

SWAN SHIRE BRIDGES PROJECT

donated synopses of interviews with

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MAY DE BURGH
JAMES DUFF
DON EDGECOMBE
DERRICK GOLDSPINK
JACK HALLATT
JUDY HAMERSLEY
HERBERT FAMILY
CHARLES HYNE
DOUG KENDALL
LEN MARSHALL
ROSEMARY McBEATH
GRACE McLEAN *OH 2608/13*
PAM MONROE
KATHLEEN NAPIER
WILLIAM ROBINSON
MAUREEN (MIKE) WILLIAMS

**MIDLAND, GUILDFORD AND DISTRICT
MIDLAND BRIDGES**

Access: Research - Open
Publication - Open

Interviewer: Josephine Wilson
Dates of interview: 1993
Reference number: **OH 2608/1-17**
Duration: 19 x 60 tapes and 1 x 90 tape
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BRIDGES PROJECT

The project had its genesis in an idea put forward by Joan Pope in 1990 when she was employed by the Shire of Swan as a Community Arts Worker. She was struck by the number of bridges in the Swan Valley and the impact and importance of them. The seed took some two years to grow and then the Shire, through its Community Services Division, put aside funding for the project.

Ruth Andrew

21 June 1995

My name is Jo Wilson and I'm interviewing Grace McLean for the Shire of Swan's Community Arts Project called "Bridges in the Swan Valley". Grace McLean lives at Unit 36, St Davids, Lawley Crescent, Mount Lawley.

Time	Subject	Proper Names
3	Grace Delafield McLean Born 1912 in North Perth Family lived in Wheatbelt Father - Westralian Farmers 4 years setting up co-ops Mr Nolan's property in Upper Swan. Danny Nolan Paddy Nolan lived on	Grace Delafield McLean North Perth
20	estate - split up in 1920-22 bought by Tonkins, Noaks Andersons, Cooks, Trenowths	Westralian Farmers Mr Nolan, Upper Swan, Danny and Paddy Nolan Tonkins, Noaks, Andersons, Cooks, Trenowths
25	Father planted vineyards Nolan farmland next door.	Nolan
28	Left Swan age 27 when married (1939)	
29	Description of Upper Swan Bridge. Building of road - for military purposes. Pearce gazetted Cut off top of hill.	Upper Swan Pearce
37	Mr Selkirk sent children to help bus up the hill - Bus service.	Mr Selkirk
42	Solid road right from Midland to Pearce	Midland, Pearce
46	1926 flood. Bus from Perth 6 pm.	Perth
51	Bus story in flood, bus jumped hole in bridge.	
60	Description of Bus - bridge nearest Swan Districts Hospital. Lost shoe from bus.	

- 77 1926 flood - June
Description
Watching construction of new
bridge - banging the pylon
with the monkey.
- 88 Workers in camps - 25 mph
speed limit. Most people
camped on the spot when
working further out.
- 95 Used railway bridge to cross
during flood. Bridge broken
in middle - planks across.
- 104 Reason for flood - winds
blowing and water banked up
because of westerly winds -
water couldn't get away.
- 115 Used bridge to get to shop.
Used to swim, smack leaches
off legs. Boys would clear
a hold. Various swimming
holes. River much deeper
boys could dive into swimming
holes, but much shallower
now.
- 127 Could swim if boys put wire
across to tread water. Had
boats to get across river.
- 138 Social Events: Open air
barn - dance floor. Band
from Midland - played Jazz Midland
Father thought it was awful-
danced Charleston Jazz and Charleston Jazz
the Black Bottom. Black Bottom
Skirts went up to the knees.
Jazz, garters - stocking to
keep stockings up.
- 159 Neighbours - Slavs - had Slavs
own circle and British.
Mother started reading
circle. Professor Murdoch Professor Murdoch
sent books up - fell flat.
40 people came. Mr Bumstead Mr Bumstead
was headmaster - people
took parts, followed by
music. Mr Merryfield - Mr Merryfield
tenor, Mr Bumstead - Mr Bumstead
baritone. I was a singer

- 2 played violin.
Eventually gave a concert-
in the hall and met once
a month.
Slavs were a community Slavs
kept to themselves - self
sufficient.
- 187 Hiking in winter. Swimming
 in summer. Allan Cook's Allan Cook
 painting career - early
 interest - painted birds.
 Early days in Subiaco - self Subiaco
 taught. 2 teachers -
 painted Upper Swan area
 post war - lots of
 commissions. Mr Hotchin Mr Hotchin
 boosted art - lots of work
 in the hospital.
- 214 George Stone - town boy George Stone
 dominant, the leader.
 Mr Bumstead lead reading Mr Bumstead
 circle, lasted 5 years,
 Headmaster at Herne Hill Herne Hill
 Families from Herne Hill Herne Hill
 Newman, Mr Bumstead, Newman, Mr Bumstead
 Brammels Brammels
- 238 Logues on other side of Logue
 Bridge. Stones were there Stone
 originally. North of the
 bridge, then crossed the
 bridge. Girls in University
 in the 20's. Lotons Loton
 private family. Mrs Loton Mrs Loton
 came to school fancy dress
 ball and presented prizes.
- 262 Traffic on Bridge - shop,
 goods from train - but in
 30's trucks started coming -
 carted dried and fresh
 fruit.
- 275 Feutrills had a truck. Feutrills
- Side 2
- 1 Story of horse getting drunk
 from eating grapes - couldn't
 drive sulky.
- 8 End of Tape

BRIDGEMC.DOC

Grace McLean

All the hills in those days were much steeper and it was in the 20's sometime when they put the road down and they dug down about 3' and father thought why do you dig like that to put a road, and they said it is going to be a Military road. And they put great big stones at the bottom and smaller boulders and came up. It was just after first world war and Pearce must have been gazetted, but we got a shock to think they were building a military road.

The hill was steep (at Upper Swan) as all those hills were. All little bridges were down the hills. There wasn't a bridge there, but the school (Upper Swan) was at the top. They cut off the top of the hill which was heavy clay and very wet in the middle of winter and was slippery. Pieces of twigs has to be put under bus wheels by boys at school and also push bus up hill. There were about 5 buses a day, used to do the circuit (Midland then back to Guildford).

1926 flood (in June) very wet. The bus was full of people, we were going down towards the bridge, then all of a sudden bus did such a fast bump and went up next hill and stopped and no one knew what had happened, then the bus driver said "Poor bloody chassis!" and he had had to jump across a little portion of the bridge which had been washed away. He was unable to stop the bus, so he had to accelerate to build up momentum to jump it. We all thought that was an adventure. This bridge was near the Swan Hospital - it was a little bridge then, but would have now been built higher.

During the flood it rained and rained and then the bridge fell down (Upper Swan) and the later on they started building the bridge at the end of that year and we watched them building the bridge from our verandah (half a mile away), but we could watch them banging the piles down with the monkey and when it got almost to the top we could hear the bang that it made when it hit the bottom. so it would hit this thing and be up at the top again before the sound would reach the Swan. The people building the bridge were most likely in work camps. 25 miles and hour was the speed limit, so most people camped on the spot when they working anywhere.

We used to have to walk across the railway bridge while the bridge was out as it was much higher. The bridge had collapsed in the middle and as the river went down they put planks across the middle so that we could get across walking. The river had gone down.

The reason for the flood at the time was there were westerly winds and the water couldn't get out at Fremantle. There have been heavy floods since, but never had a flood that has

banked up like that one. At that time flood banked up to Guildford School. The Causeway was raised after that flood too. All flat land between Causeway and Mounts Bay Road was flooded too.

We used to walk to the shop (about a mile away) and to get our mail via the Upper Swan Bridge. We all used to swim off the bridge and leaches there. The boys used to clear algae and undergrowth away to make a swimming pool. There were different pools each year - one time we were at Andersons, several times behind Noaks and latter years were all behind Stones. Whatever part of the river was suitable they used to clear. The river was much deeper, because the boys could dive and they would dive quite safely with quite a lot of water under them. That was in middle of summer (picking season). Now I am told you can walk across it and it only comes up to your knees.

Traffic on Bridge - at first the shop got its goods from the station from the train, but in the 30's the train had stopped and trucks started coming and it was trucks that carted fruit down (dried fruit and fresh). One man used to come from Bullsbrook. Everything was done by truck, we never used the train at all in our day - Mr Feutrill had a truck and they would do all the carting of fruit and so on.