar by the bag you see, but she did all the cooking, all the cakes, everything there was none of this run and get *from the shop*. Working out of the amount, she sort of had to estimate that herself as well?

Yes, she got used to doing that you see, at first it must have been hard, but finally I suppose she got a good idea.

And did she have to actually go to the men and extract their pound a week from them or ^{what} was their a method of payment?

No, no, they brought the pay, they paid every fortnight, they paid the two pounds you see.

Did somebody in the Works pay it?

No, no the men paid it themselves. And we had one chap boarding there its funny how little things stay in your mind, this was at Boyup Brook, he was out from England of course all the immigrants were sent out on to Public Works and they were coming in very thickly around about that time and we had one chap that said "oh my goodness a pound a week I couldn't pay that". And we had another chap a Lancashire chap he used to board for a week and batch for a fortnight. He would live on everything while he boarded and the next week he would live on bread and cheese and beer. He said he "had to send so much to t'old woman in Lancashire", but I think he only saved it for his beer. ~~There was a~~ custom those days around Xmas the Police used to round up all the no-hopers who just lived on anything, pickpockets and all that kind of thing and send them out to any Public Works, or send them out of the town anyway and of course a lot used to come to us they would be there awhile before and they would notify my Mother that they were coming, but unfortunately a lot of those left and never paid I often wondered why, the government wasn't responsible for their board, I think myself that they should have paid Mother but they didn't, there was no mention of it and half these fellows as soon as they put in their fortnight they would nick off and leave, which I think was very bad on the government's part.

Was this after the war or was this around about 1914?

Oh no this was before the war, yes, this would be in the latter end I think of 1913.

How long were you at Jardee, how long were you at that boarding house?

Well now I don't really quite remember.

Was it only a matter of months?

We would only be a few months there because as the line progressed so the boarding house shifted you see.

Then you moved in with them.

Yes, I don't quite remember how long we were at Jarnidup as I say, because as the work proceeded so the boarding house shifted with them. The next camp was a place called, we called it the ~~five~~ ^{five} mile, that would mean we were five mile out and the formation then was being put down. The clearing had been done that far.

When you say formation, what do you mean by that?

Formation for the line, yes. And I remember, of course the rainfall those days was seventy five inches there which was pretty terrific and all our stuff was brought out from Manjimup. The groceries came, a chap used to bring a covered waggon and all the foodstuffs to our ourselves and the married people that were living there and when the weather was so bad of course they couldn't get through so naturally we were stuck for food, everybody was, the only man that got through was a Mr. Giblet, who was a butcher a fine old man with a grey beard right down to his waist, lovely old chap, and he never let Mum down, he battled through and he used to ~~cordoring~~ ^{all} the road in front of him, travel over it, pick it up and ~~cordor~~ another length, and that's how he got out to us through, the roads of course were all bogged you see. And I remember one time the sister and I, now I was fourteen and she was about sixteen, we had to walk from the five mile into Jardee and pick up some groceries for Mum, and she said "now girls you go to Mrs. Harper", she ran the boarding house for the mill at Jarnidup, "you go to Mrs. Harper now and get a hot meal before you walk back". Well it was pouring rain and we had to have a wheat bag or chaff bag and put everything in it and carry it over our shoulders and the men working on the line would be boiling their tea billy for ten o'clock and they said "girls, stop and have a cup of tea", so they gave us a mug of billy tea, which was quite good, ^{and} warm, and we carried all that stuff, I can't imagine the girls of that age doing that today.

Did the men ever, were they familiar or/molest you or ~~not~~ ^{attempt to}.

Never ever had, we never ever struck anything - I think there must

have been a different class then to what they are now. and I remember one time the bread not getting through and Mum was up about three in the morning, how she got the wood dry to do anything with I don't know, and she would have to bake scones for all those men we had between thirty and fifty then they would vary as the men came and went and she was up at that hour baking scones for their breakfast. And we used to , our clothes, I remember one year the last year we were there, six months we never had one day without rain. Now our washing all had to be done, ^{and} dried in front of those stoves, paper put in the warm oven and put in there, it was a real problem really. Yes, and with six children.

Yes, well you see there was we two and the four younger ones. But the hardships were very great there. Well now when we got a little further along, I think fourteen mile was the next camp, they built us a wooden place made out of face cuts and the walls were all made in sections and the floors.

Now the face cuts are what?

Those are the, the face cuts is the timber that is trimmed off the log when it goes through the saws, because the sap wood is no good for timber, so thats trimmed off in like boards, and you can get those from the mill and thats what most of the work was done with, anyone building or anything like that, so they built these places with I would say they were ten by ten or ten by twelve sections, roof floor and sides and they were divided into two. They were all in one but then separated like with ^{PARTITIONS} ~~partitions~~. We had one long one for the dining room and the one long room divided - at one end was a pantry and one end was the cooking and the next two was our bedrooms. No verandahs and thats how-it was much more comfortable that way and we didn't have the rain coming in and all that sort of thing.

Still the same table and chairs, the same tables that you had had in the ~~canvas~~ ^{canvas} ~~board~~ ^{board} house.

No, no, then we would have stools built with just the ^{ordinary} timber and the board for the stools and the tables, we got a little further, a little more modern there. And I remember one time, no it wouldn't be from there, it would be from the next camp. We will go on there to the next camp which was near what we called the big bridge. It was only about a mile out of Pemberton I don't see it there now I

think the road may have been rezoned or something like that, I don't quite know, but we were living there and we used to have to take our washing down to the creek wash there with two kerosene tins on logs and it was nothing for the log to burn through and the tin^s was to topple over and all this sort of thing. But our water for the house was brought by train then, they used to have a tank we lived right alongside the station, right alongside the railway line and the train, the rake as we called it, would bring it out from the mill and pump it into a tank there, an iron tank there and that was our, we were alright for water that way, but for the washing, that's how we did it. Where did you have lines outside the tent or down at the creek for drying?

No, we would bring them back up near the camp and dry them, yes. What about for your own bathing and washing purposes in all these camps?

We just bathed in a tub.

You took the tin tub with you did you?

We always had a big tub for bathing. Of course that was the general Once a week?

Only once a week, because it was too big a problem.

In-between did you have a basin on a washstand ~~or~~?

No, no wash-stand, we never carried surplus furniture, just beds which considered to be old folding stretchers, we had to sleep on.

Where did you put your - did you wash in the kitchen did you?

No, we would wash in our bedrooms, we had a box and you would sit the bowl on the box.

Now the wood problem was rather a big thing for Mum, there was no men in the family of course and all the men were working all day they wouldn't feel like cutting wood and there was no labour to be got so I was always very fond of the axe, it was no trouble to me and I used to cut all the wood, and you can imagine how much that would be for two big stoves going from about five in the morning until about nine at night. I would go out at night while we were waiting for the horse-men to come in, they were the latest in for tea and I would go out, the two younger ones, sister and brother, they would carry a lantern and I would stand up on the logs and cut the wood and they would carry it in, and we fill^{ed} one table we had was a long table about

six foot long and I suppose about three foot high, and I would fill that underneath every night they would stack the wood there and that was for Mum to use during the day and that was done every night. So You must have been very healthy?

It was a good healthy I think you know, but that was no trouble to me because I loved wood cutting and as a matter of fact I've cut it right up until I've just came in from the country now about eighteen months ago, and I miss wood cutting more than anything.

I'll have to get you some.

And its very very healthy I can assure you, they say it exercises every muscle in your body. And if the women today didn't have so much electricity and a little more wood and cut it, they would be a lot better.

Now of course this is in 1915, I was then - this is is in 1913 still but I was then fifteen years of age in '13, and now we, I'll tell you about this may be hard for you to believe but we had to shift camp again, this time to the other side of Pemberton. Now we had, I'm not sure whether it was about thirty boarders, somewhere around about that I'm not quite sure, but we were up in the morning, we gave them their breakfast, we cut their lunches, then we cut our lunches and the men proceeded to pull down the house. Now as I told you before it consisted of like the six rooms, they pulled it down, took it to the new camp, which was about three miles the other side of Pemberton re-erected it and we cooked tea there for the men that night. Now that doesn't seem feasible - the grandson was just talking to me the other day and he said "oh no Nan you've made a mistake there", I said "No we haven't". Its hard to believe isn't it? But of course all being built in sections with a team of men it didn't take very long so that is something I think which wouldn't perhaps be heard of too often. Well from there, that I think is - oh we were the first couple married - I was married when I was seventeen and we were the first couple married in Pemberton.

Did you marry someone from the bachelors quarters?

He was boarding with us, one of the boarders yes. He was an Englishman Now the boarders were bachelors and then there were married couples living in?

No, the boarders were the single men, not a bachelor, a bachelor is

a man who cooks for himself see. The single men all boarded with us but there were a lot of married men and their wives, they had their own tents and of course they all lived little camps too. And the Public Works shifted their camps as well as yours each time? No, they shifted their own.

In their spare time?

Yes, they had to shift their own tents and belongings. The boarding house was always shifted - it was essential for the Works because they would have no men if they had no boarding house.

But there weren't many not bachelors but batches^{as} there weren't many batches they mostly all the single men mostly came to you.

They all boarded practically because of getting their food you see.

Well by this time Pemberton was becoming a little township, we had butcher shops and we had a hall and we were the first couple married in Pemberton in the hall. The Minister had to come out from Manjimup and most of the guests came from Manjimup all on horseback. They got lost on the way and of course the wedding was a little bit late. It was on Xmas Day, The Minister asked us if we could arrange to have it on Xmas Day because he had been asked to hold a Service there, I think the first Service ever held in Pemberton, so of course it didn't make very much difference so we said yes, and I was married in the sister's home a Mrs. Fimister, she lived in one of the houses on the mill, by this time there was several mill houses built in little streets, very comfortable four roomed houses, back and front verandahs very nice they were and from there we moved into our home, which we bought for five pound.

In Pemberton?

Yes, in Pemberton, just down over Big Brook as it was known then.

What did you wear for your wedding?

Well I had a, the sister got my wedding dress made at Foy & Gibson in Perth, she took the measurements and sent down and it was made and sent up and it was some lovely silk I can't remember just what it was, made in three quarter length in big frills right down the skirt, it was a lovely frock, I kept it for years and afterwards dyed it when the dresses became long and wore it then.

Did you wear boots with it or slippers?

No, just shoes, court shoes, and that was the first time my hair had

been done up I had very curly hair and one of the lasses, old Manjimup girl, very old family from there, she curled it all over the head, it took me about three days after to try and get the curls out.

What sort of head dress did you wear?

A veil.

A long one or short?

A long veil, a very fine long veil and a little orange blossom coronet. Artificial orange blossom?

Yes that was.

And what about your bo^uquet, was that artificial or real?

Now I can't remember. But my grand-daughter was married and used the veil only two years ago. It is very very delicate now and in the wind and that it got sort of a little bit damaged, but whether they will be able - the one daughter had kept it for all those years and she wanted it for her daughter so whether they'll be able to repair it I don't quite know, but it was very very fine.

End Side A

Now the sister put on a little reception for us, she was a beautiful cook and she had the usual you know ham, chicken and all that went with it and she made the most beautiful birthday cake, we still all the family still make the same recipe for our Xmas cake its an old recipe out of Mrs. Beaton's Cooki^{ng}~~ng~~ Book so it still stayed in the family.

And she decorated the bridal cake as well did she?

She decorated the cake and did everything, yes.

What sort of food did you have at the reception?

Well we had the ham and chicken and salads and trifles all the usual things like that you know. None of these cooked dishes like curry & rice and all those sort of things because they just didn't do that those days you know. But everything was very nice and we just had the little reception, there was no dancing because room was the problem there was no church of course in Pemberton those days and the Minister stayed and then he afterwards had to go to the Hall to conduct the Church Service, it was held in the hall.

And your mother had to go back to cook for the boarders.

Yes, she had the boarders home and they had, it must have been arranged somehow, whether they got their own tea that night I just don't know. ^{the sister who} It was working with me in the boarding house with Mother, she was married the February previously in Bridgetown being no church in Manjimup and she chose Xmas morning to have her first baby and of course she's only confined in the little tent where she lived and we were all very anxious because they thought it maybe a serious case, was only just a little bush nurse that came and the baby wasn't born until about three or four in the morning and we had to go back and cook Xmas Dinner for all the boarders and it was a very hot day, unusually, so of course the time all the wedding was over I don't think anybody felt like dancing anyway.

You didn't go away on a honeymoon?

We didn't go for a honeymoon for a week after, we had to depend on -
we went by coach ^{from} / Manjimup to Jardee those days and of course we didn't get away, we couldn't get away until the following week you see.

Where did you go?

To Perth. That was my first trip to Perth and ^{we} came down.

Where did you stay in Perth?

Some place in Hay Street, now I don't know.

Right in the centre of Perth?

Yes, right in the centre of Perth, I can't think of the name of the place.

And did you only have a week?

Yes, we only had a week, and then back to work.

You helped your Mother in the boarding house?

No, no, I didn't go back to the boarding house, it was getting down with the boarders then and the other girls were getting older you see so of course I didn't go back. She didn't stay there for very long after we were both married. We bought our little house from a person that was selling up and going away from Pemberton, now it consisted of the usual canvas bedroom and kitchen and then a little lean-to for laundry at the back and a stove sitting out there that's where we cooked and it had a wooden floor which was a big help, our tents only had earthen floors with bags on them and I thought this was marvellous really, it cost five pounds (I don't know if I told you that) and our cupboards were made out of boxes about as big as a

tea chest, one on top of the other and then you put a cloth over those and a curtain around them and laid all your little ornaments and gee-gees on top of them and they looked quite attractive and sometimes I think they're better than these modern cupboards.

Well it must have been marvellous for you not having all that work to do.

Yes, I thought it was great for awhile, but then I got bored and lost you know with nothing much to do, but still I was there, I don't know how long I was in that place.

But your husband was still working on that line?

Yes, he was still working. I can't remember where I just shifted from there, but when my first baby was coming along following March twelve months we had moved, they moved Mum further out again and we built a place right alongside the boarding house, but that was timber and iron then a proper little house really he built it himself. Now where was that line after it got to Pemberton where was that line headed for - the railway line?

Oh well it was only lines that went to the different places where they were cutting timber you see they used to run the line out of course to where the fallers were cutting as the bush ^{got} cut out to a certain stage they moved the line out and the boarding house and camps you see. Then we finally built, came back, I'm not quite sure where we were camped then, but we built - my husband built a little two-roomed wooden place with a little verandah at the back for the laundry and that's where I was living when my first baby was born but I taken to Jardee, the baby was born in Jardee, a Jewish nurse used to run a little hospital in one of the mill houses there and we had a doctor at Manjimup a Dr. Chapman a very fine man, a very nice chap and he used to come out to Pemberton on a little railway motor trike every week he was the only doctor for Pemberton as well as Manjimup, Jarnidup and all you see and he would come out and check up and anyone wanted to see him they could see him while he was there. His first aid, he used to leave a first aid kit at our boarding house and of course I knew him.

Well how many checks would you have had before your baby was born in that nine months, would you have seen him very often?

Oh, we never went to a doctor, no. I went once to the sisters one

day to see me because I'd had a bit of an attack but he said "no, you'll be alright you'll get a lot of those before you're finished", so I thought 'oh well alright', so finally I was taken into Manjimup on the log rake and I was there two days I think before the baby arrived, but in the meantime there was a lady put in a room with me this will give you an idea how primitive things were, they were people who were brought out to go on the Group Settlement, just out of Manjimup, and she was a woman of about thirty seven and she had a ruptured stomach and she'd not had a child since she was in England for years and years she never thought she would have another child and they were very worried, they never had very much money of course and you had to pay twentyfive shillings a week while you were waiting in the hospital, so he said he thought she had better go in a little earlier because they were very worried and she said "oh, we can't afford to pay that", he said "never mind my dear we'll sell the cow if we have to" and so they walked the five mile into the hospital and the baby was born that night. It must have been the walk that did it you see.

Was she alright?

Yes, she was quite alright and she's telling Dr. Chapman she wanted the baby taken because she was worried she thought it was, it would burst the rupture and she thought if he chloroformed and took the baby she wouldn't have that trouble and he said "no my dear, I'll watch you, you should be alright, you're better to be natural", and she was saying all the time she's under chloroform "I know why you won't do it you won't waste your money on the chloroform". But anyway she had the baby quite alright but unfortunately he was born on the 29th February and she cried and said "well isn't it awful after waiting all these years my baby will only have a birthday every four years". Well anyway she got along very nicely and another lady was there waiting, her husband was boarding with my mother before they lived there and he was also boarding there while she came in to have the baby but she had been waiting six weeks and she was very upset and she said to me "oh I hope you're not waiting" and I said "if I'm waiting I'll go back home, anyway I only waited two or three days and my baby arrived they expected a very bad case - Mum had been to a fortune teller and they told her that without good attention I wouldn't live, so of

course everybody on the mill was worried they were all anxious to see me get out of mill and all this anyway he arrived a big baby ten and a half pound.

And naturally ?

No, chloroform no nothing - no. I said to the doctor "don't you give me any of that chloroform", he said "you might call out for it" I said "no I won't", anyway that was that, that was my first baby you see.

Well when he was about three months old ^{the} other sister's husband had gone up to just out of Southern Cross , Morine Rock it was, Parker's Road it was called then its now Morine Rock in the railways and he asked Tim why not come up there because the sister and I were very great pals so thats how we left Pemberton and we went up there.

That would have been when about 1914-15?

That was in 1916. Now before I get off Pemberton I just want to tell you how primitive things were. My husband was having a bout of tooth ache and he wanted a tooth pulling, so he waited on the line 'till the doctor's coming along and he held the doctor up and the doctor said "bh well come on I'll do it now", sat him on a log in the bush and pulled his tooth, and he said "I gripped the doctor's leg and the harder he pulled the harder I pinched". Well then during the time of my pregnancy I had tooth ache trouble and of course the dentist a Mr. Bignell used to travel from Bunbury every so often and he came to - I arranged with him, they used a little room at the back of the hall where they used to prepare the suppers and that, thats what he used as a dental surgery, so I went down to have my tooth out, now as I say things weren't so good then, it was during the war and we were all restricted to only earn two pounds a week and if you lost time with wet weather, well you missed that day so we very often only earned thirty shillings a week, so of course it wasn't very much money but I used to put a certain amount in a money box and I remember having saved up five shillings now that would get one tooth out, it was five shillings so righto I said "I'll take that five shillings and go and get this tooth out. So Mr. Bignell sat me on a stool and they were holding pictures, pictures used to come every once and awhile and they used to be held in the hall, well just when he starts to pull the tooth the pictures go on and the light goes out in the back room. So there was a Mr. Curo there and he was a

teamster and he came go get a tooth out, so he held a lantern while the dentist pulled my tooth, and he said he had a look at me and he said "you want that other one out because you won't get any relief", and I said "Oh no I couldn't have that out Mr. Bignell", because I only had the five shillings, and he said "Never mind, do you fell sick", and I said "yes I do", well he said "go and put your head out the window and get a bit of fresh air and you'll be alright", which I did, and I came back and he pulled the other one. And to this day Mr. Bignell has never been paid because I never would know how to go about it because he lived in Bunbury you see. Mr. Curo had also had teeth out, but thats how, that was our dental arrangements those days. And all he brought with him was the thing to pull teeth?

Yes, whatever they used, there was no anaesthetic or anything like that, you just had your tooth pulled and that was that you see.

And what about when you were along the line in the boarding house were there any of you ill or any men ill that your mother had to deal with, any emergencies and sicknesses or?

No, the only time we ran into any emergencies like that was at Jarnidup when we first started, there was a collision on the railway some kiddies had been playing and turned the points and they were, the train the engine used to push the trucks of men and of course they're pushing the men home from work and they backed up one on top of the other, just like a pack of cards. So of course they rushed them over to Mum, she had to tear up all her sheets and everything to bandage all the men and they were finally taken into Katanning into the hospital, but thats the only time we ever really - except minor foot crushing and things like that, we would do what we could there like you know.

You were never confined to bed?

No. There was a tragedy happened there one time when we were near the Big Bridge camped, there was a lady expecting her baby, well she expected around about the Saturday, she was only in a little tent with another little lean-to on it and the nurse came out, this Jewish nurse as I told you - Nurse Goodall, she came out from Jarnidup and she went to see Mum, my mother had been a mid-wife and she said "now look (she used to come out on a Saturday, and she was delayed with a patient in Jarnidup) ^{she said -} I can't get away today, I'll try and get out on

Monday, now if Mrs. ^{SAWYER} Sayers takes bad, will you attend her for me?" and Mum said "yes I will" she said "well I'll be out on Monday". Well on Sunday afternoon, it was a dull day, very still, dull, no wind whatsoever and all of a sudden we heard a tree and we run outside and we said "gosh that sounds close to Mrs. Sawyer's". Anyway it was, Mrs. Sawyer was laying down on the bed she had a dear little girl about two year old and she's laying down on the bed and the husband said "I've made you a nice cup of tea," she got up, the stove was going of course and there was a box foot near the stove and she's sitting there with the little girl by her side and he said "now if you say thats not a nice cup of tea, I'm not going to make you another one its a lovely cup of tea". So she's sitting by the fire with the little girl and he goes out to have a shave, now there was a tree right at the back of their tent, they generally pitch a tent near a tree and the boughs of the tree were leaning over the front of the tent and he's standing there shaving with mirror, you shave outside with a mirror stuck up, and he heard this crack, crack and he looked up and he siad "god where's that," he lookeð up and it was the tree falling, and he dropped and dashed inside and he was too late, the tree came right down over the stove killed Mrs. Sawyer and the little girl and of course he was immersed in all the branches, it was really a tragedy you know, and they of course could do nothing about it you know and she was buried, they closed the Mill, they closed the Mill for two days and she was taken away in a log rake all draped in black and she was buried in Manjimup. But that's the only real tragedy that I can remember.

There was a Mr. Pitcher there Dave Pitcher he was one of the gun fallers and he was a friend of Mr. Sawyer's and he said that "I don't like the look of that tree at the back of your camp, I think I'll come out one day and fall it", and he said "oh Dave that's safe its leaning right the other way", he said "never mind Dave that's a red gum and red gum's always pull round on their tap root and its a very dangerous tree, I'll come out and fall it next week". Of course it was just too late.

He was a gun faller?

That means top notch faller?

I see, the big wheel.

Dave Pitcher fell a tree once for Prince Teddy when he was out here yes, and they got him to fall this tree, it was two hundred feet to the first limb and Dave Pitcher fell it for him, marvellous faller he was, marvellous axe man, but that was just another little thing that happened.

Now I'll tell you a few little stories about the township of Pemberton. By this time we had a butcher shop. The Mill General Shop which supplied everything, you were only allowed to deal, it was only a Mill shop really ^{provided} divided and we had a Barber Shop and two boarding houses. One boarding house at times had up to three hundred boarders that was the main boarding house, then there was a Mr. Thompson a Bill Thompson and a Mr. Spurber they ran a little corner shop, just you know for ordinary little things and Mr. Spurber he wanted to go to the first war so he changed his name to Thompson so he was then known as Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Thompson eventually from one thing to the other, he had a block of land and he built a beautiful brick home its still standing there today, its a showplace last time I was down in Pemberton, I think its on the road its just over Big Brook what it was then known and I think its just on the road to what would be Northcliffe I think one of the roads just the other side of Pemberton and two fallers Jack Eaton and Alf Boyland top notch fallers they were those days, they had to fall this big karri and it was right alongside his fence and they didn't want to fall it over his fence so they thought they'd throw it, which means the way they cut a tree they can throw it any direction normally. Well my home was only a little way away from that and after Mrs. Sawyer's business I was very very nervous of trees, but of course you couldn't clear around your place for safety because the radius was so great that you'd been working for weeks so I thought well I'll go up to the sister's who lived right in Pemberton about a mile I'll walk up there and spend the day and it will be all over when I get back. Well when I got back at five o'clock at night they were still on the tree. I didn't know what had gone wrong. Well seemly they'd tried to fall it away from the fence and they couldn't do it, it kept sitting back on the saw, so they had to rescarp it and fall it right in the opposite direction and put it over his fence, it must have been an awful day for the men because it was a very large tree and to have

do it twice without a break because they couldn't leave it. So that was one of the things you strike in those places.

To see the karri now down there of course they don't look anything to me or anyone else that had been there when it was all virgin timber. In one instance they'd fallen a tree for the line going out and our boarding house was right alongside where they'd fallen it and they had to grub the stump out. Well when they scarfed it -

When you say scarf - what do you mean by that?

Well thats - you put an axe cut in one side so far in and then you saw from the back and the scarf is what is what ^{tipples} tickles you see. In the scarf cut what we call the scarf cut, after it was fallen, they scarf it really which is cut it in with an axe and then they saw from the back and then that ^{tipples} tickles it over, so one of the men laid in what the scarf cut and he was over six foot and there was still a space each end of him and then they could set a dinner for twelve people round the butt. Now it must have been nearly eight foot in diameter it was a tremendous big tree and they were all day on grubbing this so you can imagine what the circumference of the hole was, so really it was magnificent timber but a very big problem to clear.

What about bush fires. Were there ever any bush fires while you were down there?

No, no we had no bush fires. I don't know how they would have controlled them because it was so very, very thick the undergrowth and the ferns you know the bracken fern they would be over six foot high and that sort of thing, so its a good thing we never had any bush fires.

Now to make it clear the line that was going out from Jarnidup where our boarding houses were all along the line was the Public Works. Those days the Public Works when they were putting down a new line it came under the Public Works and when it was completed it belonged to the Railway Department, ~~so~~

~~And the Mills?~~

In those days, I say when we first went there there was only a spot what they called a spot Mill in Pemberton, they were just really starting. No.1 Mill they were all government mills but No.1 was at what is known now as Dean Mill that was five mile the other side of Manjimup. And then it went on one Mill was built at Pemberton

called No. 2, then another Mill and it was called No.3, and then they put in a big powilizer which was used for the sleepers that were put down on the trans-railway line. They couldn't put the karri sleepers down because of the white ants, so they built this big powilizer which consisted of a hugh vat an immense vat and it was all arsenic and molasses and the sleepers were dropped into that and boiled in that molasses and that made them immune to the white ants and that is when, they were used when they first started on the trans-railway line which was in 1912.

This was at Mill No.3,?

Well they were all together, there was the No.-1, and then alongside it No. 2, alongside that again the powilizer. Afterwards they built a box factory too, but that was all at Big Brook as it was then. ^(MANJINUP)

Now there was one little chappie, he was not a very big chappie a little fellow known as Tommy Kelly, he worked, well he was an identity in the south-west he was my brother-in-law and I think he had been on every Mill practically and at one time he was at Karridale when 'Karri' Davis was there, we called him 'Karri' Davis he's Mr. Davis but they called him 'Karri' Davis because as you know there is only karri country around Karridale and Pemberton, Pemberton district really thats really the only place where you get the karri and he first started the Mill at Karridale and used to ship it from there and Tom worked for him. Mr. Davis had a few race horses and Tom was his jockey and what he didn't know about horses wasn't worth knowing and he'd been, at every Mill I think in the south-west, very know identity, very reliable chap.

What was he, was he an axe man?

No, he was a horseman, he had his horse teams and he used to have these big teams of eight horses and beautiful Clydesdales, beautiful horses and he also put down the first dam at New Norcia in 1917 he put that down but he was a remarkable man he took ill one time but this time he was working at a place called Wuraming on the Hotham-Valley Line and he got very sick, very bad with his throat and stomach and he didn't know whether it was talking to the horses all the time and then of course he got this stomach trouble so he came to Perth. He was married then and had one little girl about eighteen months old. So he went to a doctor in Perth and he said "well old

man I think you've got cancer", he said "oh have I, well that's nice to know". Well anyway he thought 'well I won't take one doctor's word for it; so he checked up with another one and he said "I went to Dr. Seed," Now Dr. Seed was a very old identity here. He said "Well, I'll give you this medicine now take it for a week and then come back and I'll tell you whether it's cancer or an ulcerated stomach". So when he came back he said "you're a very lucky man, you've got ulcers, he said give me six months and keep on the diet I'll give you and you've every possibility of being alright". He said they rented a flat in Perth (or a room I think it would be those days) and he went on the diet took everything, eat nothing practically except arrowroot biscuits, he could not drink or smoke, he was never a drinker but he always liked his pipe, but he gave it up immediately and as I told you before, he was a great horseman he never missed a racing round anywhere not for the love of betting but for the love of horses and every Saturday he would go out to the races and he would allot himself what he wanted to win to pay his expenses, when he won that that was the finish he'd bet no more and he earned enough to pay for all their expenses and doctors and all for that six months he was in Perth and a Mr. Haldane took over his team at Wuraming but he afterwards ~~he~~ I think he sold the team after that I think he thought it might have been getting a bit heavy for him, so of course we never ever knew his age those days, he never looked any older, I don't think even when he was buried at 89, but I was just mentioning he's a very fine old man and he would be known quite a lot through the south-west.

Did he have a whim as well as a team?

Oh yes, they all had the big whims and they employed what they called the swamper. The swamper had to go out and clear the track for the whim to drag the things in and then he had to trim the log, A lot of them in the wet weather fit on to what they call the shoe, it was a big steel lift, ~~It~~ went under the log that was in the wet weather otherwise they just trimmed the log and one horse was sort of at the back or some of them were at the back you know that would pull the log up and they would put this under it you see or stop it digging in the ground and that's how they used to, but the swamper used to do

all that and the driver, he was the driver they were his own teams. Each one of those horses those days cost eighty pound which was a lot of money, but they were beautiful horses. He had one, the leader called Kylie and he was just like a human, he would say "now Kylie come here, or go there", and he was like another man to him, marvellous horse really.

And they actually had ^{to own} their own whims?

Yes, they had their whim, teams. Of course some were employed by the Mill, everything was supplied then like you know. But there were about six bullock teams at Pemberton.

Do you remember those?

Oh very well, they all boarded with me.

How many bullocks were in a team?

Oh now I don't quite know, two, four, six, eight, ten, twelve, fourteen, sixteen, eighteen, yes there were two in each like they got yokes on them like you know. Yes there were about six bullock teams I think, my uncle drove one at one time.

What was his name?

This is Jim McMahan.

And do you remember any of the names of other drivers, bullock teams or owners?

Yes.

Robinson?

Robinson and I think Curo drove one of Robinson's teams, he was his brother-in-law. And then there was two boy Thurkles, they were all Bunbury boys. We used to call one 'Snowy' Thurkle I can't think of his christian name and the other one we used to call 'Duck'. So there were those two boys Thurkles and there was Uncle of one time and Curo and Robinson and I don't know if they had ever had Frank O'Mara I don't know if he drove a bullock team, I'm not quite sure, but I think he did at one stage I'm not too sure.

And were they better than horse teams or did they go out when the horse teams came in?

No, they all worked together. I think the bullock teams were there before the horse teams, but they all worked together some bullocks and some horses.

Did they work with a whim as well?

Oh yes, yes, well the logs had to be pulled by whims.

You can just see the back of that big log. Now I was talking to a young chap the other day, he was here to lunch and he used to do a lot of swamping for for them you see, and I said about the log up in Kings Park and he laughed and he said "Yes of course that's only a broomstick isn't it". Another little thing that may be of interest when my baby was about two months old and I was out in the bush then, what we call just out of Pemberton, maybe ten mile out I'm not quite sure and I had to come into the Mill Town on this day so of course there was only the log rake to travel on and you weren't allowed on the trucks of course so I had to ride on the engine. So I said to the driver, "do you mind if I come in on the engine" and he said "no", so I hopped up onto the engine and he said "look I think I had better give you my seat", so I sat on the driver's little stool and drove into town with the baby. So thats something I don't know of happening anywhere else, I don't at all you know. And when we were leaving Big Brook to go up to Southern Cross, as I say he'd the brother-in-law had gone up there and he went up there to work in the railways then so we come in by the train which was only a like a rake really coming from the Mill to Jarnidup and we have a lantern the train left, we came in from Pemberton in the afternoon we caught a train out of Jarnidup at twelve o'clock at night and you were standing with your lantern there's no lights of course anywhere those days the only lamps that there were even in Perth were the gas lights and then we go on to Bridgetown and through to Perth I think it took two days and we were in Perth one night and of course we must have looked funny arriving in Perth where they did have gas light and we only had our lantern, we couldn't throw a lantern away because it was so important. So then we caught the express, the Kalgoorlie Express up to the Cross, we arrived there at two o'clock in the morning, and the sister was living there, well to Parkers Road really just about fifteen mile this side of the Cross and the sister was waiting for me with supper and all this sort of thing and of course travelling for two or three days I had some babies naps in the bag, so I took them out, of course there was only tubs, we had tubs outside, or she did, so we soaked them in a tub of water and next morning, this is rather hard for you to believe too, that tub of water was solid ice right through to the bottom and I thought 'my god, what have I come to' and

of course as you know Southern Cross is one of the coldest places in the State and it never thawed, I thought I'd leave it go and see, and it never thawed until three o'clock in the afternoon. Now of a morning our pipes would all be burst and all that sort of thing, and ^{if} we didn't think to take water out at night we would have no water for breakfast.

END OF TAPE.