

MISS BRENDA HOLLAND

ALBANY

This interview with Miss Brenda Holland was conducted at her Albany home in August 1991 for the Albany Oral History Project.

BRENDA VIOLET MAY HOLLAND was born in Perth on August 25th 1900 to Archie Holland and his wife May née Pugh.

During her early childhood the family lived in Perth, Bunbury Northam and Geraldton where her father followed his employment as a brewer. When Brenda was 10 years old the family moved to Albany and her father and a partner established the "Holland Long Lion Brewery" on Middleton Road.

Brenda started her schooling in Geraldton and on arriving in Albany attended the local Convent and then the State School, until about 16 years of age her artistic talent was apparent during her school years she later became a student of Henry Van Raalte in Perth. In the mid 1930's she attended art school for 2 years in Melbourne at the Gallery of Victoria. On completion of the course she spent a further year at Sydney Technical College pursuing her interest in portraiture. After returning to Albany in 1939 Brenda Holland set up an art studio in the family home in Aberdeen Street and took on private pupils.

In this interview she recalls experiences from her childhood including memories of visits to her father's brewery in the pre World War I years in Albany. She relates memories of school days and events from the war years. Miss Holland describes her family's lifestyle and their various homes in the town. She also discusses her art school years in Melbourne and Sydney and her later years of private art teaching.

Miss Holland recalls some of the interesting personalities of Albany in the early decades of the century, with particular mention of the several aboriginal identities who sat for her, these portraits having now been donated to the Albany Historical Society.

Miss Holland and her sister maintain their attractive home and garden at 91 and 90 years of age, and they gain pleasure from the native birds and neighbourhood pets which are regular mealtime visitors.

The interviews were conducted on 2nd, 9th and 23rd August 1991. The interviewer is Yvonne Choules. There are 3 tapes.

BRENDA HOLLAND

SYNOPSIS

TAPE 1, SIDE A

- 0.00 Introduction by Yvonne Choules
- 2.00 Date of birth: 25.8.1900
Place of birth: Perth
Father: Archibald (Archie) Holland
- one of 10 children
- moved to WA during gold rush aged 18
- 5.00 Brewer apprenticeship
- Swan Brewery
- 7.00 Uncle Walter killed in WWI (France)
- 8.00 Mother's maiden name: Pugh
- born in Victoria
- one sister, no brothers
- 10.00 Father worked at breweries in
- Bunbury, Northam, Geraldton, Albany
- recollection of Bunbury and Geraldton
- 12.00 Mounts Bay Road residence
- stables
- description of home
- 14.00 Move to Albany aged 9 or 10
- Eyre Park
- Middleton Beach
- 18.00 Talks about famous artist
- 19.00 C.Y. O'Connor's daughter
- 20.00 Brewery in Albany
- 22.00 Lifestyle when a child
- story about dog
- 28.00 END OF TAPE

BRENDA HOLLANDTAPE 1, SIDE B

- 1.00 Description of home at Middleton Beach
- 5.00 Entertaining in home
- mother's friends
- 6.00 Paintings
- 7.30 Neighbour on Aberdeen Street
- 10.00 Mother's personality
- talented singer (contralto)
- Cortacelli
- 14.00 Chinese
- 15.00 Afternoon teas
- 15.30 Description of father
- love of horses
- Clydesdale horses
- 19.00 Chores
- 20.00 Church choir
- Church of England
- bell ringer
- 24.00 Christmas family dinner
- 26.00 Father's work at brewery in Albany
- description of brewery
- 29.00 Making beer
- 29.30 END OF TAPE

TAPE 2, SIDE A

- 0.00 More on brewery
 - the vats
 - bottles beer
 - beer barrels
- 4.30 Schooling
 - teachers
- 12.00 Interest in art
- 13.00 John Barker
 - sketching lessons
- 14.30 Art Classes - teaching
- 15.00 World War I
 - bazaars
 - Red Cross
- 20.00 Henry van Raalte
 - painting lessons
 - art school
 - Margaret Saunders
- 23.00 Studied in Melbourne
 - Princess Mary Club
 - Rupert Bunning
- 27.00 END OF TAPE

TAPE 2, SIDE B

- 2.00 More on Princess Mary Club, Melbourne
 - Marian Watson
- 3.00 Phar Lap
- 4.00 Friends from art school
- 5.00 Art course
 - models
- 6.00 Nina Montford
- 7.00 Discusses lead in oil paints
- 7.30 Charcoal drawing
- 9.00 Melbourne Art Gallery
- 10.00 Painting on silk, pottery
- 13.00 Returned to Albany
 - trip by boat
 - Indian Pacific

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- 20.00 Influence of teachers
- 22.00 Various artists and students
- 28.00 Teaching in Albany
- 30.00 END OF TAPE

TAPE3. SIDE A

- 0.00 Father's business after brewery
- land agent
- 2.00 Emu Point, Middleton Beach
- 3.00 Talks about sister
- Miss Harvey's hospital, Perth
- 4.30 Parents' deaths
- 5.00 Brother's marriage
- 6.00 Grandparents' house
- 10.00 Describes Albany during war
- American flag
- 21.00 Albany's early characters
- 20.00 Other artists in Albany
- 20.30 Sir Nicholas Lockyer
- his father's portraiture
- Mr Sidney Myer
- 28.00 END OF TAPE

TAPE 3, SIDE B

- 2.00 Aboriginal portraits
- old Mary Weeler
- "Train" Ann
- 5.00 Johnny Cockles, Old Moses
- 10.00 Describes portraits
- 14.00 Still life of daffodils
- 14.30 Light and darkshades in painting
- 16.00 Discusses modern art
- 20.00 Favourite artist
- 22.00 Satisfaction in painting
- 23.00 people to thank
- 26.00 END OF TAPE