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Transcript of an interview with

STAVROS ANGELO KAKULAS

b.1910

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Introduction

This is an interview with Stavros Kakulas for the Battye Library Oral History Unit.

Mr Kakulas was born on the Greek island of Castellorizo in 1910 and emigrated to Australia with his father in 1923. His mother, brothers and sister joined them in 1926. His early years in Western Australia were spent in Fremantle where he hawked fruit and fish in the district and also ran a stall outside the Fremantle Railway Station.

In 1929 the Kakulas' opened their shop at 185 William Street, Northbridge and in the early 1930s started importing continental groceries. By 1939 the Kakulas brothers, Stavros, George and Michael, were also operating a second shop at 317 William Street. Mr Kakulas retired in 1975 and Kakulas Brothers is still operated as a family business in the location of the original shop in Northbridge.

During the interview Mr Kakulas talked of his life and his work. He shared his memories of his involvement with the Greek community and Church in Perth and of the development of Kakulas Brothers from its beginnings in 1929.

The interview was recorded in Mr Kakulas' home in Northbridge by Gail O'Hanlon between July and August 1997. There are six tapes.

The First Schedule

I do/~~do not~~ wish to be advised of any requests to publish this material or part thereof during my lifetime.

(Signed)

(Date)

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VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT

This is an interview with Mr Stavros Kakulas recorded on 10 July 1997 for the Battye Library Oral History Unit. The interview was recorded in Mr Kakulas' home in Perth by Gail O'Hanlon.

GO'H Can you tell me your full name?

KAKULAS Stavros Angelo Kakulas.

GO'H And your date of birth?

KAKULAS Twenty-sixth November 1910.

GO'H And where were you born?

KAKULAS In Castellorizo, in the Aegean Sea near Rhodes.

GO'H And can you tell me a little bit about Castellorizo?

KAKULAS Yes. Castellorizo in our days they had a very big population, about 12 000 people, and the people were doing business through.... they had schooners and boats, big boats, 200 ton, 500 ton, 800 ton, some of them big ones, and they used to go as far as Malta, Lebanon, Egypt, Alexandria. As far as Italy, Venice, they used to go a long way, very big boats, and they used to do all that work. And also after they used to do charcoal, take it to Egypt because there was no gas those days, no gas and there was no wood down there, and those things they were doing business all the time.

GO'H What country was the island part of?

KAKULAS Well those days it was under Turkey, Ottoman Empire, and we were only one-and-a-half mile from Turkey. From Rhodes we were about 70 miles, from Rhodes Island, and from Cyprus 250 miles, from Alexandria 280 [miles], and Port Said 300 [miles].

GO'H How far from Athens?

KAKULAS From Athens, oh, about 18 hours.

GO'H And where did you live on the island?

KAKULAS We lived in our house; everybody had their own homes. Two-storey house and three - not a single-storey there. So we lived down there.

GO'H Was there just one town on the island?

KAKULAS Well, the island is a very small island. It's smaller than Rottnest, smaller than Rottnest, but they had big business with the boats, you know. People used to do that work, work as sailors.

GO'H Can you tell me the names of your mother and your father?

KAKULAS My mother was Triantafilia (Papadia) that's her Christian name. My father was Evangelos Stavros Kakulas, that was his name. There were in the family six brothers and they had taverns and they had sponges; they grow underneath in the Aegean Sea - you know the sponges?

GO'H Sea sponges?

KAKULAS Sponges, you know, that's what they used to do. They used to dive and go down and get that. Also they had taverns, wines and different things, because our islands had a big population those days.

GO'H What would they do with the sponges?

KAKULAS Oh they used to sell them. Even now they're very expensive, for chemistry. Have you ever seen them?

GO'H Yes, I have - the bath sponges.

KAKULAS Not those, the real ones.

GO'H Yes I have.

KAKULAS In Greece, yes. They are very expensive; they used to sell them for hundreds of dollars.

GO'H Where would they sell their sponges to?

KAKULAS England. They used them for medical purposes.

GO'H And did you have any brothers or sisters?

KAKULAS I had two brothers and one sister born in Castellorizo, and one sister born in Fremantle.

GO'H Can you tell me their names?

KAKULAS Yes, Michael is my brother and Hercules (in English, George) and the sisters Chrissie and Nina. Chrisofina and the other one was Christina but they changed it here.

GO'H And where were you in the birth order? Are you the oldest?

KAKULAS Yes, I'm the oldest, the oldest in the family. Michael was the second one, and George the third one, and Christina the fourth, and Chrisofina the fifth.

GO'H Can you tell me a little bit about what it was like living on Castellorizo when you were a child?

KAKULAS When living on Castellorizo, it's an island, it's got no motor cars, nothing like that, no bicycles, nothing. We used to go to school very early: half-past-seven the bell rings and then eight o'clock we were inside. We finished about half-past-four to five o'clock those days. The only thing we used to do, go to school, and we never had electric light those days (I'm talking my days) - lamps we used to have.

GO'H And where would you play?

KAKULAS Well, there was some places for play but not big grounds like here, no. Summer was the best because then we were swimming ten times a day. That was our sport. And it was very hot down there, like here.

GO'H So how old were you when your family decided that you'd come to Western Australia?

KAKULAS [I was 12 years old]. My father was in Brazil in 1913 - 1918. The First World War it was Turkey against Greece, that was in 1912/1913. The island was about 12 000 people and they were under the Turkish Empire, Ottoman Empire, and they wanted to take our young fellows to fight against Greece because there was a war - Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece against Turkey. They [Turkey] wanted to take our islands. [That is why my father escaped to Brazil]. One of my uncles came to Australia. They got away because they didn't want them to take them to the army and fight against Greece. My father went to America, in Brazil. So when my brother Michael was born in February 1913, he didn't see him, he was in America.

Then in 1914 our island was occupied by French. Opposite Turkey was under the Germans (they were together in the First World War), and we were bombarded all the time in our island because it had French occupation. The Germans, they came opposite our island a couple of mile, and in 1915 when the war was really big, you know, 1916, our island used to be fortified right round with barbed wire right around the island, and inside there was about three or four boats, one destroyer and a lot of cargo for France. They had it well fortified because our island divides Europe and Asia and it has got a beautiful harbour and that's why they hold it up to 1918. When the war finished they gave it to Italy because Italy had the other twelve islands. But when the war was there I remember that a British war boat came in our harbour and the Germans saw it from the other side and they bombarded it. I'll never forget, I was about six or seven years old and the first bomb it went about three feet away, and the second went inside the boat, bang! All the sailors, they came out

straightaway, they were running away and it was sunk there, they sunk it opposite, they sunk it. And they took it over; in 1921/'22 they came over and they closed the hulls and they took it away.

Then there was another battle, Greece against Turkey 1921. That was the finish of our island because before the war 1921/'22 there was about two million Greeks living in Turkey. They used to do a lot of business with the Turks. The Turks were farmers, you know, and our island, that's where they used to do all the business. They were doing it opposite the Greeks and they give our boats to take the charcoal to Egypt. It was very populated. But when the war declared Turkey against Greece, Greece went as far as Ankara, the capital. But after a lot of help from the outside they lost the war and in ten days they [the Turks, under Kemal Ataturk] kicked them [the Greeks] out so fast. Turkey was a big country and they told all the Greeks to get out, and one-and-a-half million to two million they came out from there, they kicked them all out. A lot of them died. And that's when our island was finished because we never had nowhere else to do business.

GO'H And where was your father during this time, had he come back?

KAKULAS He came back in 1918 when the war finished. That's when we had another sister, 1923, and 1920 my other brother, George. And that's when we had to get out. My father was in Brazilia for five years and he had business there, like a tavern, and he did very well. But then when he came there the brother asked him, "Why don't you come to Australia so the brothers be together?" - they had another brother here.

GO'H What was that brother's name?

KAKULAS Bartholomeus.

GO'H While your father was away in Brazil did he stay in contact with the family?

KAKULAS Well only through letters, through letters, you know, those days. And not always because during the First War they haven't got aeroplanes as to what they've got now. Letters every two months, you might get a letter three months, it all depends - from Brazilia to come to our island.

GO'H How did you feel having your father not living at the house?

KAKULAS Well he used to send some money now and again. Then my mother's brother-in-law used to help. And they had a lot of jewellery and a lot of gold in our island because there's no banks [gold was used as currency] they used to sell them. And that's how they lived, as I said, for five years. We left [1918] the island and went to Athens, went to Piraeus. We stopped there for a year just about and we never had no communication with my father. We left after the war was finished [1919], and my aunty, her other sister with the

children went there, and we lived in the same house [in Castellorizo]. They had business. So when the war finished we had to go back to Castellorizo and start again. That was 1919. But my father [returned from Brazil in] two or three months and he never knew anything about it. If he would have sent us a letter we would have been in Athens now.

GO'H Did you also know your grandparents when you were young?

KAKULAS Only my father's mother. My mother's, no, we didn't know them. Because her father was a priest, and her wedding was on a Sunday before and my grandfather, the priest, died on the Wednesday. The wedding was on Sunday but he died at the age of 85. On our island they never used to go to the church or anywhere when they lose any [family members]. For three, four, five years they stopped coming. The mourning was very strong and very bad those days - not like now they done one week, two weeks, finished. Not in those days.... years!

GO'H And what type of mourning did they do?

KAKULAS They stopped home, they wouldn't go anywhere and cry all the time. Old customs. And then the wedding went on on Sunday and the funeral was on Wednesday, because you can't postpone weddings, that's what they used to say.

GO'H What about the grandmother that you did know, can you tell me a bit about her?

KAKULAS Well when she died I was about five years old, six. As a matter of fact she couldn't hear, that's why [most of] our relations [are hard of hearing]. It's from the family. And she was deaf. I remember very old just like a [unclear]; I was only five years old, six years old.

GO'H Right, so you were about to tell me about coming to Western Australia, how the decision was made for you to come to Western Australia.

KAKULAS Well when my father came and they kicked all the Greeks from Turkey, there was nothing else to do for business. As I said, his brother told him - he was going to go back to Brazilia - he said why don't you come to Australia in Fremantle and we'll go out together. Then my father and myself in 1923 we took a boat from our island.... it wasn't those boats they got here, it was the sailing boat, you know, 100-300 tonnes cargo. Four of them left our island with about 500[?] people once in a week to go away to other islands. Some went to Athens, some went to America, some went to Egypt, anywhere they can find to get out because there is nothing to do on our island. Then my father and myself in 1923 in April he took a boat, all of us together. We came to Port Said. There was a lot of Greeks from our island there because the Suez canal, there was work all the time, and the majority of them were from our island, they got jobs there, and from other islands too. Then we went to Port

Said. It took us about two or three days, that's all, by sailing. Then when we were there, we were waiting for a boat to come to Australia. So the boats those days used to be £38 and they couldn't afford it and they got a cargo boat (I don't remember much because I was only 12½ years old) and they asked him to take us to Australia. I don't know what arrangement they'd done. Five hundred of us they took the boat to come to Australia, and that boat's name was *Valdieri.*

On the boat there was two options: to have the meals with the boat or to cook yourself. So my father and another three or four others from our island (because all those people on the boat they were from our island, five hundred people) they brought their own bread, they brought the tins and everything. With the food it was £20, and with your own cooking it was only £15. My father said, £10 [for one child] but he had to pay £15. And it took us 36 days to come to Fremantle in those days. That boat was a cargo boat - we used to sleep on the floor, we had our mattress, there was no beds, nothing on the boat and it took us 35 days to come here.

GO'H I want to talk about this a bit more but can you start by telling me about when you actually left Castellorizo. Did people come and say goodbye?

KAKULAS Oh yes, yes, they said goodbye, the relations and all of them, you know. We [used to] go up the hills [to watch the harbour]. [The boat took 3 days to get to Port Said].

GO'H You were only young but can you remember how you felt leaving?

KAKULAS Well I didn't feel much because I was only about 12 years old. I just finished fifth standard and the school's just about closing, you know, in the summer we used to get three months holiday. I was a good student, I was one of the top three in the school. But my father took me [with him] the other people they used to take their daughters with them, girls 12 years old, 13 years old because coming to Australia they never speak English and they thought it would be quicker to learn English than them; that's the reason they done that. I know two or three girls that came on the boat my age with their fathers because they never had the money to bring all their families. Those days they had very big families. My uncle had five daughters and three sons. The other uncle, he went to Egypt, he had eight daughters and one son. So in our island, when you get married the girl must get a house and of course that fellow had that many daughters he couldn't do it in our island, so he had to go to Egypt. The work there was very easy and he married them there and he stopped there all the time.

GO'H You were talking about cooking on the boat. Whereabout on the boat were you cooking? On the deck?

KAKULAS Yes on the deck and underneath because there was no cargo on the boat. We used to sleep on it when it was raining because there was nothing and they had those kerosene [cookers].

GO'H Lamps?

KAKULAS [No, cookers].

GO'H Like a primus.

KAKULAS Yes, primus! And that's where they did the cooking. As a matter of fact, the boat was an Italian boat and because I was half-price, the egg, they give you half. That was unbelievable but that was how it was those days. It took us 36 [days]. [Towards the] middle [of the journey] when we go to Colombo there was a lot of rain and we had to go underneath; before we were on the top but when it rained we went underneath. That boat was used to carry coal and everybody used to come up there.... there was not much water there either, you know, and very dirty. When the boat came here they [fined it for bad conditions]. But that was 1923.

GO'H Did you get sick travelling?

KAKULAS Well we did get seasick yes - not much because it wasn't rough weather. It was, as I said, April, the end of April, and we came here the 6th June 1923.

GO'H When you left Europe could you speak any English?

KAKULAS Nothing, only Greek.

GO'H No other language?

KAKULAS Nothing, no other language. We started to learn Italian because our island was under Italy but we only had about an hour a week. But after the Italians went longer, they made it compulsory, you must learn Italian because they wanted to grab the island for themselves. My other brother speaks good Italian because it was compulsory then - not half-an-hour but a lot of hours a week.

GO'H And when the boat came to Fremantle, can you remember what happened then?

KAKULAS Well our uncle came, Bartholomeus, and he had five daughters and three sons here. He came on the wharf, we came out and then we went to a boarding house and lived there. Lived there on the corner of Point Street down there. They told us the work you are going to do now is to go and sell fish and fruit with a basket. That's how we started.

GO'H So when you got off the boat did you have to see any government officials?

KAKULAS No, nothing, nothing. It was open those days, no permits, nothing. I don't think you needed anything those days.

GO'H Did you travel on a passport?

KAKULAS Passport? My father must have, yes.

GO'H So can you keep talking about the work that you did when you first arrived here?

KAKULAS Well we came here, in the morning we used to go and sell fish, hawking. We used to go one day North Fremantle, one day East Fremantle, another day Beaconsfield, another day South Fremantle. And on Sunday we used to go to the boats - a lot of boats used to come in - selling fruit on the boats.

GO'H Passenger boats?

KAKULAS Yes, passenger boats. A lot of boats used to come in those days and we used to hawk, you know, with a basket - with a basket and a wheelbarrow.

GO'H And you were walking?

KAKULAS Yes walking. We used to go from Fremantle - my uncle had a shop there, a fruit shop - we used to go as far as Leighton, where Dingo is [Dingo Flour Mill] we used to go as far as that. We used to start in the morning about nine o'clock and come back about half-past-three, four o'clock.

GO'H Where would you get the fish from?

KAKULAS The fish was in the morning from the markets. The markets used to open at five o'clock. The fish had to be sold [by] ten o'clock, half-past-nine/ten o'clock, because otherwise the people wouldn't buy [after 10am because they had already arranged their meal]. We used to go selling herrings fifteen for a shilling.

GO'H Where were the fish markets you went to?

KAKULAS It was in Fremantle - where [Cicerello's is now]. They had a jetty about 200 feet from where it is now and on the water there was the fish market, underneath was water. And it was a jetty and it used to go about 300 ft.

GO'H Can you remember any of the names of the people that you bought fish from?

KAKULAS Well all the fishermen they used to bring the fish in the market and they used to put them on the table. But the fellows inside they used to take the names, you know, this is the fellow's name and they had them separate - octopus or crayfish or anything like that. It used to go by auction. They were cheap those days, very cheap. Crayfish were £1 a bag.

GO'H How big were the bags?

KAKULAS Very big.

GO'H About three foot high.

KAKULAS Yes very big, yes. And for snapper five pennies. There was a lot of fish there.

GO'H And what were the popular fishes that people would buy?

KAKULAS Well herrings wasn't very popular, but popular was skipjack, pike, snapper, whiting - that was the popular fish those days. Rock fish[?] they didn't want, that wasn't for sale.

GO'H What about things like oysters or prawns?

KAKULAS Oysters they used to bring from Sydney - no oysters in WA - and they were cheap too. Two shillings a dozen it used to be.

GO'H So when you bought the fish were the fish already cleaned?

KAKULAS No, no, no. No the people used to clean themselves. Couldn't clean them, no. Where were we going to clean them? On the basket?

GO'H So you were taking the baskets of fish out, and would you wrap them before you gave them to people?

KAKULAS No, no. They used to bring their plate and we would give it to them. We used to go to the houses, knock on the door, "Do you want any fish today?" Everybody doesn't say yes. You had to go to a lot of places. It wasn't easy to go to every house and get a customer, no. That's what I said, the fish was in the morning from seven up to ten o'clock, and then after when we finished that we take the fruit in after. Six days, seven days a week.

GO'H So where would you get the fruit from?

KAKULAS From the markets. There was markets in Fremantle [and Perth] too. Where the [Fremantle Markets] are now there was a market; it was Simper & Scanlon. I remember their names.

GO'H And would you go down and get the fruit or would your Dad?

KAKULAS Well I used to go at the auction, yes. I learn it after a little while.

GO'H So with selling the fish in the morning and the fruit in the afternoon, you'd have to do your rounds twice.

KAKULAS Yes, yes, yes. Yes and with your feet - no cars and no bicycles in those days. After we got a bicycle.

GO'H What about English, if you couldn't speak English when you arrived?

KAKULAS No nothing at all. I went to school for about nine months.

END OF TAPE ONE SIDE A

KAKULAS I went to school for about nine months. There was another Greek boy there, only two of us new Australians those day. I was about 12½ years old and they put us with the [young] kids and then they shifted us because we were 12 years old, and took us to the third class and the teacher Miss Bennett. [One of the pupils in the class used to help us].

GO'H How would they do that? What methods did they use to teach you English?

KAKULAS Well tell us what was in the book, the story, you know. But in mathematics we were good because it's the same [laughs].

GO'H Did you know the English alphabet before you went to school?

KAKULAS No, no, no. We learn it here, A B C. Yes we learn it here.

GO'H Because the Greek alphabet is very different.

KAKULAS Yes, yes very different. Yes a big difference. The letters, a lot of them the same but they pronounce it different. And English is a very hard language to learn, you know, it's not like Italian or French, very hard language.

GO'H Did you learn much English while you were at school?

KAKULAS Well because I only went for nine months and then after that they took me out to go and sell fruit and send the money to my mother and the other kids. The wages those days for a person to work in a restaurant was 25 shillings a week and you used to work 70 hours. Thirty shillings was very good wages. And a waiter 35 shillings a week, that was the wages for us for 70 hours.

GO'H That's what you got when you left school?

KAKULAS Yes. Not only us, everybody.

GO'H So when you were working hawking the fruit and the fish, how much did you get paid?

KAKULAS Well, we used to make about 3 shillings, 5 shillings a day - that was very good because the wages were only, as I said before, about 30 shillings and 25 shillings for a week, and work on a Sunday too. No unions for us foreigners.

GO'H Could you keep the money you earned or did you give it all to your father?

KAKULAS All to my father, yes.

GO'H You talked about there being another Greek boy in school, what was his name?

KAKULAS Spiros Samios. Yes we were in the same class, same age as me. His brother had a restaurant in High Street in Fremantle.

GO'H Was his family from Castellorizo?

KAKULAS No from Kithira, another island. There's a lot of them in Sydney of those people. There were a few of them here but the majority [here were] Castellorizians from Castellorizo. A lot of them, about 500 people that were here in those days.

GO'H So which school was it that you went to?

KAKULAS In South Fremantle, where the hospital is.

GO'H And generally how did the kids treat you at school, because you couldn't speak their language?

KAKULAS Well we had to learn, you know, try and pick it up. Then my uncle had a shop and that's when I used to get the fruit and go and sell it. And we learn you know, they used to teach us and dictionaries and all this. It did take us long - not easy.

GO'H How happy were you at school?

KAKULAS Well, happy? We didn't understand what they were talking about. They took me away from school to go and do selling. The inspector came and said too many didn't go to school and they put me £1 fine but they explained then that I had to work to bring money for my mother and the other two kids because you want £100 to bring the family up. To make £100 was a long time - after three-and-a-half years we worked, about.

GO'H Were you still writing to your mother?

KAKULAS Oh my father, not me, my father. Then my father didn't like the job, my father didn't like the job and he had some other friends from our island in Port Pirie in South Australia in Adelaide. They ask him, he said ["any work you have I'll take"]. They said you can come here you can work on the Broken Hill in the lead mines and he did go there. He left me behind and he went there and he went and worked on the mines, Port Pirie. They used to get better [wages]; they used to get about £3 or £4 a week, those days.

GO'H Who did you stay with?

KAKULAS I stayed with my uncle here and his daughters. They never had a house, the shop was underneath and upstairs they had a couple of rooms, and

three or four sleeping in the same room, you know, it wasn't like... And then my father was very happy there and he asked me to go there and I did go there. They put me on the boat the *Katoomba,* the name of the boat, and it took us five days to get there, on me own. I must have been about 13½ or 14 years old you know when I went there. So I went there to Adelaide, they had a house in Hindley Street. A lot of people got affected - lead - the liver, and they left the job. They came in Adelaide and they used to do the same job as we were doing now - a basket and selling fruit to the houses.

I went there and I stopped a couple of months and I didn't like it, I wanted to go back, I wanted to go back to Perth, you know, I didn't like it. My father decided to come back to Perth and then my uncle said I've got a shop for you and we came back to Fremantle again in 1924. In 1924 we had a shop in Adelaide Street and we done alright there, we done alright. When I was about 15 years old I used to go to the market, go to the auction and buy the fruit and the vegetables because those days there used to be a lot of decoration in fruit, not like they are now, throw them like this. You had to decorate the windows. We used to start peas, beans, cauliflowers, cabbage and bring it on show; all the shops were like that. And the fruit used to be in the window, not like now. Decorating the windows and the prices on.

GO'H And you were using hands - in pyramids.

KAKULAS Yes that's right and they had wood like this and they used to put the fruit like this.

GO'H Up in the pyramid.

KAKULAS Yes like that and different kinds of fruit.

GO'H And that was your job to do that?

KAKULAS Well I used to go to the market. Yes. My father, well he couldn't speak English, I had English better than him. And I used to go to the market, good business we had. Because I was a young kid, the auctioneers, they helped a lot those days - a boy that size and he was battling you know. And when we buy 10, 20 cases of fruit and cabbages and all this, and the carrier used to bring them. We used to get the train from Fremantle to go to the markets.

GO'H Which? The markets in....?

KAKULAS It used to be in West Perth. It used to be in West Perth. We used to come out at West Perth and we used to go to the market and the carrier used to bring them down and we used to decorate the shop. We opened from seven up till **eleven** every day, seven days and seven nights in Fremantle.

GO'H That's half-past-eleven at night you were open to?

KAKULAS No we started in the morning at half-past-seven and closed at 11.00 o'clock. Pictures finished at half-past-ten those days.

GO'H And did your shop sell anything besides fruit and vegetables?

KAKULAS Yes we done very well, we sell cigarettes and things. Then somebody else bought the property and they took it out from the shop, you know. Then we put a fruit barrow outside the railway station in Fremantle. That was for sale. We bought it for £50 outside the railway. [Our barrow sold fruit. Someone else had a ginger beer barrow]. And those barrows, the returned soldiers had them. We paid £50 and we got one of those and we were selling fruit there. And also with a busker they used to hawk too. That was before our family come, that was in 1923, '24, '25, '26. At the end of '26 we send the money and our family came. That's it.

GO'H Can you remember them arriving in Fremantle?

KAKULAS In Fremantle? Well it was a very very small place in those days. It wasn't like it is today. We used to go fishing, go to the wharf - can see any fish you want in those days, there was a lot of fish. Never done much cooking then.

The next door [barrow belonged to] Mr Thomas, he had four stands at the Royal Show and he asked me if I can go and work with him and I did go and work at the Royal Show for one week. He used to sleep there too. He had four stands there, four different places, and that's where he done very well, he give me about £1 a week.

GO'H So who's Mr Thomas? Could you tell me little bit more about Mr Thomas, how you met him?

KAKULAS I met him when we bought the wheelbarrow there and he had the wheelbarrow there with ginger beer. In the evening there used to be a Committee at East Fremantle Football Club and he used to go at about seven/eight o'clock they used to go out having a drink at the pubs. They used to close at nine o'clock and we used to look after his barrow for one hour, half-an-hour and he used to give us three shillings, you know, something like that. Because nine o'clock the wharfies used to finish their shift and the people used to come and drink at night time, very hot you know those days in the night time. In the summer I'm talking about.

GO'H So when you first arrived at Fremantle you were living in the boarding house in Point Street - is that where you stayed living?

KAKULAS That's where we stayed yes. When my mother came we got another room, one big room and another room and a small kitchen (it was underneath). We lived there, all the family. All the family we lived there, six people.

GO'H When you first came to Fremantle can you remember what your first reaction was to the place?

KAKULAS When we came out there well I was only, as I said, 12½ years old. Came out, relations, not much reaction you know, it's not bad. We never knew much from the islands. Not like today the children are very smart.

GO'H I was wondering if you compared it to where you had been and how different it was?

KAKULAS Well the feelings, well your mother wasn't with us and glad when the family came together. But then we got other friends. That boy Spiros, he came only by himself too you know. His father was there and his father brought him. He had a horse and cart and he used to carry people, you know, luggage, anything from the wharf. We used to go together sometimes out. They had a horse. Sunday we used to go there you know playing with them. He was the same age as me.

GO'H When you first came to Fremantle was there anywhere that you could go to your Greek Church?

KAKULAS Well there was no Greek Church those days. They used to have a priest in Perth, in Perth, but not in Fremantle. And the priest used to do it at any hall they found they used to do their service, any hall. The first Greek Hall was built in 1926 in Perth, and we came to Perth in 1929.

GO'H We'll still keep talking a bit about Fremantle. When I saw you last week you were telling me about what happened to the Railway Bridge. Can you tell me about that now?

KAKULAS Yes, yes. When we had the barrow outside we were doing alright with selling fruit to the people from the boats, and then one morning about nine o'clock the Railway Bridge fell down from big floods. Must have been about May I think and the railway station was closed. I mean there was nobody coming, they used to bring them with buses. That took about six months to fix that up and then everything was alright after that. After six months we started again and then we stopped there up till 1929.

GO'H How did that affect your business?

KAKULAS Oh a lot, a lot. There was nobody coming through. We were waiting for the boats to come in. When the boats used to come in there would be about 2 000 or 3 000 passengers off. And there was no fruit on the boats those days, there was no freezers to carry fruit and everybody wants to come and they used to buy as much fruit as they can. Because how they going to keep the fruit in the boat, they didn't have freezers those days. No freezers like they keep the stuff now on the boat.

GO'H What about generally in Fremantle. You talked about school - were you ever sick?

KAKULAS Yes. I had tonsils. I went to the doctor, he told me tonsils. When they do them it was in Market Street at ten o'clock. I went there and they gave me chloroform, they done the operation and then my father took me walking home to go to our room in the boarding house. It's unbelievable, yes. And they gave me chloroform - not anaesthetic like they got now. And I count up to number 37 - I'll never forget that - then I didn't remember after.

GO'H How old were you then?

KAKULAS Thirteen-and-a-half to fourteen.

GO'H When did you go back to work?

KAKULAS Oh well a good bit. Because my father used to go to the wheelbarrow. Then after I start again. In 1926 my mother came, the end of 1926.

GO'H You got up to telling me that you went with Mr Thomas to the show and you worked at the show, do you remember anything else about being at the show?

KAKULAS Well the show those days was one of the most important things for WA because the people had nothing else to go. And all the farmers they used to come down to Perth and it was very busy in those days. Everybody used to come down and go and see what new machines they've got, everything they've got. Oh yes it was a very big thing the show those days. Even today I think it is big too, yes.

GO'H Where did you sleep on the show grounds?

KAKULAS There was a tent there. For the week there was a tent there and we slept there and we used to have breakfast there too. They used to cook; not me, Tinny Thomas they called him. He was the one who used to cook he used to go and get fresh eggs from the fowls because they used to lay.

GO'H The ones that were at the show?

KAKULAS Yes, yes, yes. And they used to cook them. We stopped one week there and I was on one of the stands in those days. He reckoned I was very good, very good in service. We used to carry ten pots of ginger beer: five cans in one and five in the other.

GO'H I was wondering how they sold ginger beer. Was it in bottles or in glasses?

KAKULAS In a pot, you know pots? It's a thing like that - it had a handle.

GO'H Oh yes, like a mug.

KAKULAS Yes like a handle, same as they've got in Germany now. And you can carry them as far as you can.

GO'H Was that alcoholic ginger beer or non-alcoholic?

KAKULAS Oh no, non-alcoholic, no. It was a good ginger beer, brewed. He used to brew it himself. They used to use a lot of eggs inside, the white of the egg. They had a very good name.

GO'H What name did he sell his ginger beer under?

KAKULAS Well ginger beer they used to call it, ginger beer, that was what he was selling as. And it was in big barrels, 18 gallons, and they used to put it in the ice works two or three days or a couple of days and take it out and it used to be very cold. No ice those days.... well, there was ice but how can they put it in there? In the cool storage, they used to put them there. They had say about ten barrels in there and when they needed one they'd bring it out, and that's why it was cold. No ice those days. I mean how are you going to put it in the barrel, ice, but they put it in the [ice works].

GO'H While you were at the show was it all work or did you get to enjoy yourself?

KAKULAS No, no, work all the time, every day. Because a lot of people used to go those days. It lasted there a week.

GO'H How long did your father and you have the barrow outside the railway station?

KAKULAS We had it for five years. [Counts] Yes, five years. The end of 1930 we sold it. Tinny Thomas had four shops in Perth and one he had in Murray Street and one in Hay Street, one in William Street and one in Wellington Street. He was going to sell them and to supply them with the beer. He gave us William Street at £90 and he used to supply us with his beer. And that was a very busy year because it was a centenary, 100 years Western Australia, 1929, and we done very well. But the next year Depression came and business fell a lot. Our rent from £4 the government reduced it 20 per cent, like £2.10s, and then we were selling cigarettes, fruit, chocolate, that's all we used to sell. And cigarettes were very cheap, 12 for five cents [pence] and drinks thruppence, thruppence a pot. Chocolates a penny, thruppence. Things were very cheap those days.

GO'H What was the address in William Street of that shop?

KAKULAS 185 William Street, 185.

GO'H And what sort of hours were you working in that shop?

KAKULAS Well we started at seven and finished at eleven o'clock. Saturday twelve o'clock, the other days eleven-thirty. We used to walk home; wasn't living very far those days. We were living in Moir Street, 20 Moir Street. We bought that house in 1930 for £750. We put £100 down and the other from the bank. Then the Depression came and business fell a lot. Then we started putting different groceries from Egypt and Greece, bring a bag of beans, a bag of lentils, anchovies, olive oil, all those things, and started to sell those things there.

GO'H What was the reaction from people to you selling these products. Had they seen them before?

KAKULAS Well that was for the Greeks, the Italians, the other ones, Slavs; they're the ones that used to know those things. We had the fruit in the meantime and we had eggs, we used to sell a lot of eggs. We used to be the biggest egg [sellers] in those days, we used to sell eggs 15 and 18 for a shilling. We started and I was one of the biggest buyers those days. The eggs used to go to the market, used to go by auction. Eggs used to come in chaff in big boxes, 20 dozen. Not with cartons they never had those things and they used to put chaff. [Farmers used to send eggs from farms by train]. And they used to go about 10 [pence] a dozen, 11[pence], 1 shilling. And when the balance sometimes used to be 30 or 40 cases, some fellow brings 10 dozen a small farm, other brings five cases and the balance we used to buy them very cheap, about four or five pence cheaper than other people. [Other] people, they used to buy them one shilling a dozen; we used to sell them 15 for a shilling. And we used to sell about 100 to 200 boxes a week. We had eggs from all over WA. People used to come from Subiaco to buy eggs from us because we were big buyers and we used to get them cheaper. Even Charlie Carters, we used to be bigger than them, yes, those days.

GO'H So the shop that you're talking about, the first one in William Street, could you describe what it looked like inside when you bought it?

KAKULAS When we bought it there was three tables with two people sitting, three people sitting [drinking ginger beer]. And this side there was a stand and we used to put two barrels of ginger beer and we had an ice chest and we had the ice-cream you used to buy it, with ice, no fridge, nothing. That's where we used to sell all those things and the drinks and then cigarettes and all this, and for 12 hours we were always open from morning to night.

GO'H So you weren't initially selling any fruit and vegetables like in Fremantle?

KAKULAS Vegetables, no, not much because we had the window with fruit and also the other stuff, groceries and different things like that. Vegetables, no. There was other vegetable shops further down, very big ones, Chinese and all these in that street.

GO'H Can you tell me a little bit about that - what other shops were around you in William Street when you first went there?

KAKULAS In Perth? When we went there, next door to us was chemist and on the other side of the shop was a restaurant. Then in the corner there was Mrs Menzel Flowers. Opposite was the Swan Hotel and next door was a Macedonian house, a club, and they used to sleep upstairs. And next door there was another restaurant and then there was another boarding house, a Slav, next door, opposite our shop. In the corner was the New South Wales Bank and the next corner was a chemist, and there was a big fruit shop on our corner. In the corner was the hotel and there was a Chinese restaurant in William Street where we are and the meals were a shilling for a three-course meal: soup, tea, roast lamb, and the bread and butter and a sweet, custard - all this for a shilling. Those were the shops that were there. But when the Depression came in 1930 there was a lot of shops empty then, a lot of them empty. We had about half-a-dozen shops on our side empty, to let.

GO'H Were you able to keep your shop open?

KAKULAS Yes, we were open. Yes that's when we started to bring things from Egypt and from Greece because it wasn't doing much. When we started doing this in 1936 Italy was preparing war against Abyssinia. And things changed a lot then - everybody was to prepare for another war. Hitler was there and everybody, armies, you know and all that, and Britain had 75 per cent of the empire was.... England was everywhere and there was big jealousy and they had to go down. But the First World War, they lost the First World War, that's when Germany lost everything. Germany had a lot of colonies here, not in Australia but out. They lost everything in Africa. Then when Hitler came, a different story again. That's when Australia started to improve too.

My father died in 1936. He had a cancer, abscess on the liver through the Port Pirie, the lead. In a week's time he had a pain and the doctor said there is nothing wrong, nothing wrong, and then when they opened it, it was all over. In those days when you have cancer and they open you, you only last two or three days. They never had treatment what they've got now, radio treatment or anything like what they've got now. When cancer was, you finished straightaway. You went to the hospital on Saturday and on Monday week, seven days, it was the cemetery those days.

END OF TAPE ONE SIDE B

GO'H You were saying earlier that mourning was very important to your family back in Greece. What sort of mourning did your family do for your father?

KAKULAS Oh, oh very big. My mother three or four years wouldn't go anywhere. Only the church; a year after they went to the church. Yes very big mourning they used to do those days and they used to wear black here.

GO'H Arm bands.

KAKULAS For months, yes. Not like now, now is actually one day. They don't do mourning now.

GO'H Could you keep working?

KAKULAS Oh yes, yes. We only had one shop and then the other brother, he came out (the second one) and he helping. When we got the shop in Perth in 1929 he was in Fremantle looking after the fruit barrow. In 1930 we sold it to somebody and then he came to Perth and he used to help in the shop. My father died in 1936. And he didn't go to school either, Michael.

GO'H So after your father died, you and Michael ran the shop?

KAKULAS My father died in 1936. We had another brother who was going to school, the young one, George. He was going to [Perth] Modern School. He was going to be a teacher but he got asthma and he never got through. We never knew much about education in those days. We built another shop in 1939 at 317 William Street. Then we took the other brother out and the other brother had experience with me, spent two years with me. Michael, he went to the other shop, and George, the young one, he would help in our shop. We were doing very well with the continentals, we were doing good then.

GO'H What about your sisters, did they work?

KAKULAS They were not allowed to work those days. My mother wouldn't let them work. The custom from Greece they're not allowed to work, women. The men's got to do the working, because if you are not fit to keep a wife, well you're no good those days. We had two shops and the war was on and one of my sisters in 1923 she was 16 years, 17 years, and the other one, she was about (born 1926) 14 years, and she wouldn't let them come to.... we had two shops when the war was declared and she wouldn't let them come to the shop. Not allowed to come to the shop. The only thing she used to let them bring us a billy can with the dinner.

Our brother was up there and I was there and then one of the brothers had to go to the army and I was running the one and the other brother was running the other one. Our brother went to the army. But I was because looking after the family, reserve occupation, they wouldn't take me. My mother had three

kids, five altogether, and my mother was 48 when she lost her husband. Didn't get married, stopped to look after the family. That's why when the other brother came we built the other shop at 317 and that was doing well too. We were doing very well then.

GO'H So that was three shops you had altogether?

KAKULAS Two, two. Yes we done very well then. Any money we had we used to buy houses. In 1939 we had about six houses.

GO'H Where were you buying your houses?

KAKULAS Around here.

GO'H Northbridge?

KAKULAS Yes. That's where all the Greeks were, all the foreigners. In Lake Street we had two, in Moir Street we had three, that's five.

GO'H And were you renting them out?

KAKULAS Yes, renting them out. Yes getting rent. Taxation - there was no tax those days. Tax, nothing much. No tax those days. When the Depression came, you know what they used to give them for wages, the single boys? Five shillings a week. And the married man with six and seven children used to get £4 to pay his rent, the milk, the butcher, the groceries, clothes, what else. They had to make very economic, oh yes. In the community, the ones that had homes before the Depression (the Depression came in 1930/'31) there was only about five families had their homes here. All the others, the Greeks, they never had a home. Like now, everybody owns home, 98 per cent they reckon they own. They all used to pay rent, so we used to get rent. The two Lake Street houses, 129 and 131, we used to get 15 shillings from one and 16 shillings from the other. And the rates and taxes, it was £1 for land tax, £2.5s for council and £2.5s for water rates. So our expense was about £5. And renting for 15 shillings we'd get £40. And the interest at the bank for your money was 1.75% and the loan was 5%. We used to get a loan from the bank.

GO'H So who was doing all these legal transactions? Say, for example, when you first got your business, who was responsible in the family for transacting that?

KAKULAS Well I was doing those things, I was the eldest. I done everything, I used to do the papers, looking with the auctioneers, going up to the agents. In 1928 before we got the shop in William Street, my father went and bought a shop in Kalgoorlie, a restaurant, Wattle Cafe, so he took me. We had the fruit barrow in Fremantle, we never had anything in Perth. He took me there and we went to Kalgoorlie and the shop was £500 in Hannan Street, Kalgoorlie, and we put £50 deposit and when we got there my mother asked my father she

said, "Any church there?" He said, "No." She said, "Well, I'm not going there." My mother was a priest's daughter. She said, "I'm not going there." So my father what he's going to do? He gave £50 deposit. So other people, other Greeks said we'll buy the shop, so they bought it from us. But we lost £50 because Mother wouldn't go there. I never knew very much about cooking. I don't know how my father had in mind to do that job. I couldn't understand it myself. [laughter] I never did any cooking. Then when my mother wouldn't come we lost £50 and we came back to Fremantle.

After a year I saw Tinny Thomas at the shops, and when we left Kalgoorlie, the next year the revolt [in Kalgoorlie happened]. You know, there used to be Slavs, Italians and Greeks. And [an Italian] was walking in the street, it must have been 1931/'30, and he called him "Bloody Dago," and he got wild and he hit him and he fell on the road and he died. The Australians are not the same as they are today you know. They used to hate foreigners; not only foreigners and the English, they used to hate them. Bloody Pommies, they're coming here again. Oh, stinkers, all this. The Greeks they hate them a little bit but not as much because the English used to come here, they used to get the jobs. We couldn't understand English! By the time we learn English, we had to wait till our children to be born after 25, 30 years. We used to have troubles. There was the hate for any other person. They used to come to the shop, "Why don't you speak English?" You know like this and might fight. "Get out, go back to your country." Oh, we had a lot of troubles. And they broke the shops and we were lucky, they would have broken our shop [in Kalgoorlie]. They broke all the shops and there was no insurance those days. Everybody left Kalgoorlie - Greeks and Slavs.

Then Mussolini was very strong and said.... we came in on an Italian passport because our island was Italian after. And he [Mussolini] said if you can't look after them, I'll send the army in and look after them. They were very strong Italians those days, that's how the trouble came, yes, yes. We had a lot of troubles with the Australians here. When they used to get drunk they used to come to the shops, "Speak English, get out, go back to your country." It wasn't like now, no, different altogether. They were unbelievable.

GO'H Was anybody ever violent to you, try to hit you or anything?

KAKULAS Yes, yes. The only accident I've had in WA was when we had the shop in Fremantle with my father. My mother wasn't here then. We had the shop as I said in Adelaide Street, opposite where the churches are. You know the Town Hall?

GO'H Yes.

KAKULAS There's a church there, there's another church there and the Catholic further down. Opposite there were about six two-storey houses, I think they're still there. Well our shop was opposite. My father used to sleep at the back of the house. As I said, we had boxes and a shed with tins. There were

no inspectors those days. They had no baths, nothing like that, used to wash in.... no hot water like [today]. I used to close the shop at eleven o'clock, quarter-past-eleven, and my father used to go to sleep about half-past-nine; he used to open it. He used to sleep at the back. The back door was closed but we had a lane opposite those houses and one night somebody knocked at the back. I thought it was my father and I opened it and three young boys, might have been 15 or 16, I don't know what age, they grabbed me like this, you know, they grabbed me like that.... it's the only accident I had in Australia. They grabbed me like this and I said straightaway, "Pattera," and my father wake and heard it and he grabs like that and they run away. The police came, they never caught them. That's the only accident I had in my life, that's the only one I had. I never hit and nobody hit me.

GO'H Did you know who the people were?

KAKULAS No. I was about 14 and they must have been 16 or 17 [unclear] at about half-past-ten in the night time. And you know I thought it was my father because the door was locked. It wasn't from the front, from the back. I got out of it. That's how hard it was.

GO'H You were saying that sometimes Australians were unkind to migrants. Were there any instances of people being kind to you?

KAKULAS Well there is some good people too and a lot of those people they were drunks too, you know. They used to drink. Nine o'clock they used to close and they used to come to the restaurants. That's where the trouble used to come. But not the girls, no, no, the girls were no trouble. And the ones who were very popular, were very friendly, was the English girls from England because they were Europeans. But these people didn't understand Europeans, couldn't understand. The first Greeks - there were no Greek girls here - all of them married English girls, all of them English. They used to come from England too, you know, migrants. They used to send them in. They never paid anything. All the first Greeks when they got married they were to English girls. The English girls they were alright, they used to work good. But the Australians, even when you go to the dance and you dance, "Why you dance with a Ding," Dagos they used to call us. But the ones who came from England, "Shut your mouth," they used to tell them. From England they were different people in those days. They used to hate them too you know, they used to hate the Pommies, yes.

GO'H Did it upset you that people used to call you names?

KAKULAS Well that's what they used to call us, Dings, you know, Dagos. And the Italians and the Greeks they used to call them. The British they used to call them Pommies. The Chinese, I don't know what they called them but we all had troubles.

GO'H Earlier you were telling me that you started to bring foods in from Egypt. Where were you getting your food to cook Greek food from before that?

KAKULAS Well there wasn't any before. There was no shops. I think we were the second shop in WA; there was nobody then. There was not many people either, where were they going to get it. So my father started in 1931, '32, '33. He knew some people in Alexandria and he asked them and then the boats used to come all the time, you know. A lot of boats those days. A bag of beans, a bag of lentils, a tin of sardines, a barrel of olives, all these things. We started slowly but not from Italians, Greeks and Macedonians. Then other companies started to bring stuff too, you know, bring from Norway from all those [countries]. That's where we started.

GO'H So when you first brought the produce over, how popular was it amongst people from Europe that hadn't been able to buy that product for a while?

KAKULAS When we brought those things, well the ones that used to come to our shops was Greeks, Italians, Macedonians, Albanians, Slavs, they're the ones, they knew that. They used to come to our shop - oil and all this. Then we started getting more and more all the time, you know, the [unclear] and different things. Then we started to get bigger.

GO'H So how far would people travel to buy from your shop?

KAKULAS Oh a lot of the Slavs were market gardeners, and the Italians, Wanneroo, they used to grow tomatoes, all those things, and we used to look after them. We used to keep [them in] groceries for three or four months till they get the tomatoes and cabbage, sometimes a bag of cabbage. [They would get paid for vegetables then pay us for groceries]. We'd keep them about seven months with groceries. They used to come to the shop, they had six and seven children, a box of groceries, it was £1; that was a very big order. For £1 you buy a big box of groceries. Sugar was four pence a pound, salt a penny a pound, bars of soap ten pence. And when you get an order £1 or £1.5s.... those from Wanneroo, they used to have big families and we used to keep them, keep them. March, April, May, June, July, August, September, and in October the tomatoes used to come out and then they started to pay us our account and then we started again. And all those people now, they made a lot of money out of their land now, they made millions out of their land, but they didn't make much money then.

GO'H Do they still shop at Kakulas?

KAKULAS Oh no, no. We used to keep them for many years, many years, up to 1960/'70. We've still got some of them now. But now the town's grown up a lot, they're not in the city. Before there was 500 Greek families on this side. Lake Street, James Street, Aberdeen Street, all around here. They never used

to go further. And Italians the same, they were around here. They used to go to Wanneroo [as market gardeners].

GO'H So how were you selling the products when you first started selling them? In what sort of containers?

KAKULAS Well in bags, sugar, rice, macaroni, in bags and put them in boxes. They used to take it to Wanneroo themselves. Then the ones that worked on the railway line. The jobs the foreigners had was the worst jobs of the lot. You know stone masons, making charcoal in Wanneroo, garden marketing, all these. You know those foundations with the white stones? The Slavs, Macedonians, they used to do it. And we used to supply them with groceries. And then the Albanians in York, they used to do watermelons and tomatoes, they grow, they used to buy from us everybody there. We had ninety percent of all this business. We had all this, ninety percent, we used to have all the business. We were very keen importers and our prices were very low, even up to today our business is good. That's about 70 years. Now, 1929 - how many years is that?

GO'H It will be 70 years in 1999.

KAKULAS Yes. Yes, 70 years in one shop. That's why they ask me for interview for books and all this.

GO'H So when you first started bringing goods in, you said you brought in chick peas and olive oil. Were there any things that you brought in that weren't successful?

KAKULAS From when?

GO'H Were there any things that you tried to import into Australia that people didn't want to buy?

KAKULAS Well a lot of those lines we bought, stock fish and ling fish, anchovies - Australians didn't use those. That stuff was used by Italians, Greeks, Slavs, the ones that came from... not from England. No, the English never used olive oil either, all those people. And most of them was south of Italy, it wasn't north of Italy. In the south of Italy they were all the same race [as we were].

GO'H What was the reaction to the Australian-born people with these new products that they hadn't seen before.

KAKULAS Well the Australians they never used to touch those things. After there was a factory that made macaroni in Fremantle. The Australians used to buy macaroni for custard, they used to make custard with macaroni. And vermicelli for soup, that's all. Spaghetti they never used, they didn't like all that stuff.

GO'H We'll finish there today and I'll come back next week if I can.

KAKULAS Alright.

END OF TAPE TWO SIDE A

A further interview with Mr Stavros Kakulas recorded on 18th July 1997.

GO'H You told me last time that you bought your shop in William Street, is that the same building where Kakulas Brothers is now?

KAKULAS Yes that's the same one; only one shop it was, only one shop. Now it's three.

GO'H Now it's three.

KAKULAS Yes. One was a chemist next door to us and on the other side was a restaurant. They used to sell three-course meals for a shilling those days. They'd give you tea, butter, the sweets, roast lamb - all that was for a shilling.

GO'H And the building's only one-storey high?

KAKULAS One floor it is.

GO'H Was it always one floor or was there....?

KAKULAS Yes always one floor and always there was two bedrooms at the back of the shop. Next door, they live in there, the chemist, and we lived in there, but the restaurant, no, they had it as a storeroom.

GO'H When did you live behind the shop?

KAKULAS There was two rooms behind there, two little rooms, and there was a bath at the back too.

GO'H When did you live there?

KAKULAS We lived up till 1930 and then my mother came to Perth and we bought a house in Moir Street, 20 Moir Street, which in those days was £750. We put £400 down and the balance from the bank. The bank those days it was very low interest 6%, and the money they were giving you started from 1¼% interest you were getting for your money.

GO'H Which bank?

KAKULAS The National. We're still there with the National.

GO'H You told me that you got the shop from Mr Thomas.

KAKULAS That's right.

GO'H Did you buy the building?

KAKULAS No, no. No. The shop we bought £80. That's what it was, but nothing much in there, no stock. No stock, nothing. They had ginger beer, you know, all these barrels and the counters and the cash register, that's all they had, and two or three tables.

GO'H When you started, who worked in the shop with you?

KAKULAS Well my father used to come in the morning because we had a fruit barrow in Fremantle, and the other brother stopped down there.

GO'H Anybody else work in the shop?

KAKULAS No, in 1930 we did employ a girl and she was living in Subiaco and she was getting 15 shillings a week coming from Subiaco. And the fares were only a penny.

GO'H Was she a Greek girl?

KAKULAS No, Australian. Greek girls wouldn't work those days, they were not allowed.

GO'H There wasn't much in the shop when you bought it. What sort of things were you selling initially?

KAKULAS Well initially when we bought it we were selling cigarettes, chocolates, fruit, cool drinks, ice cream, all those things. Nothing else. Then the Depression came in 1931 and I rent for £4. The government put a regulation in the parliament and they reduced it by 25 per cent and then it came to £2.10s. And then we started to put a lot of different things like selling eggs, everything we could get to pay our way because our takings were only about £12 a week.

GO'H Can you think of anything other than eggs that you bought in then?

KAKULAS Then we started to bring a few things from Egypt, Alexandria, Port Said and Greece. Bag of beans, bag of lentils, a little oil, anchovies - very few things because the people that were eating those things were very very few. Only Italians, Slavs, Greeks, Macedonians and those people from the Mediterranean.

GO'H How did you organise getting the food from Europe and Asia?

KAKULAS From Alexandria, from Egypt. My father knew a person down there from our island and he told them and from Greece he knew another relation of his, and he wrote them and he said, "Send us a bag of this and a bag of that, a tin of olives." That's how we started to bring them here. Boats were coming in all the time those days. A boat every week easy, two boats every week.

GO'H And would someone go down and pick it up from Fremantle?

KAKULAS No an agent in Fremantle. An agent, F W Churcher it was.

GO'H And could you explain to me more how that happened? So they sent it over to Fremantle and then the agent got it off the boat.

KAKULAS Yes to the customs (we had to pay the duty) and then they had the trucks delivering it to our shop. It used to come from boats from Europe. There was no other way; there was no planes those days.

GO'H So do you know if anyone was surprised that you were bringing this food into Perth?

KAKULAS The ones who were supplying us in Alexandria, were friends named Kontos, and in Greece was Mouraitis. Then after we started [and got bigger we approached] companies and imported stuff to the shops then, started to bring in more and more.

GO'H When did you start bringing in more?

KAKULAS Well from 1934, '35, '36, yes, started to do more.

GO'H And when you say more, what sort of quantities were you bringing in then?

KAKULAS Yes started more, more, five bags, more than that; increasing.

GO'H How much olive oil, for example, would you have been bringing in by the mid-thirties?

KAKULAS Well those days they used to bring it in big drums. Bring about three drums, that's all, from Europe, from Greece.

GO'H And how would sell the olive oil in the shop, in what?

KAKULAS In bottles. We used to sell it for two shillings a bottle.

GO'H Whose job was it to put it from the drums into the bottles?

KAKULAS My job, yes. We'd put a pump on to get it out and put it in bottles. Then we used to sell it in gallons those days, half-gallons and gallons.

GO'H Did any Australian-born people buy olive oil in those early days?

KAKULAS Very seldom, no, not much, not much. They never used olive oil - they used to use more dripping and lard.

GO'H You also told me that after your father died you got a second shop.

KAKULAS Yes that was in 1939 - 317 William Street, the same street. But there was a grocers there before - not continental, groceries - and the fellow went broke and we took it over. We bought it empty and then we started to develop it and put continental, put everything there. The business started growing; straightaway we done very well, from the beginning. We used to write in the window `Specials', and also we had pamphlets, sent boys to take them down to the houses. Around here there was all people living around here were Australians still, 90 per cent. James Street all houses were there, all houses opposite mine, all houses. And they all used to buy [unclear]. Business did very good there, even the other shop was very busy.

GO'H And did you buy that shop or just the business?

KAKULAS Then we got the Australian lines, Weeties, everything, all those lines now, but we had a few continentals too. This one was for Australians; 80 per cent of the business, Australians.

GO'H And the second shop did you buy the building?

KAKULAS No, no. The owner was Mr Green, he had about 10 properties. Green.

GO'H How much did the rent cost on that shop?

KAKULAS That shop £2.10s.

GO'H A week?

KAKULAS Yes.

GO'H You said in the second shop you put a lot more Australian groceries....

KAKULAS Oh yes, yes. The Australians were the business and we used to do deliveries on a bicycle in those days. Moir Street, Brookman Street, Newcastle Street - we used to go as far as East Perth, Royal Street, we used to get orders there. A lot of orders. We had two girls working [unclear], business was doing very well. And we had a boy delivering.

GO'H So how would people come in and order their groceries in those early days?

KAKULAS [They used to bring a written list and we would deliver by bike]. Well travellers used to come round. We had Wood Sons, a very big company

that had everything. Then we had Fowlers and different companies. Shell for kerosene, sell kerosene and methylated. A lot of different companies the lines that they have. And also we had the continental which we used to import it for the other shop and selling it here too, because a lot of Greeks were here too then, a lot of Greeks there.

GO'H So the sales people would come to the shops and take your order, and then would they deliver it?

KAKULAS Yes, they deliver it, yes.

GO'H And how would your customers get their groceries? Would they bring their order in or phone their order in?

KAKULAS Yes. No phones, no phones. They'd bring their order in on a piece of paper or they had it ready and they'd leave the list and the address and we used to deliver it. Because they were all around there; Moir Street, there was about 100 families there. And things were cheap. If we had an order £1 it was a very big order, a very big order. Because rice was tuppence halfpenny a pound and bread was thruppence, three-and-a-half pence a loaf, and salt a penny a pound.

GO'H And how were you buying these sorts of goods?

KAKULAS In bags, in bags, yes. Not in tonnes, in bags.

GO'H And then you would weigh them out?

KAKULAS Yes, weigh them out. Sugar, we'd weigh it at half-a-ton at a time and then we'd put it in 1 lbs and 2 lbs and 6 lbs [unclear]. We used to weigh them.

GO'H Do you remember the names of the girls or the delivery boy?

KAKULAS I think I've got it down there, yes. One of the girls in the ginger beer was Roma Perry, Roma Perry. She was living in Subiaco.

GO'H So by now in the first shop how many people were working in that first shop when you had two shops?

KAKULAS Two girls. Two Italian girls because we had a lot of Italian customers. People never used to speak English much those days.

GO'H And who was in charge of the first shop?

KAKULAS Mick, when Mick was here.

GO'H Your brother Michael?

KAKULAS Yes. And I [was] there, and then another brother, George, he was going to school and he got his Leaving and he came in the other one with me.

GO'H The business is now called Kakulas Brothers - what was it called when you first opened?

KAKULAS What did we call it? I don't know, it never had a name. It was Tinny Thomas Ginger Beer, that's what the shop was. Then when we came we put our name then - Kakulas, Kakulas Brothers in 1932, '33. Because a fellow came from Greece, a reporter, and he was in the club and he never knew who I was. He said, "I got surprised here. Every other people there is no name and I pass your shop and it is named Kakulas." They never used to put the name because there used to be a lot of fanaticism with the Australians, you know. That's why a lot of them they changed their name. My name was Stavros but they put my name as Jack in Fremantle, Jack.

GO'H Who called you Jack?

KAKULAS That was my name for six years. When I came to Perth it changed over. Not that I changed it but other people they were Stavros and they used to call them Steven. They used to call me Steve. When I used to go to the market to buy for Fremantle where I said before we had a fruit shop, the market was JK, Jack Kakulas. And the [unclear] as Jack Kakulas because the Australians couldn't pronounce Stavros and the other names.

GO'H What about George and Michael? Do they have Greek names?

KAKULAS Well Michael is Michaelis in Greek and the other one George, Georigisis. As a matter of fact his name is Hercules too, Herecules in Greek, Herecules that means Hercules in Greek.

GO'H So you're the only one that kept the name that you were baptised with in Greece, in its full....

KAKULAS Yes. And then they called me Steven. My name is Stavros but as I said before they don't know the foreign names. But now the Polish people they got so many names you can't pronounce them. Have you noticed that with the Polish people? The letters they put Polish and Russian.

GO'H You said last time that one of your brothers served during World War II, for Australia, which brother was that?

KAKULAS Went to the army? Michael. Michael.

GO'H And where did he actually serve in the army?

KAKULAS He was also the chanter for the Greek Church here. They never had any other to do that job. And when they put him into the army the Greek community put an application not to send him away from here, so he was in the army but delivering letters in the metropolitan area with other soldiers, you know.

GO'H So with the shop, you built up the two shops before World War II.

KAKULAS That's right.

GO'H And you were also telling me that you bought all the houses, you had rental houses. What about your mother after your father died, who looked after her?

KAKULAS Well the boys looked after her. In those days there was no pension for foreigners unless you were 20 years here. We had the shop and we looked after her, all the family.

GO'H Were you still living at home?

KAKULAS Yes, all of us, yes. Everyone left home when we got married. As a matter of fact when I got married I stopped in the house for four years until we built this one. Because in those days you couldn't get a house empty, you were not allowed to take [evict] anybody; even your own your house, you have to go to the court. And during the war they never did any building here. There was a shortage of homes during the war.

GO'H When you bought the businesses, did you buy them cash or get loans from the bank?

KAKULAS Cash. Wasn't very much - £90. [For the business.]

GO'H And were you saving your money in a bank at that stage?

KAKULAS Yes, yes.

GO'H The National Bank?

KAKULAS Yes. But you wouldn't get much interest in those days, as I said before.

GO'H You told me last time when you first came you were working and giving all your money to your father to be able to bring your mother out.

KAKULAS Yes.

GO'H After your father died were you getting a wage then that you could keep?

KAKULAS Well no, we were still living in the same house, all the brothers. Me and Michael (George was young) we used to buy anything my mother wants, you know. We would give the money that my mother wants to keep the family. We never got any social [security] or pensions or anything those days.

GO'H So you gave all the money to your mother?

KAKULAS Well we used to live in the same house. She looked after the money but we used to put it into the bank. We used to write the cheques. My mother didn't speak English at all. One girl was born in Fremantle in 1927. When my father died she was about nine years. But when we came to Perth in 1930 and we built the house in Moir Street, my sisters, one of them was seven years and the other one was about four years. George was about ten years.

GO'H What school did they go to around here?

KAKULAS Yes we lived in Moir Street, 20 Moir Street.

GO'H And what school did your brothers and sisters go to in Perth?

KAKULAS [George] went to Fremantle Boys and then he went to Modern School. It was one of the best schools to get your Leaving in those days. It was in Subiaco, around where the Children's Hospital is, Modern School. It's still there.

GO'H It's still there. And your sisters where did they go?

KAKULAS Sisters used to go in James Street. There was a girls [school] there, and my sister at 13½, she was a dux of the class. But my mother because she was sick, she had asthma and she had a family, she took her away from school before 14.

GO'H And the two girls never worked outside the home?

KAKULAS No, never, never. Never worked, none of them.

GO'H Your two shops during the war, is there anything that you can remember about that time?

KAKULAS Well during the war we were busy, you know, we were busy because we had established our business well and a lot of other shops were closing down, going into the army. We did very well here, we were doing well during the war. Like before the war gets ready, like '36, '37, '38, '39, the war starts in 1939. That's when the trouble started.

GO'H And during the war did you have any problems bringing your groceries in from Europe?

KAKULAS There was nothing coming up, nothing coming from Europe, nothing. Greece was blockaded by the Germans. They starved the people there. The only thing we used to get from Adelaide. In Adelaide they had a lot of olives but they weren't as good as Greeks, smaller ones. There was a Greek fellow there and he was working there and little bit of olive oil he was making there. Yes some Australian company - Gratsis & Sons, something like that. And we used to bring some from there. Coffee, coffee they used to get from Java. We used to sell coffee, a lot of coffee. We used to roast it ourselves at the house. We had a roaster and we had wood underneath and we used to roast our own coffee.

GO'H Can you describe that more?

KAKULAS We used to buy the green coffee from Java. The Asians used to bring it here - Tropical Traders as a matter of fact. It used to cost nine pence a pound, the green coffee, but we used to roast it.

GO'H And what was the roasting....?

KAKULAS We used to put about 15 lbs, 12 lbs, and it takes about three-quarters of an hour, slowly with wood underneath.

GO'H Is that wood alight?

KAKULAS Yes, lit. Wood underneath and there was a round thing like this. [A capsule].

GO'H A round plate.

KAKULAS And a handle that size and there was a little cap there, you know, a door. You used to open it - it was like a drawer - to look at it if it is cooked and then close it. But we used to all the time because if you don't do it all the time it burns out.

GO'H Always turning the handle?

KAKULAS Yes. And when it was ready we used to take it out and put it on the ground, to cool on bags. Yes we used to do a lot of coffee in those days. And our price was only two shillings a pound.

GO'H When you first started selling coffee was there anywhere else that people could buy coffee beans?

KAKULAS Oh yes, Bushells. But not Turkish coffee, not fine coffee. They only used to do coffee and chicory. There was no coffee espresso, all these

they got now, Nescafe - there was not such a thing. Very thick coffee. They had chicory too, they used to mix that up. The Australians used to buy coffee and chicory. But the sale it was very very low, very low. Tea must have been about 95 per cent amongst the Australians, and the coffee maybe two per cent, three per cent, that's all, very low.

GO'H When you were roasting the coffee, how would you know when it was ready?

KAKULAS There was a little drawer and we used to look at it. Oh yes.

GO'H And how would you know by looking at it that it was....

KAKULAS Well you would see it. Coffee when it's raw it's green but when you roast it it gets dark. But it mustn't be very dark, it's got to be brown. And when it was brown you got to get it out quick because it can burn very quick, coffee. And then we used to throw a little bit of water on the top. Put it on the ground.

GO'H And did you always sell just the coffee beans or would you then ground them?

KAKULAS When we used to do coffee we used to do a bag at a time. A lot of coffee was used because Slavs, Greeks - Italians not much; Italians they never used to like Greek coffee or Turkish coffee - what we call all the Middle East, Albanians, Macedonians, all these used to use that. In the clubs, the Greek clubs, they used the Greek coffee, small cups.

GO'H Very thick?

KAKULAS Yes, yes.

GO'H And would you grind the beans before you sold it?

KAKULAS Yes we bought a machine from Greece, a very big machine from Greece with stones. We've still got it at the shop, it's still there.

GO'H Can you tell me more about that machine, what it did?

KAKULAS That machine is still there about that size.

GO'H Which is about two foot.

KAKULAS And round like this, and there was two stones, very big rock, like this, and one on this side and there's the next, and that used to screw out and we used to bring it together. If you want coarse, you'd leave it open, and if you want it fine (for the Turkish it must be very fine, like powder, otherwise they

won't buy it) you have to bring it like this. We used to supply some clubs too, the Hellenic Club.

GO'H So you put the roasted coffee beans in....?

KAKULAS The coffee, yes. When it is roasted we put it in the machine and switch it on and it comes underneath.

GO'H And it was run by electricity?

KAKULAS Oh yes. By electricity. The other one is by hand.

GO'H Do you remember when about it was that you bought that machine?

KAKULAS That machine.... my father was alive, 1933.

GO'H We've been talking about some of the Continental produce that you started to sell - are there any other items that you introduced into the shop?

KAKULAS Well we stocked ling fish, baccala, stock fish, all those lines. New ones - sardines, caviar, all those things. We brought a lot of different things in. And anchovies and sardines salted, and olives, all the kinds - greens, black and dried. Yes, started to bring in a lot of lines. And we used to bring stragalia, haricot beans, tahini, all those things, and olive oil, we used to bring everything.

GO'H Were you importing the fish products as well?

KAKULAS Yes from Norway, we used to bring it from Norway and Iceland. That's where the baccala, ling and stock fish comes from, Norway.

GO'H What sort of things would be cooked using ling fish?

KAKULAS That ling fish is with salt, dried. That keeps for six months, one year, you know. And you put it in the water overnight, and the Slavs, they love that. Different fish too than the ones they've got here. That ling fish, a fellow that I know, he came once from the Nor' West and he bought about $80 worth. His game was a fisherman and he used to catch Dhufish. I told him once, "What are you going to do with it?" He said "I'm in Sharks Bay, around there." "But you catch all the good fish!" He said, "You don't understand, silly. ling fish is a hundred times better than the fish because they put it in the oven, they put potatoes, tomatoes, chillies, hot, you know, and with oil and they bake it. It's a beautiful dinner.

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GO'H What about meats - did you sell any meats in the shop?

KAKULAS No. The only thing we used to sell was bacon and tinned meat, you know, corned beef, camp pies, all those in tins. Not ordinary meat, no.

GO'H What about Greek pastries?

KAKULAS Greek pastry? There was nobody to do it here those days. That came after the war, filo pasty. There wasn't any of that those days.

GO'H During the war did anybody ever think that as you were Greek you were on the other side?

KAKULAS Yes, well we did have a little bit of trouble but when Greece went into the war with the Allies, well it was different altogether. Because when the people came here to go to Europe, a convoy used to come here from WA and this is the last port, about 20 boats, 15 boats together to take them round to Europe and they'd have destroyers protecting them. The Americans came and a lot of times they didn't want to put them together because the Americans, they used to get very big wages. The Australians used to get five shillings a day, something, very poor, the Americans used to get a lot of money. And the Americans were popular in the society with the girls, the women, oh yes. They had everything.... we never had much here. They had tins of bacon, tins of cashews, smoked tuna - oh they were well organised. They had the submarine base and a lot of times when the convoy used to come they used to [fight with the Aussies because the Americans spoilt the ladies].

GO'H So did any of the people in Western Australia get confused about Greeks being our allies?

KAKULAS Well, yes. The Greeks were the only nation that [had a victory battle with the Italians] Germans because France only lasted about seven days and also Belgium three, Holland the same, the imaginary (France) line. They went through Belgium and [unclear] and they finish, they never used it and the whole thing collapsed. The British were the only ones that were fighting. And in 1940 they want to attack Greece - Italy. Italy wanted Greece to surrender and Greece said I'm not going to surrender. They fought in Albania for months and months and they couldn't beat them. They changed about 30 generals but they couldn't get them because it was very hilly. Aeroplanes weren't used very much and they beat them one after the other, and threw them into the sea. Their only victory was during 1940-'41. But Germany, when he saw things weren't going very well because of Greece, Mediterranean, and all the stuff to come to England had to go through Greece, Mediterranean, like Crete, Malta. Malta belonged to the English and they sank the boats one after the other. The Germans had new mines, magnetic, they never had them before. And the boat was there and the magnetic [unclear] and they were losing by the thousands. And Greece was the only country that was winning.

Then Hitler came, and the Australians sent armies to Greece and Britain. The Australians fought in Greece and the English. When Hitler saw that things weren't going good and he wanted to attack Russia, they [Germans] came from Yugoslavia and in one week they broke Greece into two from Yugoslavia. The Australians and the whatsaname, they fought back but they never lasted long because they had a lot of aeroplanes, they had everything, and they had the armoured divisions which we never had them. They lost in about two weeks Athens, and then they went over to Crete, the boats. They lost a lot of boats, a lot of British boats they lost too, and we did. Then two weeks they waited and then Hitler with parachutes went over to Crete and in two weeks they surrendered too, very powerful he was, they couldn't last. They took Greece, and when they took Greece they blockaded Greece then and they took everything from Greece.

At the same time out here because the Italians and Greeks look much the same, they gave us some papers and it says, "This establishment is Greek." And we used to put it on our windows. Because when the soldiers used to come, even the Australians, they used to get drunk and they [unclear] break the shops. They used to do it a lot. Well, going to the war you don't know if you're going to come back. And that's why they never had the Americans out together [with the Australians on leisure because the American troops were better off and there was some envy].

And the boats outside Fremantle, there were about 20, 25, 30, coming all convoy and taking them away. The submarines were here too. They used to sink boats in the Indian Ocean, everywhere the Germans. Yes, they went through South Africa. You know we lost the *HMAS Sydney* up near Carnarvon, near Shark's Bay. There wasn't one person saved, 1200-1300, not one. The only ones they found out after, the *Sydney* sank the raider boat. They had boats, cargo boats, and inside they were armed with guns and everything but you'd never see them. And when the Australians saw that boat from the distance, he said, "What are you?" He said, "Dutch." And when they come to a very near point they put their torpedoes, they sunk the *Sydney* and not one person was saved. But they caught the Germans after, they caught them because they [unclear] 20, 30. They're the ones they told the boat was sunk.

GO'H You were saying before that to some people the Greeks and Italians looked the same, and you also said that you had a lot of Italian customers.

KAKULAS Yes. A lot of them they put them into the concentration camps here. Had to put them there, the ones they thought were dangerous, you know, they put them in. The ones that used to speak. But a lot of them they couldn't put in because they had a lot of farms, a lot of market gardens. That was the work they used to do.

GO'H And how did you feel having Italian customers when Greece was at war with Italy?

KAKULAS Well, it didn't make much difference because, I mean, it's not their fault, the war, it was the dictators like Mussolini. Business was still the same, you know. But the Re Store [owner] they put him in the concentration camp. And a lot of others. They have to because they were Italians.

GO'H The Re Store is a big store.

KAKULAS It was a very small shop. They had two small shops in the corner of Aberdeen, where that restaurant is now, Mama Maria's. That was the two little shops they had.

GO'H Were they the second continental shop in the area?

KAKULAS They were just about the same time as us. The father, he had a shop in Fremantle, Mr Re's father. They're older than us in the business.

GO'H And were there any other shops in the Northbridge/Perth area specially for continental products?

KAKULAS Selling continental, yes. The Re Store they used to bring stuff from Italy, and there was another Greek shop in William Street, Konsis next to the Great Western Hotel. You know where the Great Western Hotel is?

GO'H Yes.

KAKULAS That's where he's got a shop there. But he never had any children and then after we opened, we were very strong and popular with people, you know, and cheaper, they closed down, all of them just about.

GO'H Can you remember what William Street was like during war time?

KAKULAS Yes it was dead. In the night time the shops used to close. Open at eight and close at six o'clock. On Saturday we used to close at one o'clock and you were not allowed to sell cigarettes after eight o'clock. And groceries, sugar, six o'clock was the limit. We had to put nets and locks to lock them up. We had a few groceries, sugar, tea and all that coffee, you were not allowed to show those.

GO'H Why not?

KAKULAS The inspectors wouldn't allow it. It was very strict; they would give you fines. You could sell butter, you could sell drinks but you can't sell sugar, you can't sell this. Six o'clock, that was the limit. And Saturday, one o'clock.

GO'H Did all the shopkeepers obey those limits?

KAKULAS Well those days there was no parking, no parking, nothing like that. The only thing there was beer they used to bring it in horse and carts those days. There was no motor cars, nothing much. I remember the Swan Brewery, two horses, all big horses, you know carrying the beer.

GO'H Cart horses.

KAKULAS Yes, bringing it down. They had it in drums and they had the [horse and carts].

GO'H Like a shute?

KAKULAS Yes. And they used to have a skid like this from the truck and they'd bring it down slowly.

GO'H What time would they make their beer deliveries?

KAKULAS Oh yes, from nine o'clock the pubs allowed to open, up till nine o'clock at night; after that they close. Saturday the same. Sunday no, whole day no. Very strict those days, very strict.

GO'H You also talked of there being some hostels or boarding houses. Were there many people living on William Street?

KAKULAS Well opposite our shop there was the Macedonian Home. All those people they never had their family. They used to get a bed there for 50 [pence] a week and they used to sleep there. Then two doors further up (it's still there) was Yugoslav Home. A lot of people used to want to live in the city. It only cost 50 pence a week and they lived down there and they cooked. They used to do a bit of cooking themselves and they played cards, like a club, to pass the time. What are they going to do with their time the people there? They don't speak English, where are they going to go? They used to go to the clubs. We had one club there and we had one club in James Street, the International Club, 1930, oh, for years and years and years. And we used to go there, even us, we used to go there and play rummy and things like that. Gambling, but not much - thruppence, you know, a penny.

GO'H Can we talk a little more about that. You were a young man and you were working very long hours.

KAKULAS Yes that's right.

GO'H But can you talk more about the sorts of things that you would do in your free time?

KAKULAS Well I tell you. We used to open the shop at seven o'clock and I used to finish at two o'clock, go home, have my dinner and then with a bicycle go to the Hellenic Club in Wellington Street, the corner of Wellington and

Barrack Street, down there opposite the railway station. We used to go there and stop up till six o'clock and then I'd come home and have my dinner, and go to the shop at eight o'clock and finish at eleven-thirty..

GO'H Who would look after the shop while you were at the Hellenic Club?

KAKULAS My brother. But it wasn't as busy as what they are now. On Sunday my brother used to go to the church and sing and I used to start myself in the morning at seven and close at eleven-thirty in the night time, right through. I'd never go out on Sunday.

GO'H Can you tell me a little bit more about the Hellenic Club when it was in Wellington Street? First of all can you describe what the building looked like from the outside that it was in?

KAKULAS Well the building is still there. It's still there, the building. When you pass Barrack Street, about three shops, the building is still there. We had one room we used to sit down and talk politics, a big room like this one.

GO'H Like a big lounge room.

KAKULAS Like that, we used to go there, a little bit smaller than this. And we had another very big room, that's where they used to play cards. They used to play cards and gamble too. They're not allowed but they let them, you know. Coffee used to be thruppence and membership £1 a year. When the war started we had to bring it to 50 [pence]. I happened to be on the committee in 1936. I was very young, I was only 25 years old. And the people were very old. Then I was there and I worked there about seven or eight years: I was secretary, I was the treasurer, once we only had 80 members because they all went to the war. And from £1 we reduced it to 50 [pence]. We paid £6 rent and £6 was too big, tell him if he can help us out because people went to the army we can't pay £6 a week rent, and he brought it down to £3.5s. The landlords were Cecil Bros, they got the shoes.

GO'H Cecil Brothers Shoes.

KAKULAS They're the owners. Their mother's the owner, [unclear]. He said I'll ask my mother and they did bring it down to £3.10s and then we could cover. It wasn't making much, pay our way, because we had two people working. They were working about 50 and 60 hours a week and were only getting £2 a week.

GO'H You said the people - was it just men that went to the club?

KAKULAS That's all.

GO'H And what about children. You were a young man?

KAKULAS No, no, no.

GO'H How old would a boy have had to be to....

KAKULAS To go to the club? At least 20 years old, I think. Yes, nobody go there.

GO'H And you were drinking coffee - who was making the coffee?

KAKULAS There were two persons working there, boys[?] working there. We sold drinks and coffee, that's all, nothing else. And gambling you know, they'd take a percentage from the table.

GO'H So the two people working there, were they Greek men?

KAKULAS Yes, yes, oh yes.

GO'H Do you remember their names?

KAKULAS Yes, Brosaris and Magriplis. A long time ago, it's about 60 years.

We used to have elections too, every year. Committee night, committee for the president, secretary and a treasurer.

GO'H And the drink - you said there was coffee and drinks.

KAKULAS Yes.

GO'H What type of drink are you talking about?

KAKULAS Well, lemonade, orange drinks and coffee, that's all they had.

GO'H No Greek wine or?

KAKULAS No alcohol. No, you had to get a licence those days, you had to get a licence. Oh, not easy to get a licence those days. And you couldn't serve beer after nine o'clock.

GO'H Which makes me wonder, was there anywhere in Perth that Greek people could buy Greek wine or Greek liqueurs?

KAKULAS Well there was no Greek wines, no. Some Italians had some wine and they had hawkers, you know, people making the wine, the farms, and they were selling it. It was very cheap, 50 pence a gallon, 50 pence a gallon they used to sell it. But it wasn't as good as.... And the Australians never used to drink wine, only beer. When they used to drink wine they used to [unclear];

nobody touched wine, oh no. Ninety-nine per cent was beer - whiskey the rich ones.

GO'H Had wine been part of the diet for people on your island?

KAKULAS They wouldn't drink wine, only the wines that were very.... because with two shillings they can buy a jug. They used to get drunk, [unclear] they call it something, he's drunk, you know. And they're not allowed to sell it Sunday or after certain hours, they're not allowed to sell it. But they were making it on the farms. Five gallons for £1, wine.

We had a fellow at the back of our shop, a Greek fellow named Mousoulis and he was a pensioner and we let him a room there. We never used to live there then and we let him live there for nothing and he used to sleep there. Simeon Mousoulis was his name and he came to Australia before us, 1918 or something, before us. He left his family and two daughters and when he came here there was a brother-in-law and the job that he was doing was selling fruit and fish from the basket. Then he started working in a restaurant 25 shillings a week and he was here 20 years and he couldn't make a penny to send his wife. At the finish after so many years, 50, he died here '87 and he never saw his children. He always used to cry, you know, because how can you make money £1 a week wages? You want 50 pence rent alone - it left you 15 shillings. Doctors were 50 pence, but who can afford to go to doctors? Things were not like they are now.

GO'H If we could talk a little bit more about the Hellenic Club. In the days when you first started going there, what sort of numbers of men would be there?

KAKULAS Well we about 150 people, 200 people in the club, yes, because they were all living around here. There was no motor cars, nothing, and Saturdays and Sundays, the clubs, you couldn't get a chair to sit down. Where are you going to go Sunday? We used to go to the club. The women used to stop home. Sometimes we'd go on a picnic and then you'd get the tram from here to go to Como or Crawley. That was the only distance.

GO'H Would the women go on those picnics?

KAKULAS Yes we used to all the time to Crawley, that was the nearest. For a tram it was only thruppence. But from 1941 we started to get our cars and then we used to go more regular.

GO'H You were quite young when you started serving on the committee of the Hellenic Club. Were the other people on the committee young men as well?

KAKULAS No, very old. Every one of them was about 20, 25 years [older] than me. Twenty-years. I was one of the youngest in those days. Because we

had business and I don't know. The committee, they all used to be 20 and 25 years older than me, 30 years older than me. I was one of the youngest. And the secretary, he was about 20 years difference with me.

GO'H And why do you think that you were asked to be on the committee?

KAKULAS I don't know, I must have been smart, something like that. Yes, because after I went 27 years continuation, elections every year and I never lost an election. We knew a lot of people in those days, they all came to our shop. Then in 1940/'41 I went to the Greek community too, and we used to make concerts to build the church. I told you that before didn't I?

GO'H No you didn't and if we can talk about that now. So you had the Hellenic Club but there was also the....

KAKULAS Hellenic Community.

GO'H Hellenic Community.

KAKULAS The Hellenic Club was the club but it belonged to the people, you know. The Hellenic Community was the church - different altogether. But the same people, just about with the same people and the ones on the committee, from our island Castellorizo. Not from the other islands because 90 per cent out here was from our island, Castellorizo. We knew a lot of the people from our island, we knew one another.

GO'H Did you know these people before you came?

KAKULAS A lot of them, yes, we do know them, names, yes a lot. Because our island was a very small island, smaller than Rottnest, and we knew one another. We knew all the families, all the families that came here. Every one we knew them, oh yes all the families, and one after the other. We had about 500 from Castellorizo here in Perth and their families. A lot of our aunties [unclear], everybody knew one another on our island. It was a small island.

GO'H We're still talking about the early days before the war. So when you first came to Northbridge can you talk a little bit about the Greek Orthodox Church as it was then.

KAKULAS Well when we came from Fremantle in 1930 there was no church in those days. In 1926 they built a hall in [Perth] and they used to have concerts, and the same time they used to do our church [services] there. My mother used to come with a train from Fremantle because my mother, as I said, was a priest's daughter. The train was nine o'clock and we came to West Perth down there and then we walked to the church here.

GO'H That's the church in Parker Street.

KAKULAS That's right, went there. That's on Sunday, and then catch the train back. It used to take three-quarters-of-an-hour that train. That's how we used to come to the church.

GO'H Would other Greek families come from Fremantle?

KAKULAS Well in Fremantle there was about 36 Greek families down there. All our relations too. They never used to come every [Sunday]. My mother was different - every Sunday, never missed. Then we came to Perth, and before we did the hall the Church of England used to help us, give us our hall to do our service, for our religion. The Church of England, not the Catholics. See, the Catholics are strict like the Greek Church.

GO'H So which Parish Church was it that the Greek Orthodox used?

KAKULAS Well there is one in Murray Street, opposite the hospital. There was a hall there, next to the fire brigade. We used to do concerts there because we never had a hall. We used to do our weddings there. Then on the corner of Stirling Street and Newcastle there was Keoghs and the hall is still there, the Aboriginals have got it. We used to do our weddings and our concerts there. We used to do concerts to build the church. Greek concerts we used to do.

GO'H This was before the church was built, so you had a priest here before you had a church?

KAKULAS Yes, just one priest. The priest was getting £3.10 a week, £4 a week, that's all.

GO'H What was his name?

KAKULAS Manessis. Priest Manessis, that's from 1926/'27 up till 1950. And we had another priest before - he went to Adelaide - 1923, '24, '25.

GO'H Do you remember the other priest's name?

KAKULAS Illiou. Father Illiou. He went to Adelaide.

GO'H And Father Manessis, before the church was built where did he live?

KAKULAS Oh he used to live in a rented house. I think he became priest here about 1927 and in a year's time they bought the house in Aberdeen Street next to our house - 122. He bought that in 1931, he bought it then, and he lived there. He had [counting] they had four boys and three girls and he was only getting £4 a week.

END OF TAPE THREE SIDE A

GO'H Was Father Manessis from Castellorizo?

KAKULAS No, he was from another island, Chios. It's near Turkish land but it's a Greek island - Chios.

GO'H Did the Greek community buy the house for him?

KAKULAS No, no, himself. The Greek community they never had a church those days. The church was built in 1936. There was a block in the corner donated by the Castellorizian Association to the Greek community to build a church.

GO'H So the Castellorizian Association, that's different from the Hellenic Club?

KAKULAS Oh yes, yes. But we're the same people though. The same people on the committee there, the same people there.

GO'H You just mentioned before but we didn't get any details, that the Greek community helped raise money to build the church.

KAKULAS Yes there was a committee all the time. In 1922/'23 they had a committee, and they built a hall in 1926. It cost them £2000 those days. That was next door to the church. There was a vacant block there and they built it next door.

GO'H And that hall is no longer standing, is it?

KAKULAS No, no, they threw it down in 1963 and built a new one.

GO'H So can you talk a little bit about that hall? What was the old building like?

KAKULAS It's just a hall about 100 ft, that's the distance, even our church that's the distance. The block wasn't very big, 100 ft, but wide. They used to do their concerts and in the evening they used to go and learn Greek language, the children. From four o'clock when they finished the whatsaname, they used to go every night to the church. They had teachers there up to six o'clock in the summer, half-past-six. They were all people living around here and there wasn't troubles like they've got today. They walk on their own, everybody. My two sisters and my brother, they used to go to the school; George and the two girls, to the Greek school there. We lived in Moir Street then.

GO'H Were you still speaking Greek only at home?

KAKULAS Yes, my mother, she never speak English. I don't think she knew 10 words of English. We used to go and learn it in the house, and there was no television those days.

GO'H And your brother and sisters that went to the Greek School, did they teach them anything other than the Greek language, anything about....

KAKULAS Well they used to go to the Australian school first, my brother George and the two girls, they used to go to school. But not us, we were older then, too old to go to school. Mick was the same, didn't go to school. But the girls did, they finished up to fourteen.

GO'H And at the Greek school that they went to did they learn anything about Greek history or....?

KAKULAS No more to read and speak so they can understand the language of the church, because our church was in Greek. Like the Catholics, in Latin it used to be all the time - ours was Greek.

GO'H When you went to school as boy in Greece, did you learn about Greek history and Greek culture at your school?

KAKULAS Well our schools were better than what they are today. We used to go to school at eight o'clock and finish half-past-four. And Saturdays in the morning was all religious, we had a religious subject in our schools. Religion, compulsory, by the teachers, not by the priest. On Saturday we used to go there because our school was there and they had the church in the middle. We used to go to the church and the priest used to explain. That's on our island but not out here. Out here they had to go to the English school and in the evening because they were living around here they could be able to go to school. Now they're living everywhere, they can't go to [unclear]. We've got Greek schools even now, but they're Saturday morning.

GO'H Can you talk a little bit about the concerts that were held in the Greek hall?

KAKULAS Yes, every month we used to have a divided evening. From eight till eleven o'clock it was - eleven or half-past eleven. In the beginning one hour we used to give concert and after we'd dance. But girls weren't allowed to dance those days. Weren't allowed to dance, the Greek girls.

GO'H So would the boys dance with each other?

KAKULAS Very few girls were [unclear] to dance. There were about 10 girls, or you can dance with your wife or your sister. Not with the girls. The girls wouldn't get up, their mothers wouldn't let them. They were strict. This foxtrot, not allowed. You were not allowed to touch a girl those days. And you got to dance with the girl like.... Things have changed now. The Greek dances, there's no holding the girl, no, with a handkerchief. Have you seen the Greek dances how they are?

GO'H I've seen Greek men dancing.

KAKULAS Yes, yes. Well that's how it was the Greek dances. [unclear] used to dance, not the other dances. Yes, very strict. My mother wouldn't let my sisters dance till they get married.

GO'H Were they allowed to go to the dances?

KAKULAS They were not allowed to go out, no. Even if we had concerts the families used to go together, with the mother, with the family, not on their own. Even when we got engaged. When we got engaged one of the sisters had to come with me to go to the pictures - the mother or the sisters. They wouldn't let the girls on their own until they get married. Even when they got engaged still they were not allowed out on their own. Very strict.

GO'H So at these concert parties....

KAKULAS Concerts. We used to charge 20 pence to come in and the children free. Twenty pence and sometimes 10 pence to come in. Sometimes we'd have interval, you know, and then afterwards serve beer and different things like that, and selling it. Beer was only two shillings a bottle those days.

GO'H What about food, did you have a supper or a meal with your...?

KAKULAS Oh no, no, no. They had olives and cheese, something like that. Nothing else.

GO'H That makes me think about fetta cheese and Greek cheeses. Did your business bring those into Australia as well?

KAKULAS Well, people used to make it in WA. But it wasn't as good as the ones in the Greece. Yes a lot of people used to make it Welshpool from [unclear] milk. They used to do it but it wasn't good. But it wasn't bad; we'd sell it a shilling a pound.

Yes there was a fellow Michelides, was a singer, he was singing opera but when he came to Australia he thought there was no Greeks here, how was he going to sing? He married some Austrian girl and in Welshpool they had about two or three cows. In the meantime he used to sing, you know, to a concert. We'd give him £1, something like that. And he had five cows in Welshpool and he used to make the cheese and he put it in tins and 5 lbs for 50 pence. Five pounds of cheese with brine inside, you know the white....

GO'H The salty brine.

KAKULAS Yes because otherwise it doesn't keep.

GO'H We were talking about the concert parties. What sort of shows were being put on? What sort of acts did you have in the concert parties?

KAKULAS We'd do comedies, Greek comedies. We used to do Greek comedy, and at the whole concert evening the beginning was songs, Greek songs. We had an association for this. We had about three or four girls, they were born here, you know, not strict, and when we had dances we used to dance with them, the boys who were doing the concert together. They used to learn Greek comics and all this and dramas. They used to do that. First was songs, and after served a cup of tea or served beer (that was to buy) and then they had the concert at the finish - eleven o'clock finish and go home. We all used to live around here. You would be surprised how many houses. We had about 12 houses Greek here.

GO'H Around Newcastle, Lake Street.

KAKULAS Just here! Just here opposite me.

GO'H In Newcastle Street?

KAKULAS Yes. From the corner there, there was four Greek houses another two there, opposite, Greek, Greek, Greek, another two Greeks there. All the houses belong to [Greeks].

GO'H And the houses that you rented out in this area....

KAKULAS Yes rent, yes rent.

GO'H Were they all rented to Greek families?

KAKULAS Yes. But some houses we had Australians, as I said before. Australians were more here then. James Street, all those, Aberdeen Street. Aberdeen Street and Francis Street and Palmerston - that was as high as Dalkeith today. Can't you see how big homes there is there? That was the society.

GO'H That was the brick area?

KAKULAS Palmerston Street, look at the houses on the other side, my mother's, very big homes. They were very rich Australians. But then we started to buy them out and when we started to buy them out they used to go out, went to West Perth, up near parliament. In 1941 they would have given me two blocks at Mosman Bay, down the river, for £80 each - Mr Newby. When we buy the eggs he was the auctioneer. And I said, "Oh what can I do with them? We couldn't live far from Perth. We never had a car, we never had a horse and cart, how are you going to go?" We wanted to be near the Greek church for children to learn Greek. It's not like today - they're all mixed up.

GO'H So the time that we're talking about now, the thirties and forties, how close was the Greek community in the Northbridge area?

KAKULAS Yes, I'll tell you. You know Hyde Park?

GO'H Yes.

KAKULAS Hyde Park, all round Hyde Park the distance up to past Cleaver Street there, all Roe Street and Pier Street, about 100 families down there. That's where we used to live around there, and the Australians too, you know. A lot of Australians, oh yes in the city there were a lot of Australians. And there was the brothels in Roe Street. If my mother came with us we used to come up from another street.

GO'H To avoid Roe Street?

KAKULAS Yes, yes. I never forget it, how open it was. I remember we used to come in with the train, you know, from West Perth Station up to Milligan Street and even Lake Street, up to Lake Street there was those houses with the verandah. And you'd go all from the train and the women open, you know, not strict, not like now.

GO'H When you first saw the houses in Roe Street did you understand that they were brothels?

KAKULAS We didn't understand what? About what the brothels? I never knew anything about it up till I was 20 years old. I never knew anything about it. [knocking at door]

GO'H We just answered the door but you were just about to tell me about the Chinese living in the area before the war.

KAKULAS Well the Chinese, they were living in James Street because I had the church opposite.... what they call it? What do they call their church, they don't call it a church?

GO'H A temple.

KAKULAS A temple, yes. It's still there. There was a big Chinese greengrocer in the corner. There were a lot of Chinese. And during the war they were there, during the war. They used to have market gardens in North Fremantle, Victoria Park. All the river sides had Chinese market gardens. Where the Causeway is it was Chinese. They used to bring the vegetables in the markets. They're not allowed to bring their wives over and they died out, see, they died out. During the war they put them in working camps, you know, they were working with us. But after they died out; they were not allowed to bring their wives. That's why a lot of them went back but they most of them died here. Not like now you can bring them; before you were not allowed. You

were not allowed to bring any.... only Europeans and Americans and all that, not from Asia and from Africa. It was the White Australia Policy those days.

GO'H So do you remember the Chinese men that lived in Perth, what sort of work were they doing?

KAKULAS I tell you they had a club and they had one restaurant, only one restaurant, Long Soup on the corner of William Street. Yes they had a restaurant, but there wasn't many. As I said before all of them were in gardening, they had all the gardens. They used to grow all the vegetables. That was the work they used to do.

GO'H Did they deliver their vegetables around Perth?

KAKULAS Well the nearest it was Victoria Park, you know, where the Burswood Casino? Up there all that was market gardeners. On the other side again, Mill Point Road, down near the water, they were there. And North Fremantle, all North Fremantle near the bridge, they were both sides, yes. They had some here too you know. And then the whatsanames came in on the market, Macedonians, Italians, Slavs, they came in a big way. But the Chinese they had no wives and they were on their own. A few of them got married to Italians, but not many. They died out.

GO'H When we were talking about the concert parties, you mentioned dancing. Who provided the music?

KAKULAS There was a drum, a piano (Miss Rothman's it was), and a saxophone. It used to cost us 25 shillings a night and they used to come from Subiaco or anywhere. They used to be always our orchestra for foxtrot for the night. We used to do that. And for weddings they used to come there. Twenty-five shillings a time for three of them.

GO'H And what about playing traditional Greek music at these concerts, who played that music?

KAKULAS Well when we had our concert we used to ask them and they used to come and play. Because sometimes we used to have half songs and then the other dancing. And she used to come and play up till 12.00 o'clock. She used to play, as I said before, for 25 shillings.

GO'H So she could play traditional Greek?

KAKULAS Not Greek, no, no, foxtrot. English. There was no foxtrot in Greek those days. They had Greek dances. But Greek dances, we might have one or two people, but no [unclear] orchestras now, there's nothing. There's nobody. We never had a Greek orchestra those days, no. There was nobody here.

GO'H I just want to explain because we're recording this that you're pointing at a photo of a group of Greek musicians that was taken in 1930 of which you were one of them playing a mandolin. What was the name of that particular association?

KAKULAS AHYMA Symphony. It's got the name on there.

GO'H So it's the AHYMA.

KAKULAS Australian Hellenic Youth Association.

GO'H Music Association.

KAKULAS Yes that's what it means, AHYMA.

GO'H Symphony Orchestra.

KAKULAS Yes.

GO'H Can you give me just a little bit of background about that. How was it formed?

KAKULAS Well this fellow, he was a teacher and he came from Greece; when they lost the war they were refugees. He came here and he's the one that organised it. We never knew anything about music or this. This one he was from Greece, this is all these Perth Boys. They all died here. But this fellow he went to Sydney and then he worked in the paper there and then he went back to Greece. But his brother stayed here and lived, and his niece is still here. All the others in Sydney - that one and his wife in Sydney. There was no job here and they offered him a job at the newspaper in Sydney, Vima[?]. He went there and he died there. This is Califf[?] this is Sertis[?], Karasavas[?], Paneross[?], Kakulas, Sertis[?].

GO'H And could you play the mandolin before you joined the orchestra?

KAKULAS No, no. He taught me, this one, the teacher. We started at fifteen and in three months there were only three. Then after, it finished. [unclear] He took me home. He used to live in Stirling Street, you know where the Post Office is around there, and then after he shifted in Newcastle Street there. I used to go every week and he used to teach me. I was the only one who played after the finish. Up to now I was a good player for so many years. Practice - practice makes perfect. We used to play operas, pieces we used play.

GO'H Greek theatre.

KAKULAS Yes. Yes we used to have very strong ones. One teacher we had, Isannidis - he's not there, he died - well his wife used to play the piano and we

used to do waltzes and lots of things. Dancing, sometimes we used to do it ourselves, we never used to bring the orchestra. Piano, I played the mandolin and another one the drums. [unclear] And on Sunday the church used to be there and my mother never liked it. She said, "You should not do it. It is a very big sin to do concerts and...."

GO'H Have concerts and church in the same building?

KAKULAS And anxious to build. On the stage was our icons and we put a curtain there to do the concert and they didn't like it. My mother didn't like it, she thought it was a sin. But what do you have do? Where are you going to go? Then in 1936 we build a church.

GO'H We'll finish there today and make a time for me to come back and talk to you again.

KAKULAS Alright.

END OF TAPE THREE SIDE B

A further interview with Mr Stavros Kakulas recorded on 29th July 1997.

GO'H In the last interview we were talking about Kakulas Brothers (the shop) and you told me that your brother joined the army during WWII. Did he return to the business after the war?

KAKULAS Well, as I said, in 1939 we built another shop and he was at the other shop. When they put him into the army in 1941, I had to go to the other shop myself, at 317 William Street - the same shop, the same kind, but more business with the Australian goods, you know. There were a lot of Australian people living that way in those days and we used to do a lot of deliveries by bicycle. But in 1939 I was at 185 [William Street], down there. What else did you want to know?

GO'H I wanted to know whether after the army your brother came back to work for Kakulas Brothers?

KAKULAS Yes he came back and I went to 185. He went back to his shop, 317, and I went back to 185 as I was there before.

GO'H I wonder if you could explain to me how the decisions were made between the three boys in the early days about the shop?

KAKULAS Well my brother, the young one, George, he was going to school. He was going to Modern School to get his Leaving. And he had asthma and he never got through. [unclear] to go back and so we opened the other shop. When the war started George went to number 185 and when they called my brother I went to 317 and that lasted up till 1945/'46.

GO'H And did you run the two shops completely separately?

KAKULAS We were always running them separately but we used to get stocks.... The bottom shop, they'd do all the imports from Europe and from Egypt or wherever we'd import the stock. The other shop used to get some of the stuff from there to sell up there. We had just about the same lines in both shops, but not as many as 185. At 185 we used to more wholesale; at 317 it was only a retail branch.

GO'H Who were you selling wholesale to?

KAKULAS It was wholesale, yes, always. Even now, we've got very big wholesale.

GO'H In those early days who were you selling wholesale to?

KAKULAS Because we were the only ones. They had small shops and they wanted to sell some of our continental goods. Well they couldn't bring it from Egypt or from [Europe], they never knew anything about it, they never had

people there. We used to supply them and give it to them cheaper, but we would still make about 15 per cent, 20 per cent.

GO'H Do you remember the names of any of the businesses you sold to?

KAKULAS Well there were so many small shops. I don't think they're there now. All the small shops now are closing down, you know that. That's what they say. They used to be in Osborne Park, they used to be in Joondanna[?], Hyde Park - a fair way. There was a lot of small shops those days. They used to sell a lot of it but not all our lines, no. People used to come to us because we were cheaper too, cheaper. They used to come all the way from Kalamunda, from York. All the growers from York they used to come to our shop. There used to be Albanians there. They used to grow watermelons, rockmelons and vegetables. There must have been about 6, 8, 10, families, and they used to deal with us. And then the shops in Northam or anywhere there, we used send orders to Geraldton, everywhere. A lot of people they couldn't come down and they used to send us a letter. A lot of Greeks - Gnowangerup, a lot at Manjimup, everywhere.

GO'H How would you send the orders to the country towns?

KAKULAS By goods train. The train was in Roe Street and it was very easy for us. Milligan Street, that's where the office was, where the gates are, and it didn't take us long to deliver it. But when they went to Kewdale we left a lot of them. We've still got a lot but now they've got a different system. Before when we used to go to Kewdale we'd waste a couple of hours for an order because they were at dinner, they were at morning tea, and it didn't pay us. But now they've got the transport, a lot of them, and they ring up, we tell them there is an order ready for Geraldton and in ten minutes after we've telephoned they pick it up.

GO'H In those early days, where were you storing all your produce?

KAKULAS We had two rooms at the back of the shop. They used to go there and they never used to buy stuff as we buy now. We used to buy one bag of beans. ten cases of oil.... Now we get containers, it's different. Those days, you know, ten tins of olives and we had two rooms about this size.

GO'H About the size of this big lounge?

KAKULAS Yes. Because our shop down there is about 180 ft up to the back - a very long shop. But we had two rooms. In the beginning we used to sleep there. Because inside the shop at the back there was nothing there. We had only a few tables selling ginger beer, cool drinks - we didn't have to have stock. Travellers used to come every week and get cool drinks. But when we were getting things from Europe we had to have space, and we used to use the two

rooms at the back. Also the shop was big enough. We wasn't bringing in as much stuff as we do now.

GO'H When you first bought the continental goods in, how did you display them in the store?

KAKULAS Well in those days you're not allowed to sell groceries after six o'clock, and we had shelves with doors, and we locked them in the night time. Even the Australian groceries, sugar and everything. After they let it go, but those days it wasn't allowed.

GO'H When did that change?

KAKULAS Oh, that must have changed after the war. After the war, yes. Even cigarettes we couldn't sell. Only lollies, cool drinks. Even hotels were only [open] till nine o'clock, and the shops six o'clock. Saturday one o'clock, that's the end. If you opened it cost big fines in those days. It was 48 hours a week. It wasn't what it is today.

GO'H So can you tell me a little bit more about that. What your actual jobs were in the shop initially?

KAKULAS Well we had the cool drinks, we had fruit, we had eggs. We used to go to the fruit market three times a week and buy the stuff. We never used to sell a lot of fruit but we used to have them and were open in the night time, otherwise you're not allowed to open in the night time in those days to sell groceries. And we used to sell cool drinks, chocolates, eggs, vegetables and fruit, yes. That's what we used to do.

GO'H So what were your jobs in the shop? You were a salesperson.

KAKULAS Yes. There were two brothers there and we used to serve. We were open from seven o'clock up till half-past-eleven in the evening, and we had to have shifts. The one who was working in the night time, he used to open the shop at seven o'clock, and two o'clock go home, have his dinner and come back at seven. And the other one, from two till seven he was off, you know, and the other one was working. The one who was going to open the shop, he was going to work up till six o'clock, and the other one who gets the afternoon off works from, as a matter of fact, eight o'clock, it used to be, up till half-past-eleven; Saturday about half-past-twelve.

GO'H What would happen if one of you was sick?

KAKULAS We never had that bad luck; we were well. We were very lucky in those days. We never had no replacement. There was one brother that's all.

GO'H Beside serving in the shop, what other jobs did you need to do to keep the shop running?

KAKULAS Well we used to bottle olive oil. We used to get that in drums and then we'd get the bottles from the bottle yard - the white ones - and clean them, then fill them up with a label on - had to be a label on, what it is, pure olive or not pure oil because the inspectors used to go round and get samples those days. Very strict they were.... if it was a pure olive oil, then we had vegetable oil with cornflour oil, and then we had rapeseed oil. To do that it takes time. It's not easy because there's a lot of bottles they'd take to the Greek people, not to the Australians. The Australians, they never used it; Italians, Slavs, they're the ones, Albanians, all Europeans, Serbians, all those. We used to sell a lot.

GO'H What sort of labels were they?

KAKULAS Kakulas Brothers and pure olive oil or vegetable oil (that size) and put them on the bottles.

GO'H Where did you get the labels from?

KAKULAS There was printing offices here, and they used to print them for us, about 10 000, and we'd keep them. We've still got some - not those, but new ones. We still bottle oil for the shop now. Sometimes some of those tins, the one gallon tins, the fork lift pushes them in and you can't sell that so you open them and sell it in bottles. We still do that.

GO'H Today you'd use fork lifts in your store. What did you use to move your stock around....?

KAKULAS Our hands. Our hands and a wheelbarrow. And there used to be big drums - 50 gallons and 45 gallons in a wheelbarrow and then we had to stand them and put them inside.

GO'H Who did that?

KAKULAS The two brothers.

GO'H Any other jobs that you'd have to do around the store?

KAKULAS Well, look after the shop, clean the shop. Then we had a boy working and helping when we opened the other shop. And one of the brothers used to come after school too and help - George.

GO'H What about the money side? Who was responsible for counting up the money?

KAKULAS Well if it was my shift I used to take the till home and count the money. And then the next day or after three or four days we'd bank that opposite in the National Bank. We banked our money. At the weekend our

mother was home always - she looked after them. We never had thieves like now.

GO'H What sort of records would you keep?

KAKULAS We had a takings book. We put our takings in there and we'd sort out taxation at the end of the year. Mr Milling, an accountant, he was in James Street and he used to charge us about £5 to do the job, sometimes £1 to do our returns.

GO'H You've got open your takings books here from the 1930s.

KAKULAS Thirty-nine.

GO'H Nineteen-thirty-nine. I was wondering if you could perhaps read some of the entries?

KAKULAS We kept a lot of books, we kept a lot of books. Only later we destroy them. After the [unclear] we had them in a box in there. Then one day they come they put that thing down and we couldn't be bothered. And I said to the brother, "What if I take them out," he said, "No leave them, what are we going to do with them?"

GO'H You've opened the book for June 1939 and could you explain to me on the left-hand side, what are those columns?

KAKULAS This is the finish of the year. That's the finish of the year, that's the accountant. That's the end of the year and we start the new year here - 1st July.

GO'H 1st July. Right so you've got some numbers here underneath June 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th.

KAKULAS Yes. Even today, that's when they close accounts.

GO'H And these are the amounts you took each day was it?

KAKULAS Yes, sometimes we took that - not the last week. One, two, three, four, five days it was. Five days.

GO'H And on the 26th you took £8....

KAKULAS £8.13s.6d, £10.4s9d, £11.2s3d, £16, £17 - Friday and Saturday used to be the busy days, Friday and Saturday. You'd see it everywhere like that. The pension used to be on Thursday and payday was Friday. It's still Friday.

GO'H So this total here 84....

KAKULAS £84.1s.3d.

GO'H .... that was your takings for the week, was it?

KAKULAS That's right.

GO'H And was that before your costs?

KAKULAS Yes, yes. That's our cost, that's our stuff.

GO'H And on the opposite side of the page you've got a list of....

KAKULAS But you can't tell from this. Sometimes some accounts pay at the end of the month. Now, take this week, this week is a full week, seven days, £130. And this is what we pay; we used to pay cash to everybody. We used to pay cash.

GO'H So if you could read out some of the expenses that you had.

KAKULAS Well this is the rent.

GO'H Which was £2.6s.

KAKULAS And this is the wages. One boy we had working.

GO'H Which is 17s.6d.

KAKULAS This is empty bottles - to fill with olive oil.

GO'H That's 3s.6d.

KAKULAS Samson and Paragon, they're the paper bags.

GO'H Oh paper bags for putting.....

KAKULAS Yes for putting the rice in there. They are different, they're not goods.

GO'H And that was £1.4s.10d for the bags. And at top of the page you've got some of the people that you....

KAKULAS That's right. [Rex??] - that should be butter, cheese, and then Bushells, they get tea, coffee. This is Heinz, still there; this is McFarlane, they sold butter and different things; this is W D & H O Wills, that's cigarettes - they're still there. Fowlers, they're not here, they amalgamated with Foodlands.

GO'H So what did Fowlers sell?

KAKULAS They used to be wholesalers, sugar, tea, everything we used to buy from there, coffee, a lot of things. Robur tea, there used to be Robur Tea too. They used to have a van going around used to keep all the lines because some people wanted Robur, some wanted Amgoorie, other ones Bushells. And City Milling, that was flours. It's still there, corner James Street and Fitzgerald Street, it's still there. Wescobee, that was Wesfarmers honey. Wesfarmers they used to be.... do you know Brownes? They used to be in Stuart Street, just in the corner there. They had all their workhouses there. And Plaistowes, Plaistowes was in West Perth. They had lollies and different things like that. This is cool drinks and this is National, another wholesale groceries. He was in North Fremantle that one.

GO'H And what's this one Stirling?

KAKULAS Stirling Products. They used to be small companies, you know, and bring some stuff, biscuits or something.

GO'H So in that particular week you spent....

KAKULAS £44.5s.10d.

GO'H And that included all the purchases which were....

KAKULAS That week, yes.

GO'H And also your rent and wages.

KAKULAS That week yes. But some of those.... Wood Sons we used to pay every month. This one £74, £112. Fowlers [unclear]. Produce market - fruit; City Milling - flour; Wills - cigarettes, every week. We used to pay them cash. Cash we used to pay them.

GO'H On delivery?

KAKULAS Yes. The van used to come outside and deliver them. They were carrying the stuff with them. The vans used to come around. All those - Bushells vans, Fowlers.... Produce we used to go up to the markets. Rex[?] they used to come around every second day. Wills the same they used to bring the cigarettes. This is Harpers Fremantle - they used to sell cornflour, Nestles cornflour. This is Nestles, Nestles they had chocolate. Robur tea, rent, City Milling, Plaistowes, Kraft cheese. Kraft cheese used to be there too, a long time.

GO'H Do you have a section in that book that gives us some idea of the costs for the continental produce that you were buying? What about taxation?

KAKULAS Taxation? Well, we never used to make much. What did we used to make - £300. Wasn't much taxation those days. After the war they started taxation, after the war it became very big. And because the pension those days was only.... they started with 7s.6d, then £1, then £1.2s5d. When you were a pensioner it was a hard life. Very hard to live those days.

GO'H Who did all the writing up of the accounts? In the book the writing is all the same.

KAKULAS Yes. Well we used to have the bills, you know when we used to pay them and check them up in the night and write them on our purchases. So at the end of the year the accountant would come and see it and do our taxation.

GO'H Which brother did the actual writing?

KAKULAS Well this is the other shop. But I had different books for the other ones. But those were destroyed. That was a big shop, big business there.

GO'H You said today a few times that there were changes that happened after the war - in the shop.

KAKULAS Well the only changes they had those days.... the restrictions they did have. Close at six o'clock, the big shops, you know, and the small shops they're not allowed to open at night. But we had, as I said, [chocolates, fruit, but groceries were closed after 6pm]. But after, I don't remember what year, they let it open, you know, they let it open. I think it was after the immigration, about 1960s - '55, '60. Things here got bigger.

GO'H After WWII a lot more migrants from Europe came to Western Australia. Did that affect your business?

KAKULAS Yes, yes, yes. Business got bigger because the people coming from there, they usually used the stuff that we used to sell. They never ate pasties and fish and chips and all that, and that's why our business started to get bigger. We used to get tons of stuff then. Yes, when the immigration came, a lot bigger.

GO'H And the new clients that are coming into the shop, what nationalities were they?

KAKULAS They were Italians, Greeks from our island, Albanians, Macedonians - all the foreigners they used to come to our shop. And we used to have Australian customers too because there were some mixed marriages too.

GO'H Before the war you said that most of the Greek people in Perth were from your island. Did that change after the war?

KAKULAS Yes, yes. We had over 500 people all from our island. But in 1940 Greece went into the war and our island was occupied by the Italians. In 1943 the British went in to the war against Hitler and Mussolini and a British destroyer came to our island to get a convoy through to Malta. The Greeks, our people, straightaway they took all the Italians, they caught them up and when the British came they gave them as prisoners, you know, they took them up. But after ten days the Germans came, and they were in Rhodes. Rhodes was about 60 miles away from us. Italy was with Germany those days, Italy was with Germany, and the Germans came. When the Germans came and the British were there, they started with dive bombers, they destroyed the island. You will see it in the photos, I'll show you. And they took all the people as refugees in the night time, they took them from the back of the island, and they stopped there up till the war finished in 1946.

Then when the war finished they went there and took them back to the island, but a lot of people brought the people to Australia then in 1946/'47, because a lot of the people's families.... my father and my mother, when he came here he never came for good. He only came for five years [to Australia] and then had to go back when they had enough money. But the war started and then our island was destroyed and we had to stop here then. Our island was nothing left, from 12 000 people there's now about 300. That's all there is. But then we all go and see it. A lot of people go every year, every summer from Perth. They go, they are waiting for the Australians, from Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, all of them, because there are Castellorizians in every part of Australia. The most here in Sydney, the next Adelaide and Melbourne. A lot in Darwin, a lot of Greeks in Darwin now. After the war they came from Kalimnos, another island. They were divers to get sponges but now they are building. A lot of them there, about 5000, 6000, 7000 there is there now, in Darwin.

GO'H Did your family help bring any people out from your island after the war?

KAKULAS Well we never had any relations after the war there. All our people are in WA. A lot of them, they didn't come to Australia they went to Athens. Some of them went to Cyprus, others went to France - a lot of places they went to all over the world.

GO'H And what about Greeks from other parts of Greece?

KAKULAS Yes, a lot of them came from the other parts of Greece. They came from everywhere. They came from Macedonia, from Greece. Not many from Athens, not from the cities but a lot of people from the islands: from Kalimnos a lot of people; Rhodes; and also from Ipiros[?]. Not from Athens - from the capital we never had many, or Salonika, no, weren't from there. Farmers, they used to grow you know [unclear] and they came to Australia and they worked very hard. They weren't educated, they weren't lawyers and doctors. There came a few lawyers, they reckon, in 1923, '24, and when they

came here they had to go and wash plates. They used to say something in Greece, "He was a lawyer and he was a waiter after." Because lawyers are no good here, this is an English country.

GO'H Do you know the name of that man that was a lawyer that came out in twenties?

KAKULAS No, I don't remember. But I remember some of the singers. An opera group came - I remember the head, Michaelides. He was the baritone of the opera. They never made enough money to get their fares and they stopped in Australia. They worked as waiters or anything they could find.

END OF TAPE FOUR SIDE A

KAKULAS Doctors they came here but they never did any good. They wouldn't accept them. The only doctors who were allowed to use their job here was the Italians. They had an Act, Italy with Australia. But from Greece no. They had to get a diploma from London or from here. Some came but they had to go to school to get the diploma, yes. A lot of them came after from Europe. Then we had educated here, they were educated here and then lawyers started here.

GO'H Before the war a lot of Greek and European people lived in the Northbridge area. What happened after the war?

KAKULAS After the war they were still here, they didn't go anywhere. But after we are getting older and people were getting married, well they couldn't get a block of land out here, they had to go outside. A lot of our friends they used to go to Como, they used to get blocks for £15 and £17, but in Perth you got £500 blocks. When the children used to get married they used to go out, they couldn't afford.... There wasn't many people owned properties those days. Maybe not even three per cent of the people owned their properties in those days. Lucky to be three per cent of the very old ones, yes.

GO'H So the migrants that were coming after the war, were they moving into Northbridge?

KAKULAS When the boats used to come, the first ones, a lot of them came out here and they used to send them to do work in the country - roads. But after, a lot of them went to Melbourne and Adelaide. When they went there a lot of the factories were there. Holden used to be in Adelaide, in Melbourne, and they used to send letters to their relations here, "Come to Melbourne, there is a job for you!" And they left the country here. They used to be working in Pingelly open roads. And where the Greek community had a house on the corner we used to rent for them and then after they used to get the train and go to Melbourne. Everybody used to go to Melbourne and Adelaide and Sydney because that's where the jobs were. Then the majority of the Greeks, in Melbourne they've got about a quarter-of-a-million Greeks. In Sydney 200 000, in Adelaide 70 000. We haven't got many here.

GO'H Well what sort of numbers would be here after the war?

KAKULAS After the war there would have been about 3000 or 4000, wouldn't be more than that. Now they reckon about 30 000, but there are mixed marriages now. You can't call them Greeks, they're mixed marriages. Can't call them Greeks. A lot of them now, a lot of them. The weddings now, 75 per cent in the Greek Church are mixed marriages now.

GO'H You said after the war your business grew. When did you start to need extra storage for your goods?

KAKULAS Oh we started.... what year we started. We started about 1946. It must have been 1965 we had the warehouse at the back here, that was the time. In 1970 we sold the other shop. In 1970 we sold the 317 shop. We sold that for $4000 (it was a good shop) because we couldn't get a holiday. Now in 1958, that was my first trip after I'd been here in Australia.... 1923 up to '58 how many years is that? Thirty-eight? Yes, 38. That's our first holiday to Europe, 1958. Then the other brother went in 1961 and the other one in 1963. Then our business was getting bigger and in 1969 we sold the other shop.

GO'H So prior to getting the warehouses in the 1960s, were you still just using the back of the shop to store your products?

KAKULAS Yes, yes. And the other shop was, as I said before, 80 per cent it was Australians too. There were Australians living all here, as I said before. A lot of them. Everybody was here. After, they were the same as us: when they get married they couldn't get a place here, they haven't got the money. They used to go outside because blocks were only £5 and £10. A block in Wanneroo £10, £5 - a block. You don't have to put, like they do now, they want you to put deep sewerage, they want you to put electricity and it costs a lot of money now, but before, very cheap. And they never owned their properties. As I said before, lucky to own about six per cent, that's all, because the wages were only £4. How can you buy a house for £1. The ones who had businesses, they can afford better because they were making £10, see they were making more.

GO'H When you sold 317 William Street, who did you sell it to?

KAKULAS We sold it to an Italian.

GO'H Do you remember his name?

KAKULAS I used to remember. Next time I'm going to tell you, I'll write it down. Yes it was an Italian and he had three children and his wife. We helped him too, you know, all the things we've got down here we used to give it to them too. They done alright the first year but after they mix up with religions. One went Jehovah's Witness and they're Catholics, and the arguments comes between them. And then what's happening straight away? They start to lose the business. They used to have arguments and all this and people used to come down there for us again. And we used to help them, we did our best. Then they changed it to a second-hand shop. They had it for three or four years, they made it a second-hand shop and they did all right. Then his daughter mixed up with an Australian and didn't want them. She finished [unclear] the girl, yes.

GO'H Why did you decide to sell 317 and keep the other shop?

KAKULAS Because we wanted to be in one shop so that we would be able to have our holidays.

GO'H But why did you choose to keep.....

KAKULAS The other one was a big business. The other was a big business. It was taking thousands, the other one was. Yes, it was big business.

GO'H You said that it wasn't until the sixties that you got warehouse space for your storage.

KAKULAS In 1958 we did, or '56 when I was in corner Murray Street and George Street. Oh just a minute, George Street or Hay Street. It was Marlborough House, it was renting but we got the basement. A Greek had it. We used to bring a lot of stuff there. We used to bring a lot of stuff there. We used to bring a ton of olives. Yes, we used to rent down there. And to have a licence.... in those days you had to get a licence to import stuff. The name was Silverton, and he sold our licence to us so we were allowed to bring..... Because you were not allowed to bring stuff from the outside unless you've got a licence. Then we rent a place from him and we got the licence. We used to bring stuff there but otherwise you couldn't get them, you had to buy from them. Because he had a big official business and he was retiring. He retired and he sold them to us.

GO'H So you said you used to bring in a ton of olives. What other quantities of goods were you bringing in?

KAKULAS We used to bring a lot of oil. We used to bring containers of olive oil, 740 cases inside a container. There used to be a lot of stuff. A lot of migrants, a lot of sales, you know. A lot of Australians came to use the stuff. The Australians never used it, 20, 30 years ago, Australian people.

GO'H Were you still buying in large quantities and bottling your own produce?

KAKULAS Well yes. Oil, yes. We had our bottles, but the majority we get them in tins, packed from Europe, you know. We used to bring a lot of other things after - halva, tahini, beans, lentils, oh, a lot of other lines used to come in.

GO'H What about pastries, like filo?

KAKULAS No, no, that's only maybe 20 years ago. They brought the machine from Greece in Melbourne and Sydney. Not out here, they never used to make it out here. We used to get it from there; even today we get it from Sydney - still through an agent.

GO'H And how was your shop actually changing after the war. You were saying before the war everything had to be locked up. How were you displaying your goods after the war?

KAKULAS Well after the war it wasn't strict like, you know. Then the other shop, in 1939 we closed at six o'clock. Six o'clock we used to close, that was compulsory because it was a full grocery shop the other one. Never had fruit, It had eggs and all those things but all the shops used to close at six and open at eight. When the war came in, the war properly, 1943, or it might have been '44, something like that, the other shop we started to close down too, because we used to do a lot of big business on Sunday and Saturday afternoon because people used to come from the farms, from the country, supply from the country. They used to come weekends after we closed the other shop too. That's why when the other shop in 1939 was closing, a lot of times one of the brothers used to help there too.

GO'H Kakulas Brothers in the 1990s displays a lot of their products for people to look at when they come in. When did you start doing that?

KAKULAS When did we start doing that? It must have been about 20 years ago. Twenty years ago we started to show them, you know. A lot of things they were open then, you could sell any time.

GO'H And what was the reaction of your clients to having the food produce....?

KAKULAS Well we used to close at six o'clock too, you know. We used to close six o'clock too from 1943. Before it was the restrictions, but after then it was in the paper, you know when the government lifted it up. Even now on Sunday they can buy things but before there wasn't such a thing - one o'clock was finished. You couldn't open.

GO'H After the war when your business was getting larger, who else was working in the shops beside you and your brothers?

KAKULAS We used to have girls then. We had two or three girls working. Always three girls and a boy. Yes, we couldn't do it ourselves.

GO'H And what about in the export business - did you have other people working....

KAKULAS Well we had boys delivering - delivering and travelling. That was a good few years ago too.

GO'H And once you opened the warehouse did you have anyone working in the warehouse?

KAKULAS No, no, we were doing it.... even today we are doing it from down there. All the stuff's down there. But I left, I left in 1985, and two brothers who left, because our son came.

GO'H So in 1985 when you left, had they already started displaying all the produce openly?

KAKULAS Well yes, then my wife was sick. I came to the house to look after her. Then my son-in-law went into the business in 1985. Just a minute now - '85, 1995. I left quicker but the other two brothers are still there. My wife was sick. I think in 1985 I left.

GO'H So if I can have some details here. After the war you were still living with your mother in the family house?

KAKULAS I was living with my mother up till 1950, and I got married in 1946.

GO'H What was your wife's name?

KAKULAS Evangelia.

GO'H And her maiden name?

KAKULAS Pitsonis.

GO'H Can you tell me a little bit about her? Where was she from?

KAKULAS She was from our island and she came to Australia, I think, in 1938. Thirty-eight she came to Australia. She must have been about 12-14 years old.

GO'H And how did you meet her?

KAKULAS It was arranged marriages those days. As a matter of fact we are relations, third cousins. Third cousins in our Church you are allowed to get married but no lower than that. My grandmother was first cousin, my father second and I'm third - that was allowed. And it was through proxy. I got married in 1946.

GO'H When you say proxy....

KAKULAS Like it was arranged. You know, they do proxy - like they do it now.

GO'H You can tell me all about that. Who organised, who arranged your marriage?

KAKULAS Your relations. Your relations. I mean the custom was like this. Now you are in a country town and you know about our island, from which my wife.... [unclear] wouldn't give us [permission?] unless you've got to be from Castellorizo. So we knew the people there and they say, "Well what do you think? Can you arrange with this?" And they come to tell you, and I say, "No," I

might not like that girl. Other girls, then they say, The other one?" "Yes, that one, yes." We go out six months before an engagement, you know, then you get married. But they were strict the conditions of our islands, very strict.

GO'H Was there still a dowry?

KAKULAS Oh yes, oh yes. Compulsory. Dowry was, and [unclear]. Yes that was compulsory.

GO'H And so how much time had you spent with your wife before you married her?

KAKULAS I never spent any.

GO'H None at all. You'd not....

KAKULAS As a matter of fact they gave me £300. But I kept it in her bank book you know, £300. Then when we married, our sisters we done the same, we gave them £500. We had more money then.

GO'H Where did you and your wife get married?

KAKULAS St Constantine Helene. I was six months engaged, in July, and in January the wedding.

GO'H And when you got married it was still the custom for your wife not to work?

KAKULAS Oh yes, she never worked. She never worked. I wasn't a person to get married and put his wife to work. They reckoned that's how love is. Well, if you get married you got to have money and you have to look after your wife. A woman never used to work those days. Now they're working. They never worked. When they were girls they did work but when they got married they used to get the sack and when they were pregnant they were finished. And how are they going to look after? - they were only getting £4 a week wages and £5 but the rent was 15 shillings a week. Nobody had his own home those days like now. Now they got mansions.

Australia came good, not in our days; Australia came good after the immigration. That's when Australia came booming. And the lands went up. As I said before, £5 was a block. South Perth, 200 ft long and 66 [wide] - quarter of an acre block. Now they want hundreds of thousands of dollars. The river, nobody used to go to the river. You'd get the river for nothing because everybody was frightened of rheumatics. [laughs] Now the river costs millions.

GO'H So after your marriage, you and your wife lived with your mother. When did you buy your own home?

KAKULAS In 1950 we built here.

GO'H This is the house you are still living in in Newcastle Street.

KAKULAS Yes. We shift from there and we came here in 1950.

GO'H And you built this home yourself?

KAKULAS Yes. With three kids we lived there.

GO'H So if I could have the names of your three children?

KAKULAS The oldest is a girl, Rose, the other one is Marina, and the young one is Evan.

GO'H And of your three children, Evan I know works in Kakulas Brothers. What about the girls, did they ever work there?

KAKULAS Yes. Both of them they used to go to the convent here, St Brigid's Convent School and they got Leaving both of them. Very smart. Both of them got a job at the bank, National Bank in William Street because we used to deal there. The other one married early. The oldest, Rose, married [Theo Fermanis] when she was about 19 years old. The other one [Marina] worked about 10 years at the bank and then she got married [to John Athanasiou] and she worked for a few months and then she left.

GO'H And when they were children did any of your children work in the shop?

KAKULAS [Yes on Saturdays and school holidays]

GO'H So how old was Evan when he started working for Kakulas Brothers?

KAKULAS Evan went to university and he finished as a lawyer. [My son-in-law had a practice - and put Evan in] Ferrier Athanasiou & Kakulas. When did he get his degree? Say if he was 25 years old - 1975 I think he got his degree. That's his degree there isn't it? Or I gave it to him.

My mother during the war wouldn't let our sisters come to the shop and work. One of them was about 17 years old, 18 years old - she wouldn't let her work. We had to work hard ourselves. And the other one was born in 1927, the other one was about 13. And my father died in 1936.

GO'H So what about your brothers - did your brothers marry?

KAKULAS Yes they did get married. Mick got married about three years after me.

GO'H What was his wife's name?

KAKULAS Despol[?] A girl he brought from America. That was proxy too. We knew the family from our island. Because in our island they are looking for families. I don't know - they do the same here don't they?

GO'H Yes I think so.

KAKULAS They do it everywhere, worldwide. In our island they had families too, classes - they're not all the same. And my mother knew the family well. It was a good family from Castellorizo and they sent a photo from America. Then she came from America to here and they live here after. My brother's wife died in the last two years. She was about 70.

GO'H What were the names of Michael's children?

KAKULAS Oh the children. One of them is Evan (in Greek it is Evangelos). The first child boy has got to go to my father's name and he was Evangelos. He's got Evan (Evangelos but Evan they call him) and then he had a daughter named Rose and he had another daughter named Maria. That's the family he had. The other brother George, the young one, he had Evan, then he had Rose, he had George, and another daughter, Elenie.

GO'H So all three of you, your first son is Evan and your first daughter is Rose?

KAKULAS Yes. Our custom is the first child, if it's a boy or girl, it goes to my parents' names. So my mother was Rose and my father was Evangelos and those two children.... The next one, my mother-in-law was Marina and the next one, if I had another boy would have been my wife's father. The first ones - if I had two girls, I get the first one and my wife gets the second girl. And that goes for generations and generations. That's why the three brothers we've got Rose and we've got Evan. And if you don't put in the middle my name you wouldn't know who it is. You've got to say Evan Steve Kakulas (my name is Stavros) Steve Kakulas. If I don't put my father's name.... or Evan, if he doesn't say Evan Kakulas - "Which Evan?" they say. "Steve's Evan." And if he has a child, a boy, he's going to put my name. It goes from generation to generations.

GO'H So Michael's children, did any of them work in Kakulas Brothers?

KAKULAS No, no. She works at the bank, the other one works at insurance (the girl), and the son is at the stock exchange.

GO'H And what about George's children did any of them work?

KAKULAS He's a dentist, a specialist. He went to America, got a lot of degrees for surgery. He's one of the tops in WA. And the second one, an

accountant is in the shop now. He's in the shop now when his father retires. And the other girl, she was at the university but now she opened a shop in Fremantle, Elenie. In Fremantle she's got a shop. She opened it about two years ago. She used to work at the shop.

GO'H We'll finish there today and organise another time to talk about this some more.

KAKULAS Is this finished?

GO'H For today.

END OF TAPE FOUR SIDE B

A further interview with Mr Stavros Kakulas recorded on 12th August 1997.

GO'H In the last interview you told me that you retired in 1975[1]. Did you stop working altogether?

KAKULAS Well my wife was sick and I was there all the time, you know, because a sickness, scleroderma, and she had to be [unclear]. But after that I go every day up till Friday from ten o'clock to one o'clock, quarter-past-one.

GO'H What do you do there?

KAKULAS Well I don't do heavy jobs, just cleaning up or putting some oil [in bottles?] or packing a few things and meet the people.

GO'H Do you still serve customers?

KAKULAS Well I don't serve them now because I'm not in the front. I was always at the back and I don't know the prices. The other brother from the other shop, Michael he's in the front and he knows the prices. He's two-and-a-half years younger than me.

GO'H Do you recognise any faces that have been coming for a long time?

KAKULAS Well I recognise a lot of people. Yes I recognise a lot of people that have been coming 30 or 40 years in our shop from a long distance - Kalamunda, Bickley Valley, all over there. We have customers right round in the country, everywhere.

GO'H When you retired, who took over the business?

KAKULAS My son-in-law, John. He was there for five or six years, and then Evan came and John went back to the practice.

GO'H Evan your son?

KAKULAS My son came in. They were partners too, but he was in the law practice and John was at the shop five years I think. Then when we left and the other brother tell him, "We have to go now." We were about 75, 76, that's enough. The other brother, I left in July and he left in December. Then John went back to the law practice and Evan came. Yes, that was about seven years when Evan came to the business.

GO'H That's Evan your son?

KAKULAS Yes.

GO'H So what about George and Michael - when did they stop working?

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[1] Corrected to 1985 by Mr Kakulas by earlier reference, page 70.

KAKULAS Well I stopped in July and Michael finished in December.

GO'H 1975?

KAKULAS Seventy-five, '76 about there.

GO'H And what about George?

KAKULAS George, he was still going. He was still going up to 1995 and then he left. He said, "I've had enough."

GO'H So do the three brothers - you and your two brothers - do you still go in today?

KAKULAS No, no, only me and [Michael]. George left in '95, two years ago - he doesn't come there. He doesn't want to. But me and Michael we do go every day just about, unless I got somewhere else to go - anything important then I don't have to go. When I had the flu I never went for four weeks.

GO'H You told me earlier that the shop used to be just one shop and it's now three shops.

KAKULAS Yes. There was three shops and then they took the walls from the middle and they made it one big shop. But originally there was three shops there and we only had one shop. The one next door was fish and chips and the other one was a chemist, and then when they left we took it over, we took the one on the right. The other was still on and then he finished (he was a fish and chips shop) and then we took the whole three. The boys when we came in they make it bigger.

GO'H This is the next generation?

KAKULAS Yes they pulled the walls. We only had the two shops: one was a [unclear] and the other one a [unclear].

GO'H When did you get the second shop?

KAKULAS Well the fellow who was next door he went bankrupt, some Italian migrant, and we took that over then. Oh must be 20-30 years, easy.

GO'H And looking at the shop now, how different do you think it is from when you started?

KAKULAS When we started it was a more friendly shop. We knew everybody and it was a small shop and we used to serve. Now they've made it bigger and different, you know, and you don't know the people now. They're only customers, you know. Before we used to supply all Wanneroo and all York - Albanians and

Macedonians. We were the only ones with the continental and they all used to buy from us. Ninety percent Italians too. A lot of Italians [bought] from us. We had Italians, Slavs, Albanians, Greeks, because they used to work at the bush, they used to be farming.

GO'H And now how many of your customers would be from Europe?

KAKULAS Well now they changed that. Before we never had those mixed fruit and nuts and all these different kinds of coffee. Now they've changed it. We had a lot of Australian goods like Persil, Rinso, soaps. All those lines they took them out and they put every dry fruit there is on the market and nuts; they've got it different now. But they still keep link fish, they still keep the white cheese[?] and olives and all those. They still keep the beans, they still keep that line, they do. They still get the Greeks and Italians, you know. But the Australian people, they eat everything now so it doesn't make any difference.

GO'H How did you feel with the next generation of Kakulases taking over the business that your father had started?

KAKULAS Well they're not as good as us. No, they're not as good as us. They're different, they're brought up different, a different generation. They're not like the old people. The other day a fellow said, "You recognise me?" "Yes." So he must be about 75 now and some people used to come 40 years to the shop.

GO'H Does the next generation listen to advice that you or your brothers give?

KAKULAS We do tell them but they do their own thing. They're educated and they think because they've got degrees they're more smart, you know. But they don't run the business as we used to.

GO'H Can you think of some of the main changes that have been made?

KAKULAS Well their wholesale has got very big, three times more than what ours was. We didn't chase it - we had enough in the shop you know. We were busy, the shop was packed all the time, very busy. And we never had much staff. We only had about three girls and two boys, that's all - and the three brothers.

GO'H And how many staff do they have now?

KAKULAS Oh they've got more now. The shop is bigger. And not only that, we used to serve the people but they don't serve them now. Self-service they've got. People go and do the work themselves. We never used to do that, we used to serve them. That's why we had better service than them because we look after them. We know how you're going to handle the anchovies, how are you going to get them out. But the Australians - what do they know about those things. You tell them what to do but they still they haven't got the experience that we've got, and they never will get it if they've been there 100 years because we're born with it.

GO'H And do you think another generation of Kakulases will take over after them?

KAKULAS I doubt it, I doubt it. Northbridge is getting bigger and bigger every day and the population of Perth is getting bigger and bigger, and they have to get out somewhere. They can't stop in there. It's like say in 10-20 years time population will increase a lot, a lot. When I came in 1923 Perth was 92 years old - that's what it was. And in 1929 was the Centenary. It was a young country, wasn't it? The whole population was only about, not quite 400 000 and Perth was about 150 000. Now Perth is over one million. It took them a hundred years to reach that small population but now in twenty years they can double the population here because they've got to increase 40 000 a year with immigration. In another ten years that's half a million. So trucks, they won't be able to get into that shop we've got in William Street. It's like in Hay Street and Murray Street - you never see big trucks there. And the land will be that valuable it won't pay to sell groceries; you got to sell richer things than that - clothing or jewellery or something.

GO'H With more profit?

KAKULAS Well rents will be high. They're high already. They start now putting them up, rates and taxes.

GO'H You told me before that in 1939 you'd invested money in real estate around Northbridge and had about six houses that you were renting out.

KAKULAS You're not going to put that in there are you?

GO'H You told me that another time. You mentioned that on another interview. I was just wondering what happened to the houses?

KAKULAS Oh we sold them all because we had twelve houses opposite Brisbane and Wunderlich, down in Lord Street.

GO'H Brisbane and Wunderlich?

KAKULAS Yes. Four in Harris Street, four in Bright Street and four in Newcastle Street. Then a company, I think it's Coventry Motors, they bought the land to build their warehouse and factories, but the government in 1963 they put on the paper that all this resumption. Lucky we sold it, very lucky we sold it and then up to now they weren't allowed to build anything. Now it's going to go through because they knew 30 years ago and they kept it for the underground [tunnel]. And also on the other places, well, we did make a profit. The house we bought in Moir Street for £500 we sold for £3000. We never lost because the rent was £1.15s. We could invest our money we were getting twice more than what we had in properties but we never knew that [tunnel] was going to come. We never knew that. If we knew we wouldn't sell them. The house we sold in Moir Street for £3000, it was in the paper two weeks ago $245 000, the same house.

GO'H When did you sell the house for £3000?

KAKULAS Oh we sold it in [1950], I think around there. Oh yes, things have changed a lot now.

GO'H When you had lots of rental properties, you were telling me there were lots of Greeks living in the area and other Europeans.

KAKULAS Well, there was only about a couple of Greeks living in our houses; the majority was Australians because the Greek people there they were all trying to get their own homes. You know their dream is to get a home. We never had many. We might have had about four or five [Greek tenants]. But how many houses we had either, about twelve or fifteen. [unclear] those twelve, well we sold them in a year's time.

GO'H How many Greek people are left living in Northbridge like yourself?

KAKULAS Oh not many, not many. Very few families, very few families. We had about 500 people living around here - Lake Street, Moir Street, up to Charles Street, not further than that to be near the Greek Church. In Pier Street we had a lot, James Street - just about 90 per cent were Greeks down there. Pier Street, down there. In Stirling Street there wasn't any houses those days, only our club was there, and it's still there.

GO'H So other than yourself, are there any other older Greek migrants still living in Northbridge?

KAKULAS In Northbridge, no. The only ones living in Northbridge is Katsantonis in Aberdeen Street, Michael, myself, not many others.

GO'H Michael still lives in Northbridge?

KAKULAS My brother, the other house.

GO'H Oh that's right you showed me the other day how your backyards used to face onto each other.

KAKULAS Yes, yes, that's right, yes. Not many others - they're all out. Because the children when they got married they can't afford to buy a block of land in the city at £500. But in South Perth there used to be blocks there in Como for £15 a block 200 ft by 65 ft (quarter of an acre). That was a long time ago, about 1960. They were cheap then, very cheap.

GO'H Why did you stay in Northbridge?

KAKULAS Because I had a business down there and also the Greek Church. We had two shops - we another one 317. That's why we stayed here.

GO'H Even after you retired?

KAKULAS But in 1970 I did buy a house in [Floreat Park]. We bought a house (my wife) in Glengariff Drive, and when we bought it it was very good, 35 squares, a very big one. Because the daughter was living in City Beach they said, "Come to City Beach, come to City Beach." And we bought it and my wife didn't want to go in. She didn't want to go in. She got used to here and we rented it for two years. We never done any good - we used to get $50 a week and they wanted repairs, they wanted this, they wanted to change..... Then a place in the same street about a month ago was sold $790 000. That's how much they're worth. But who knows those things? We sold it for $45 000. We bought it for that and we sold it for that. We haven't lost anything.

GO'H One other question I had about the business - has there ever been any outside people, people outside the family, managing or running the business ever?

KAKULAS No, no. No, my brothers were all together, up to now. The property is owned by the three brothers. All our properties.

GO'H You also told me that you built this house that you're living in in 1950.

KAKULAS Yes, 1948 we started, finish in 1950.

GO'H Can you talk a little bit more about that. What was here before the house was built?

KAKULAS It was a vacant block. Next door we had two factories and then my mother said, "You better build around here and then you can be near the church." We owned that block and I built here; in 1948 we started and finished in 1950. Before we used to live in Aberdeen Street for 11 years with my mother.

GO'H Your mother had moved from Moir Street had she?

KAKULAS Yes but in 1939 we shifted to 124 Aberdeen Street. Our family house was there - that's where all the family was, three boys and two girls. Then when I got married I stopped in that house for four years and I had three children in there, in the other house, because it was the war and no buildings were going up and you couldn't get a house. We had houses but you couldn't get them out; it was a government Act and you couldn't put them [tenants] out. So we built this, they gave us a permit to build. You had to get a permit, they wouldn't give it you. Because during the war they never done much work, you see, all the soldiers were away. But after that, immigration opened.

GO'H So with this house did you design it yourself or did you know what it was going to look like?

KAKULAS No we had an architect, Krantz and Sheldon. Krantz is still alive, he is 93, still alive. Yes I met him not long ago. It's a well-built house this.

GO'H And who actually did the building?

KAKULAS A Slav. I forget his name now.

GO'H You're doing very well with names.

KAKULAS Bosich. Bosich. A Slav, yes. And the contract was £2400.

GO'H For the whole house? Why did it take two years to build?

KAKULAS Because of the war there was no bricks, no tiles. We had to wait a year to give us the bricks. And they're only allowed to do 12½ squares but I had more than that - I took the risk. It's about 16 square and I had stone foundations. It's a well built house. Then we had to wait for the tiles, six/seven months. Had to wait two-and-a-half years to build this house. We started in 1948 and finished in 1950. We had three children when I was there - two girls and a boy there - and my mother and the rest of the family. Then the other brother got married and he was stopping there too and he had a child, Rose. He stopped there too because we couldn't get a permit, or [evict] anybody from our properties. Then, the eldest, I got out. Michael was still there with my mother. My mother died in 1960 and I was married in 1946. Mick must have got married in 1948 or '49.

GO'H You had all these rental properties, you said you needed a permit to get rid of them from....

KAKULAS Well I couldn't live there. They wasn't good properties, they were semi-detached. I couldn't live in a semi-detached. I had to build or I had to buy something else. There is some in Palmerston Street but they were too far so we decided to build on the block that we had here. Next door was a wood yard selling wood because those days there was no gas, very few. We used to buy five ton of wood, banksia, for 25 shillings. That's what we used in Moir Street and here in Aberdeen Street - wood stoves. Not much gas they used to use, not much gas - wood. We used to chop the wood in the morning, you know, and my mother used to light the fire every day. We've still got the stoves in there.

GO'H What was Newcastle Street like when you first started living here?

KAKULAS Well first of all there was houses next door to me. From here to the corner were another four houses, from here another four houses, opposite another ten houses, and around on Palmerston there were all Greek people living there. I wasn't lonely, all the Greeks.

GO'H What about traffic was there much traffic in the fifties?

KAKULAS No, only horse and cart those days. No traffic those days.

GO'H In the fifties?

KAKULAS Yes. Oh yes. The beer, Swan Brewery, was [delivered] by horses. They used to bring it, two horses [unclear]. There wasn't many trucks those days.

GO'H What about cars along Newcastle Street?

KAKULAS There wasn't many cars in those days. In the Greek community up to 1941 must have been about not more than 10 people had cars, ten or fifteen people. In Australia the same. There wasn't many cars over here. And they were cheap too. When we bought a car in 1941 it was only £350. And the Vauxhall was £220. Not many had cars.

GO'H And did you use your vehicles in your business?

KAKULAS No, no, no. In 1941 we had it and we used to go in the family you know. My mother we used to go to all the family because one of the shops was opening on Sunday too - number 185. Up till 1943 it opened seven days but after the war we closed it, made it a full grocery line.

GO'H How did you feel moving into this house and having the house all to yourself after living with so many people in your mother's home?

KAKULAS Well, everybody wants to be on his own when they get married. The girls the most. With me it's different, your mother is different, but for the other girls it is not their mother. They're not like now. Before a lot of people used to live with their mothers but now they've changed, as soon as they can they live together now - it's finished. It's a thing of the past. Now everybody as soon as they get married they got to get out. Would you live with your mother when you get married?

GO'H Would I?

KAKULAS Yes.

GO'H [laughs] I'm not quite sure, I don't think so.

KAKULAS And when you got children too. But things were different those days. In our island it was compulsory to live with your mother-in-law to learn the customs, the way they lived too. They never had divorces in our country - no divorces, no such thing. The Church wouldn't give it to them.

GO'H I was wondering if you could talk a little bit more about that. We've mentioned a few of the customs that the Greek community brought to Australia, are there any that you can think of that now young people don't do these days but were very much part of your growing up?

KAKULAS Well the first generation, they're different to us. They're more going to the Australian customs. Now our Greek girls and boys, they leave their homes now, they go on their own too. Because very big freedom now with the girls and with the boys. They want to stand on their own feet. And also they can bring their girlfriends but those days they couldn't bring it into the house where your mother is. The Greeks were very strict those days.

GO'H So how did you feel for example when your niece, Elenie, started working in the shop? That wouldn't have been done in your sisters' time.

KAKULAS [This is 50 years later]. She went and opened a place in Fremantle and used that name. She's doing all right too.

GO'H How did her father feel or you feel about a girl actually working in the shop that was your daughter or niece?

KAKULAS Well now everybody works. When we had my mother, it was different they weren't allowed to work. But when I got married and my daughter was 18 or she left school, my mother said, "They're not going to go to university. No they've got to go and learn cooking and sewing, you know. They got their Leaving and they went to work. My daughter straightaway went to work, wouldn't stop, the eldest. She got a job at the National Bank. She didn't work very long, a couple of years I think. She got married, she got a boy. They had business in the city and they wasn't allowed to work those days. She never worked at all after she got married - even up till now.

END OF TAPE FIVE SIDE A

GO'H Can you remember how you felt when your daughters started taking on the new ways, like going to work. Did you fight them about it?

KAKULAS Well those days they started because during the war they forced the women to work. Before the war when they were married they used to lose their jobs - or pregnant, they used to give them sack. The government, everywhere. But during the war the Australians went overseas and they were needed. They had to work in the factories. They had to supply the American army that were here and send a lot of food to England, because the boats sending from here, a lot them they didn't reach there; they were sunk by the Germans. That's why everybody worked. There was nobody out of work. Well, my sisters, because my mother had asthma.... but the other ones they never worked.

GO'H What about special days in the Greek calendar that were celebrated in the early years. Can you talk a bit about that?

KAKULAS Well our biggest day is Easter. Easter when it comes, forty days before Easter our Lent starts. They do the whole lot forty days - and the Lent is not like the Australians, it's vegan, all vegan. The only thing you were allowed to eat was crabs, prawns, octopus, squid, you're allowed to eat all those. Crayfish you're allowed to eat all those, but meat, egg, milk all those you're not allowed to touch any of. In those days crayfish were cheap. They were about that size for about 5lb/6lb for 2 shillings. And they used to do them fried, they used to do them as curry. Not like now, that crayfish would cost $200 now, those big ones. Oysters you were allowed to eat and mussels - things that haven't got blood, I think.

GO'H So apart from fasting and eating vegetarian, what else would the Greek community do at Easter time?

KAKULAS Well they do their own different cooking, you know, like cakes, they do different things. Eggs, they avoid[?] eggs you know. They make koulouria we call, you know, pastry. That's for Easter. Before Easter you don't do that because you're not allowed to eat butter or anything like that, only olive oil. You use olive oil. And then when Easter came that was the fashion, everybody dressed up. Had to get new dresses and new things.

GO'H And would you spend any time together?

KAKULAS Yes, Easter, even today we go to our relations to say just Christos Anesti.

GO'H That's Happy Easter?

KAKULAS Yes Happy Easter. We still go. And on the Saturday our services start in the night time: eleven o'clock and it finishes at half-past-two, two o'clock. Then we have our dinner. In the evening everybody had roast lamb in the oven, everybody. But in the afternoon the men go to the houses, in the afternoon. From eleven, we have about 22 houses to go, me and my brothers: niece and sisters

and brothers, there are 22. They because they come to us and we go to them, you know. Not for very long - say Christos Anesti, you know, and stop a few minutes. In five hours you go to about 20 houses; we still do it.

GO'H Anything else at Easter time?

KAKULAS Well, they have dances together. The majority have their dinner together home. We haven't got Christmas like you have. We've got Easter as the main religious day for us. Christmas comes second. And then our name days, we have parties on our name days, like Saint Michael and Saint George. That's why we all got Christian names, we haven't got ancient Greek names.

GO'H What would you do to celebrate your name day?

KAKULAS We have about 50-60 people here every year. Mine is the 14th September; Michael is 8th November. [unclear]. But the young generation coming up they're the ones that broke it, they couldn't be bothered. They [unclear] now, they've done that.

GO'H Would you have a name day celebration when you were a little boy, when you first came here?

KAKULAS Only the birthdays, only birthdays. And the name day, as I said. Name days, they have visitors in the day time - about one or two weeks it used to last those days because there was no motor cars. And then you paid back to their name days too. They had communication between one family and the other through the name days. But the women never had name days[birthdays?]. My mother never celebrated birthdays, only the name days. And all the Greek names, the Christian names, Michael or George.....

GO'H Saints' names.

KAKULAS ..... all belongs to the church. Our christening you are not allowed to put ancient Greek names, Socrates and [unclear]. You can put them as second name but the priest wouldn't do it for a christening; it's got to be a Christian name.

GO'H On your name day would you receive gifts?

KAKULAS On the name day, well we tell them when we are going to have it. We tell them we're going to have it Saturday night or Sunday night, and we prepare. We'd have about 50 people here and the wives have to work very hard and the girls are all helping.

GO'H What sort of food would they serve?

KAKULAS Oh, chicken, ham, crayfish - big dinners - olives, anchovies, cheese.... not what they've got now, barbecue. A lot of cooking. Fried fish,

crayfish, a lot of fish. Beer and cool drinks. Then at ten o'clock all the sweets and cup of tea. Very big - you finish about twelve/half-past-twelve, a big day.

GO'H And would the visitors bring gifts for the person's name day?

KAKULAS Yes, they bring a box of chocolate or they might bring a drink, and then the same when you go to them, you do the same thing. You bring and they bring. Before they never used to do that years and years in our island, no, but in Australia they do now. They don't go anywhere empty[-handed?] now.

GO'H But that wasn't traditional?

KAKULAS No not in Greece, wasn't in our island. No we used to go to the name days but we never used to give the parties we are giving now because Castellorizo in the island there wasn't a big homes there like here, with backyards. It was a home two-storeys, two or three rooms, and they had big families those days - eight, nine and ten. My mother had a small family, only five. She had three boys and two girls because my father was away five years in Brazilia. He left in 1913 and there was only two boys with my mother. Then in 1918 when the war finished the First World War he came back and then he had George and one daughter. Then he came to Australia and we had another one here, five years after. But if they were together, say he didn't go away, they would have had a lot of children because they never believed in abortion; you got to take what God gives you. That's why one of my aunties and uncle got fifteen: eight boys and five girls. In Lake Street they used to be. Because as I said before, my grandfather was a priest, very strict, no abortion.

GO'H Can you think of any other special occasions that would be celebrated?

KAKULAS Only the weddings, the weddings was a very big festival. The wedding was a very big one. Big parties about half-a-dozen. Very big parties. When you first say to the girl, "All right, I'm willing," then they have an engagement. Before they had an engagement the bride should go to the house and have a party and you invite them after to have parties. A lot of parties they have. Then all relations, before they get married, they invite them to a house party, like my brother invites me and her mother and her father and myself, you know. There's a lot of parties on the weddings. Very big celebrations.

GO'H Can you tell me a little bit about your own wedding, what that was like? What actually happened at your church?

KAKULAS Well my wedding we got married by proxy. They come and tell you, they send somebody, say my daughter for your son. You don't go out to them but you know the family and that's how they do it. That's how mine was done - everybody just about.

GO'H And what about the ceremony, the marriage ceremony?

KAKULAS The marriage? Well you go to the church. First you have the engagement and the priest comes. Then you have the marriage after six months, five months. The engagement comes first and that's a party. The girls do that and the men do the party of the wedding, they pay. The opposite with the Australians.

GO'H And what about the actual ceremony at the church when you got married, was that a big ceremony?

KAKULAS Well my wedding was at the Embassy [Ballroom]. We invited 450 people just about, 450 people. That's a very big wedding and they're all people bringing presents. When the church finishes in the afternoon at 2.00 o'clock, 3.00 o'clock, 6.00 o'clock at the reception. Now they're doing it at the hotels. Even when my son got married we had 300 people. Even my daughter, the first one, had more than 350. Yes but before we had big weddings, we were very close, but not now - now they come down to 150, 200. Evan's was 300.

GO'H When you said the ceremony was at the Embassy. What Embassy is that?

KAKULAS Oh that was very - they can't do it now - very high class. They serve fish, curried rice, steak and kidney, they had crayfish and then they had the main dinner, roast turkey, olives, this and that. Oh, a big [unclear]. At ten o'clock they had a very big supper up there.

GO'H Where was the Embassy?

KAKULAS The Embassy corner of William Street and the Esplanade. It was one of the biggest halls, the best in WA. There was a dance hall and it had [unclear] inside, you know, like small [cubicles where you sat around]. They never used to do weddings but after they let two or three people, then everybody used to do their wedding there, everybody. Some weddings there used to be 600 people. We had weddings 600, 700, because the family were very close together - you had to invite the whole people. We knew them, we knew one another.

GO'H And what did you wear when you got married?

KAKULAS Oh the evening, you see them.

GO'H An evening suit, dinner jacket.

KAKULAS Yes, evening. Like that. My wedding's there.

GO'H And what sort of dress did your wife wear? [break in recording] You've just shown me the wedding photo that was taken of your wedding and your wife is wearing a very long white dress and you're wearing a dinner suit, and you've got eight bridesmaids.

KAKULAS They're all relations.

GO'H Plus a little flower girl.

KAKULAS Yes.

GO'H And then groomsmen as well.

KAKULAS Yes. Parents and all the family. Yes very big weddings.

GO'H What about other celebrations within the Greek community. What about the feast day perhaps of the name of the church?

KAKULAS Well we have a lot of dances, a lot of concerts at the Greek Hall, we have to. All the time, once a month. And national days 25th March, and then 28th October when they invade Greece by the Italians in 1940. We had our national day 25th March, that's when Greece had a war against Turkey in 1821, we celebrated that. Then the other one was the Second World War, when Mussolini attacked Greece, that's 28th October. And always have dinners to build the churches, [fund raising[. All the time there is something.

GO'H And the church - do you celebrate St Helene's Feast Day?

KAKULAS We celebrate our church in St Constantine Helene. That's 21st May. They have a big [lunch] at the hall and you pay for it, $15.

GO'H When you first came to Perth how would you celebrate that day?

KAKULAS When we came to Perth we never celebrated those days. We never had a church those days.

GO'H I meant after the church was built.

KAKULAS After the church was built, that was about 1936. The customs we got would still be done the same, they never change. And the church, the same as it was before - it's still the same, it hasn't changed. We're collecting money now to build another church and that's why they have a lot of dinners at the club, in our societies. They're still doing something, but not like before, because before we never had a church, and to build a church wasn't easy. The wages were only £4 a week and £3 a week. They used to have the service in a hall, and those people that used to come to the church, they only used to throw thruppence on the trays, thruppence and sixpence. The priest was only getting £3.10s.

GO'H You've talked about the Church and how important it was and is to your family. Can you just talk a little bit more about that - the role that your family has had in the Orthodox Church?

KAKULAS Well the role they played in the church, my brothers Michael and George, they were chanters from 1929. They were singing at the church, helping the church without getting paid. And then the other brother went in in 1938 and they still sing up till now. Up till now they are still the chanters of the Greek Church.

GO'H Could you explain to me what that term chanters means, what they do?

KAKULAS Well the priest is conducting the service and you've got the choir. Chanters I think you call them here.

GO'H Yes, chanters.

KAKULAS Yes well they've got the priest in there and the chanters are separate outside. They're not like the English Church where you all sing together. We don't; the priest and the chanters they do the service.

GO'H And in the service are the men and women sitting together?

KAKULAS Well the women on that side and men on the other side. They never used to be together but now they start to.... you've got to be separate when you go to the church. It's the same hall but it's divided: on the left side is the women and on the right is the men. Up to now, even now.

GO'H Any other involvement that your family had in the Church?

KAKULAS No. The only involvement, I was a treasurer and committee man for 27 years. I was the treasurer for 12 years in the Greek Community and I was the secretary and the treasurer another 7 years in Hellenic Association of WA.

GO'H You joined in 1936.

KAKULAS That's where the club is now still. I've been in that committee there and the [church] committee.... working to build a church and a school. The Hellenic Association and the Greek Community, both of them.

GO'H I noticed that you and both your brothers were awarded Ecumenical Patriarch Gold Cross of Mt Athos - is that right?

KAKULAS Yes the three of us. What you call it?

GO'H I might be mispronouncing it. The Ecumenical....

KAKULAS Ecumenical Patriarch Gold Cross.

GO'H Of Mt Athos.

KAKULAS Yes their place is in Constantinople. It's in Turkey, Istanbul, that's where they are.

GO'H What is it?

KAKULAS Not us but the Patriarch, that's where it stops. That was a Greek place years and years ago, a thousand years ago, but the Turks took it over and the Patriarch is still there and the Turks don't want him to be there but he's got to be there. Like the Pope is in Rome, doesn't go to New York - well our Patriarch is there 2000 years, never shifted yet.

GO'H And what does that award mean?

KAKULAS [The Patriach] It means it's the head of the whole of Australia, America and Korea, India - a lot of those places. Because we got four Patriarchs: we've got one in Jerusalem, one in Egypt, one in Abyssinia, and the leading one is the one in Istanbul, Constantinople, Turkey. Four Patriarchs we've got for the whole world. In Australia we're under the Patriarch of Constantinople, Istanbul, but the ones in Egypt they're from Alexandria, or Jerusalem, they've got a Patriarch there too.

GO'H What sort of things do you have to do to be awarded that?

KAKULAS What?

GO'H To get the Gold Cross?

KAKULAS Oh we gave 10 acres of land in Forrestfield and they built a monastery of St John of Mountain - it's still there now. The monastery is built 1975, something like that. That's why they gave us that. And also we donated a lot of money in the same churches too, to open the church. My mother put the foundation stone in the other church in Carr Street.

GO'H She laid the foundation stone there?

KAKULAS Yes and my father. There was an auction and our [bid] was $1500 I think it was, the highest, and I put my father's name on the foundation stone. My mother previously she paid £500 in 1955 and she got the golden key to open the church. That money goes to the Archdiocese, so we've done a lot of work for the Church.

GO'H How did you feel when you were told that you were going to receive the Gold Cross?

KAKULAS Well they told us and the celebration was done at St Constantine Helene on 21st May 1972, I think. And he gave it to us in the church.

GO'H What about the other committees that you've been associated with?

KAKULAS Yes, I'm life member on the Hellenic Association of WA, I'm in the Hellenic Community, and the Hellenic Association, a life honorary member. The Pensioners' League, I'm a member there, and the Castellorizian Association, a life member.

GO'H So to be awarded life membership usually means for exceptional service.

KAKULAS Oh yes you don't give to everybody, for foundation members. Yes, you got to do something for it. That's in Greek, you don't understand it.

GO'H No, it looks like Greek to me.

KAKULAS Yes, 'Stavros Kakulas for all the work that you've done for the Castellorizian Association, we declare you honorary life member'.

GO'H Do you still keep working with all these associations?

KAKULAS Well I'm not in the committees but I'm still into it. I've done 27 years and as a matter of fact we were doing concerts in 1930 collecting money, and in 1935 we started to build our church, and in 1936 I was on the committee of the Hellenic Association and I used to give £100 a year for the church. Then in 1941 I went in the committee of the church and I was in both committees. Every year we had elections and I never lost once. I resigned in 1958 when I was in Greece.

END OF TAPE FIVE SIDE B

GO'H When you returned to Greece, how long had it been since you had been there?

KAKULAS Well I went to Greece in 1958 - 13th January up to 1st November. We stopped nearly ten months with my wife. Went to Greece for the first time on a trip in 1958. We went to our island Castellorizo where we were born. We stopped there six weeks and then we went to Athens and also we went to Jerusalem for Easter. We have a lot of photos of those too, because there is another Patriarch there. My mother had correspondence with him and they gave me a lot of good positions to see the service of the church. (I'll show you after).

GO'H Yes you showed me the photo where they gave you a special ledge so that you could see above everyone else.

KAKULAS Yes, we went there for Easter. Then in the Jordan River, we swim there because you had to swim when you go there. We saw 15 days there and then we came back on the boat to Rhodes Island. We stopped two weeks there. Then we went to Castellorizo and we stopped another six weeks down there and then we went back to Athens and we stopped up till 13th October. We got the boat from Naples, the *Oronsay,* and came back to Australia. It's one of the longest trips I had in my life. That's the first trip I done in Europe. Nearly ten months.

GO'H You were twelve when you left your island and it had been....

KAKULAS I was 48 when I went to Greece, 48 years old.

GO'H About 36 years since you'd been [to Greece].

KAKULAS No, 38 years. I came in 1923 and the first trip was in 1958. That's about 38 years.

GO'H What was your first reaction to seeing the island again?

KAKULAS Well when I left the island there was about 8000 people; when I went back there was only 500 people. The place was destroyed, all the homes were destroyed by the Germans when they took us - aeroplanes. There was no defence there. And when you see the places you cry, you know. Those two-storeys - there is none there now, very few. And then they had an earthquake in 1926 and that spoiled a few homes too.

GO'H Was there anything familiar to you?

KAKULAS Well our house is still there, and our school that we used to go. My education was there, not in Australia. Australia I didn't go to school, only for six months I went to.... about a year that's all I went, and I never learnt much because I didn't understand what the teacher was saying. And instead of stopping there longer, they took me out. Because I came to Australia with my father and I was 12½ years old. And the work that we were doing, selling fruit and fish, and we got enough

money and the end of 1926 we brought the rest of the family - two boys and a girl and my mother.

GO'H So how did you feel when you set foot back on your island again?

KAKULAS Oh well you feel something like a holy place where you born, you know. But when I left in 1923, in my class there was about 70 boys. In the school must have been about 500 boys, and at the other side the girls must have been the same. And now when I went there was only about 10. How you feel? You say what the wars bring to some people and how they've destroyed some of them. Some of them go up and some of them go down. Our island did go down - it was the end of it. Beautiful homes and nothing there now. You never see the homes now. I will show you the photos.

GO'H Have you ever taken out Australian citizenship?

KAKULAS Yes, yes. I took it in 1946, Australian citizenship.

GO'H Why did you do that?

KAKULAS Well I had to do that because there were certain conditions those days. You couldn't buy a hotel, certain things you're not allowed to do unless you were naturalised. You can't get the pension, you can't get a lot of things, and that's why we got naturalised in 1946.

GO'H All your family?

KAKULAS No, it was myself, not my mother. My mother wasn't naturalised. My brothers, they done themselves after. Then my wife, when I got married she came in because she was born in our island too, she was from our island. As a matter of fact we are third cousins. Just allowed to do it by the Greek Church. If you were second cousins the Church wouldn't do the service for you. So we were out just enough, third cousins.

GO'H In 1946 when you became an Australian citizen, what did you have to do to become a citizen?

KAKULAS Yes you go to the Commonwealth Bank, you had to go and take the oath to the Queen of England that you're going to protect them and you're going to forget your own country, you know. I mean, when naturalised you've got the responsibility. That's why they took you into the army. The ones that weren't naturalised.... they never took me to the army, but they did take me after because Greece was with the Allies and the government up there gave permission to conscript them, [laughs] yes.

GO'H Before you had the ceremony, what sort of application or interviews did you have to have to become a citizen?

KAKULAS No, no. They used to ask you, "Why don't you be naturalised? What aren't you naturalised?" Because when you get naturalised you get a lot of the benefits here but also you're not recognised in Greece. When I go to Greece I got to go and report and I got to notify every..... they won't give me more than three months.

GO'H Because you had to give up your Greek citizenship?

KAKULAS Well, I haven't got Greek citizenship, I'm only the Australian - English. As a matter of fact my passport is British it was. Now they changed it to Australian; before it was British, my passport. British, I've got it there. But years after they changed it. You've got to have Australian passport and I had Australian passport.

GO'H How did you feel giving up your Greek citizenship?

KAKULAS Well you don't feel it. It's not a nice a thing, it's not a nice thing because you take the oath that you are going to protect not your country. But very seldom, you know. Still inside you can't change, it's very hard. It's like I can't hate Greece, I can't, because I was born there, but I can't hate Australia either. All my money, all my work is here. My mother died. In the cemetery at Karrakatta, my father is there, my wife up there. When I go they call me the Australian, they don't call me the Greek. See all our money is here. It's like you get married to a person, straightaway that [unclear] to you, it's not your mother, it's your husband. The bible says all of you, one body you are. One body. And there is more to your wife or to your husband than to your mother, that's how it is. You still love your mother but still your wife is for you and your husband is for you. How do you look at it?

GO'H I think that's very well explained.

KAKULAS Yes.

GO'H When you first came to Western Australia you went to school for only a short time - six months/a year - and you learnt a little bit of English there. How did you teach yourself to speak English?

KAKULAS It was very hard, very hard. There was a couple of Greek boys very young, one of them was about six years old and we were twelve years old and he used to explain to us you know. But then it didn't work because we weren't at the small standard and we were very good in mathematics. Straightaway they tell us you can't put twelve years old with the six year old boys and girls. So they shifted us from the baby, they put us another third class, they put us two classes higher up there with Miss Bennett (I'll never forget her name). And when whatsaname used to start school we never understood what they were talking about but they used to send us with the girls.... two Greek boys were there and they sent two girls with us outside and they're teaching us what to do. But like it was, they never left me long enough because the first year I didn't understand it. If the [unclear] should be able to come into it but they took me out at not even fourteen. That's why I never used to go to school regularly because.... they don't remember, they're telling me now, you

know. I remember I went to school, but I do remember that they send me a summons and they charged me a pound. I don't know, that's what they told me. [unclear]. Yes they paid the pound and then after they told me that I got....

GO'H That's for truancy?

KAKULAS But they let me go because - in those days I must have been 13, 13½ something like that - he said he's got to earn money to bring his mother and two brothers to Australia.

GO'H So the pound fine was for truancy - not going to school, was it?

KAKULAS Yes.

GO'H When you left school could you speak English by then? So how did you learn English once you'd left school?

KAKULAS Dictionary. I had a dictionary to read, you know. And writing the words.

GO'H Did you practice or it was just in what you had to do to work.

KAKULAS Yes, there was no television those days and no radio. You had to learn it by yourself.

GO'H And what about practising speaking to other people. Were other Australians helpful?

KAKULAS We had a fruit shop. Well the lines were very few they were. Apples, one pound, the numbers 1,2,3 we knew them, we learnt that quick. And the money, because at 12 years old I was good, you know, one of the tops in the class. I was one of the tops; myself and another three boys, top. But my brother same [unclear] succeed in business - so this. Even up till now, up till now they admire my age, a lot of people, they don't believe it.

GO'H And talking to me you've been very good at remembering especially money amounts - the mathematical side.

KAKULAS Yes. But even today, a lot of the words we got to get in dictionaries. I've got a dictionary here.

GO'H A Greek/Australian, or Greek/English.

KAKULAS From America, a good one. Yes, a dictionary. A lot of words I don't understand them. But still my mother language is Greek, that's where my foundation is. And in our shop we made a library in 1930 when the Depression came in 1930, I never tell you that. In 1930 we were members in a Greek paper in Athens and we used to get six papers a week [unclear]. And then after we started to bring Greek books here and we make a Greek library. We brought Greek books, love books,

criminals, all these different books you know we got in Greece we brought here, and we bought a lot of French - Dumas, *The Three Musketeers*, you know, all those things and we were renting them to the people - a shilling to read the book, a shilling. If they want to buy it, 50 cents a book. Want me to show you some of the books we've still got there?

GO'H Yes a bit later. And you were running that from the shop.

KAKULAS From the top shop, yes. The people used to come and the girl that I married used to come and get books. And I'd tell her, 'What sort of book you want - love, you want drama, you want cowboys?" You know, like this. Yes she used to come.

GO'H Do you know where you would get the books from in Greece?

KAKULAS We used to get them from Greece and we had a lot of books. We had about a couple of hundred books, three hundred. We used to rent them and then after they were five cents each. They read them and bring them back. But they used to take them and give them to somebody else - two or three used to read them, you know. See how things were - they couldn't afford five cents.

GO'H Do you remember where in Greece you got the books from?

KAKULAS Yes we got Mikhail Saliverou was the name of the company. We brought them from Greece. But boats used to be two boats every week from Europe. Every week two or three boats from Europe - every week! We had seven P&O's and then six P&Os from South Africa and seven coming right through from Suez; Orient Line another seven boats. The Australians, they had four passenger boats - the *Esperance Bay, Morton Bay, Jervis Bay,* you know four boats. Then we had Italian boats and French boats, No Greek boats those days. After the war the Greeks was the biggest navy. Yes we used to have boats every week. And the boats coming into Fremantle.... it wasn't like now, one a few hours. Two or three, four days. And if you're going to load wheat, two weeks. They had to put bags on their back and escalators to load the boat. Now they've got the silos and they load it up in one day.

Not only that, the big boats used to come here to get coal, the Orient Line, the P & O, and passenger boats. It's the first port and the last port. Now when they used to leave here they used to go about 25 days to go to London, 30 days. They used to get all their food from here and coming back in 30 days, there was nothing in the boat, they were empty when they were coming here again. That's why they was bringing them from Greece very easy those days. I used to wait 23 days, 25 the latest, the newest paper used to come there. They used to send six bales[?] a week and we used to get those papers. That's why my Greek is very excellent and also I knew all the politics in Greece. A lot of the boats used to come here to load the wheat and when they'd come we'd talk to them. They thought I was from Greece six months ago. They'd say, "How do you know all these things?" I knew more than what they knew. They used to be surprised, but it was through the paper.

And I tell you my sickness, I love reading. Up till now I love reading. Any book that used to come in my hands - magazines, the *Woman's Day* - I read every one. I read everything. On television I never see pictures on the television, never, unless it's something special once in a month. The only thing I see documentaries, what the other people live, how is China, how is Hong Kong, any part of the world - even Ireland on the television. The most greenest country in the world, Ireland, because it's very near to the North Pole; it must be cold there.

GO'H One other area that I wanted to ask you about is you've lived in Northbridge for a long time you must be one of the longest residents here.

KAKULAS Yes.

GO'H I was wondering if you could comment on the effects of the tunnel which is now in progress, is being put through Northbridge - how that's affected your home, the suburb and also your business.

KAKULAS Well affecting business, not much yet, but in the property area it did affect us. Our property was 320 ft now it is only 100. Before we could [unclear] now we can't make it. They ruin our properties, our land. They gave us $380 000 but 100 from 320 is not the same block, is it?

GO'H No you showed me over the fence before and your backyard is now very small and there's the big land outside the tunnel.

KAKULAS Yes, see when you got a block from here to the other street, and Perth is going to be a big city one day - it doesn't get smaller. The population is past 1 200 000 so it is getting bigger all the time. It took us 100 year to be five million but we're going to have one million here in 20 years - another million. Before it took us 100 years but now because the population is increasing - more people living and a lot of immigration they get here, you know. Still they will get 100 000 a year.

GO'H What about other changes in Northbridge? What do you think are the main changes?

KAKULAS About that tunnel, a lot of people reckon they're not going to do any good. A lot of people reckon that it shouldn't be done because when I can think of it myself.... Now they done the tunnel from Fitzgerald Street or from Charles Street, say from Charles Street up to Lord Street. Now you go in there, you can't get out anywhere else; you got to get out in Lord Street to go to the bridge isn't it? Now how long that's going to last, two lanes? They've got two lanes one way and two lanes the other way. How long is that going to last? And if you went in there and you want to get out in William Street, you can't get out. You got to go there and get the Burswood Bridge what they going to build now and it's going to be a bottleneck one day there.

It would have been better, I said to somebody, to spend that $350 million to go from Fremantle down there (how far they are now I don't know) to go to Mandurah, and

from here go to Yanchep and we would have spent less money and they would have been better off because a lot of people won't bring their cars. Look at now with the electric train - a lot of people don't bring their car. Why should I bring my car if I come with electric train in quarter-of-an-hour and no worries and I read my paper. That's how they do it in Europe. In Greece, from Athens to Piraievs, the train every five minutes. If you go with your car from Athens to Piraievs it will take you an hour from the traffic, and from underneath you go in 15 minutes. Which you going to go? I'm not going to drive to get a headache! The other day we were going to my daughter's home in the evening, half-past-five, and the cars from the freeway - unbelievable! Bumper to bumper, bumper to.... it's an hour before they get home those people. I said I'll pay $300 000 and live in the city. You know how many they're going to build now here? Unbelievable - 12 behind here.

GO'H This is houses?

KAKULAS You know, it used to be the factory where they're manufacturing here.

GO'H Oh yes.

KAKULAS Now there's all machines there. They're going to make blocks there. They are making 60 units corner of Carr Street and Fitzgerald Street, all the corner. The block behind there, my brother has got a property in John Street, they are going to build another 40. And they pay a lot of money for the land too. They are not cheap. You can't get anything in the city less than quarter of a million.

GO'H So how do you feel about that. When you first came to Perth lots of people lived in the city and then they moved away.

KAKULAS Now they're coming back.

GO'H And now they're coming back. What do you think about that?

KAKULAS Well worldwide the most of the people are living in the cities. In London, in Paris, in Greece and Athens the same. They've got the big hospitals here, and my age now, 87, can I live over the Narrows Bridge? I can't. I can't drive at 100 miles an hour, I haven't got the energy and my nerves are not good enough. They went from 23 to 35 because the same... how can I go up here? That's what I mean, the places here is going to be more and more buildings, left and right, left and right.

GO'H And what about the actual construction of the tunnel - being that it's right behind your house has that caused any disruption or noise?

KAKULAS Well now on 8th September they're going to open Palmerston Street and then they're going to close Lake Street for 10 months. The biggest bottleneck will be in William Street now. So you go underneath. When you get underneath you can't come out anywhere in Perth. Say you came from the freeway, this going to take you to Belmont, the other side of the river, because when you get to Lord Street

you're going to go onto another river isn't it? Well if you want to get out, say you came in from there and you want to come out in Lake Street - how you going to come out from there? There is nowhere to get from there. They've done a very big mistake.

GO'H Is it very noisy living near all this construction?

KAKULAS Well noisy in the daytime. Now they found troubles here - a lot of water underneath and they got to put posts but nobody knew it before. And they told us, when they bring the posts they're going bump, bump, bump, you know. Up there they done it every eight feet but ours they going to do it every 15 yards I think, something like that. And they got to put the posts down - a lot of water here. What's going to happen I don't know. Don't you think they make mistakes?

First I want to tell you something. You know the freeway, the one we got there, the [Mitchell] freeway. Before my mother used to take the children to Como to go for a swim because Como and South Perth is a place for swimming, and here, where they got the university....

GO'H Crawley.

KAKULAS Crawley. That's where we use to go swimming and learnt swimming there. Used to love it. Everybody was there swimming because calm waters. The ocean was too rough. And we used to go there. she used to leave in Moir Street, catch the tram, go down the Esplanade, get another tram and go down there. I said to one member of parliament, I said, "You know the most criminal case you done in your life? You putting the Narrows Bridge there and you cut the people from the river. All over the world," I said, "They're lucky they got river in the city. You take it in France, they haven't got any freeways on the river. Inside the city the river goes through. We got here," and I said, "The only ones going there...." He said, "Who?" I said, "The sea gulls." [chuckles] He said, "You're right. You're right what you said."

Now my mother used to go and take us and we used to go to Como and people used to be a thousand, two thousand young people swimming there. Not only from the coastline, right through. Now not a soul there goes. How are you going to go there? You can't cross over. That's what I mean. I said, "You should have done it three streets inside, not on the river." Now they want the people to go - how are people going to go in the river. You can't go to the river and cross over. That's what I say, those politicians they're not very smart you know. They think that they're the brains.

GO'H Before we finish the interview is there anything more that you'd like to say that we haven't already talked about, about the shop or the Greek community or your family?

KAKULAS Only yourself if you want something to know, you can ask me.

GO'H I'd like to thank you Mr Kakulas for taking part in this interview.

KAKULAS That's all right.

GO'H Thank you.

KAKULAS Pleasure to do it for you.

GO'H Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW

END OF TAPE SIX SIDE A