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Transcript of an interview with

Donald Doig

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EDITED TRANSCRIPT

This is Ron Chapman and I am a research historian. It is Friday the 7th of March, 2014, and I am carrying out an interview with Don Doig at his home in Perth, Western Australia. This interview is being conducted for the Law Society of Western Australia as part of a project which records the memories of eminent Western Australian legal practitioners or members of the judiciary.

RC Don, first of all, I'd like to thank you for kindly giving your time for this interview and for agreeing to take part in this project.

DON DOIG: My pleasure.

RC To begin, Don, I wonder if you could tell me when and where you were born and something about your family history.

DON DOIG I was born in East Fremantle on the 31st July, 1939. I was the first born son of George and Margaret Doig who lived in Bicton at the time, and the heritage of the Fremantle Doigs goes back to 1886, when my great-grandfather arrived in Fremantle from Adelaide.

RC Can you just tell me about your parents and their occupations?

DON DOIG My father was a public servant all his life and retired from the Fremantle Harbour and Lights Department and so had a connection with the sea, the ports, right up the coast. My mother never worked. She had just my brother and I, my brother Malcolm and I, and we lived in Bicton all our lives.

RC I was going to ask you about your brother and sister. You have a brother, did you say?

DON DOIG A brother, yes.

RC Just one brother?

DON DOIG Just one brother.

RC I'd like to ask you now, Don, about your childhood in East Fremantle. What are your early memories of your childhood?

DON DOIG Well, in Bicton rather than East Fremantle. I was born in East Fremantle but grew up in Bicton. I went to Bicton Primary School[1] and lived in and around Bicton all my life until we were married in 1967.

RC I was going to talk later about your wife, but you've just mentioned you were married so perhaps you could tell me a little about your wife and where you met and your marriage.

DON DOIG It was ironic that I got transferred in a relieving capacity to Northam court to relieve as Assistant Clerk of Courts there and my wife, Helen, who was Helen Ferguson at the time, worked for solicitors, Mayberry Hammond & Co. Kevin Hammond later became the Chief Judge of the District Court so that link up with the law continued.

RC And do you have children?

DON DOIG I've got three boys, yes.

RC You were born in 1939, that was the start of the Second World War almost. I just wondered about those war years – I know you were a very small child but do you have any recollections at all about the war?

DON DOIG Not really. My father worked at the time for the State Implement Works[2] and was manpowered so he didn't really go to war and so the effects of having a father absent weren't a problem for me as a child.

RC Did you say you went to Bicton Primary School?

DON DOIG Bicton Primary School.

RC Do you have any early memories of your time at Bicton?

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1 Bicton Primary School, established in 1904, celebrated its Centennial in 2004. See www.bictonps.wa.edu.au

2 State Implement Works, also known as the State Engineering Works, situated in North Fremantle. Demolished in 1988, the site has historic significance as the main site for State structural and mechanical engineering for the port and harbour and later, the agricultural and mining industries. It has social significance as a major employer, particularly during the Depression and WWII. See inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au

DON DOIG Yes. Just recently, one of my former grade teachers, Miss Owen, died at one hundred and nine years of age, just a couple of weeks ago and the school itself in April, will be having its one hundred and tenth anniversary. Yes, it was a small school then and a lot of the Doigs went to the school, even my grandkids go there now.

RC So there is a tradition of the Doigs at that school.

DON DOIG Yes. My brother did go through and count how many Doigs actually went to the school and I think it was about twenty by the time he finished counting, over several generations of course.

RC Quite amazing. So you're going to the anniversary?

DON DOIG Yes, my son and his wife, Geoff and Belinda, they're on the organising committee for the celebrations for the hundred and tenth anniversary so they have an active interest in making sure it's a good occasion.

RC And you went to Fremantle Boys High School, I believe. How did that come about? Was that sort of a natural thing to do – go to Fremantle?

DON DOIG Well, in those days you didn't have many choices. There was only Fremantle High School in Fremantle and Modern School in Perth and there were a couple of other high schools in distant suburbs but Fremantle Boys High School was really the only choice. In those days it only went up to what was Junior standard, which was third year high school, so if you wanted to go beyond that to get into university you had to go to Perth Modern School.

RC Your days at Fremantle Boys High – were they happy times? Do you look upon Fremantle High School as a good time?

DON DOIG It was. We had Jerry Dolan as one of our teachers who went on to become a member of parliament and Minister for Police. It was in

the old PIFT Theatre[3] which is now running in Fremantle, so yes, they were very happy days. We had to walk up the hill to where John Curtin High School is now because that's where the trade centre was then and the only things on that site then were woodworking, metalworking and technical drawing so if you had any of those subjects you had to walk up the hill to participate in those subjects.

RC I'm just going to come on to subjects, Don. What were your favourite subjects at Fremantle?

DON DOIG Well, to be honest, I liked the trade subjects; blacksmithing and woodwork and technical drawing.

RC The "hands on" stuff?

DON DOIG Yes, the "hands on" stuff and that put me in good stead for later on, to become a bit of a handyman around the house, you know; there are a lot of things you can do by yourself that if you didn't have any of that sort of basic training, you wouldn't be able to do, but I was only an average student, I would say, but I did enjoy some of the academic studies. I wasn't that good at history but mathematics was okay.

RC How about sport? Were you a sportsman at school?

DON DOIG I did play a bit of football and cricket at school, yes.

RC What age were you when you left Fremantle?

DON DOIG Fremantle Boys? I was fifteen and a half. I finished school on a Thursday, I went for an interview on the Friday, and I started work at Fremantle Court on the Monday as a fifteen and a half year old.

RC At the school though, at that time when you were about to leave school, did you have any ambitions about what you wanted to do after leaving school?

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3 PIFT – Perth Institute of Film & Television (PIFT), the organisation merged with Frevideo ten years later to become the Film & Television Institute WA Inc in 1982. See www.fti.asn.au

DON DOIG No, my father was a public servant and his advice was, you know, get into the public service and you'll have a career for life, which turned out to be right.

RC That was quite a well known recommendation, I believe, at the time.

DON DOIG Yes. In those days, I had a choice of the post office, the railways or the public service and I thought only one of those was in Fremantle so I thought I'll take the one in Fremantle.

RC Just before I leave the Fremantle Boys High School, I know it was quite some time ago, but looking back on your life, what impact do you think your time at Fremantle Boys High has had on your life? What has it taught you, in other words?

DON DOIG It taught me the value of education, although after I started work that became more of a focus because I needed to go to TAFE[4], the technical college, to further my education and doing that part-time was a chore, particularly later on when you're married with children.

RC Yes, I have here that you started work at Fremantle Court as a junior clerk, that was on the 6th of December 1954. Can you tell me how that came about? You mentioned this briefly, that this job came up very quickly. Why did you choose a junior clerk's position at Fremantle Court?

DON DOIG Well, only because it was in Fremantle. As I say, there were other opportunities elsewhere but that meant travelling to Perth and in those days, at fifteen and a half, it was all public transport and I thought living in Bicton and working in Fremantle was a much easier prospect than having to travel to Perth.

RC But did you particularly want to get a job in the court system or was it that this job came up?

4 TAFE- Technical and Further Education, then known as Fremantle Technical College or Perth Technical College.

DON DOIG To be honest, I didn't know anything about the court system at fifteen and a half, because none of the family had had any involvement with the law so it was by guess or by God in the end, but it was a wise choice because I enjoyed every minute of it.

RC A question I'd ask – and you 've indicated this in any earlier answer, Don, but I just wondered - you had no ambition to go to university, to go in that direction or it just didn't occur at the time?

DON DOIG It just didn't occur at the time. As I recall, it was never something that was made mention of in high school, at Fremantle Boys, and not many of my school colleagues up to that stage went on to university that I can recall. My cousin, Ron Bowe did; he went to teachers' training college but that was all I can recall, going beyond what was then called the Junior Certificate.

RC Of course, at that time, going to university, unlike today, it wasn't really a common thing, was it? If it was like in my time in England, it was only the odd student who actually went to university; the majority just went out into the workforce and found a job. Is that how it was?

DON DOIG That's exactly how it was, yes.

RC The junior clerk's position at the court in Fremantle – I'd just like to ask your impressions on your first day, if you can remember when you first started there. What were your impressions of the job?

DON DOIG I was nervous, of course. I was introduced to the Magistrate and the then Clerk of Courts. The Magistrate was Keir Johnston Dougall. I started there on the 6th of December 1954 and I can always recall that a couple of weeks later at Christmas time he gave all the males on the staff a tartan woollen tie and I thought I'd been there three weeks and here's me with a brand new woollen tartan tie that I was expected to wear. He was an austere man and there are a lot of stories you can tell about the way he operated and perhaps later on we can get on to that. John Finlayson Robertson was the Clerk of Courts, he was a first world war veteran who lost

his right arm in the first world war so he had to learn to write left-handed, but a very nice man who certainly took you under his wing and trained you in all the things that you needed to know.

RC You just mentioned some stories – I'll leave it up to you when you'd like to talk about them. I'm quite happy to listen to any anecdotes or stories you have as we continue on.

DON DOIG Well, Keir Dougall – I don't know how old he was at that stage, but it was only about three years later that he retired and as I recall he had to retire at seventy so he must've been well into his sixties by the time I started at Fremantle Court. I can always remember being a bench clerk in the Court of Petty Sessions and in those days, drunkenness and habitual drunkenness were both offences under the Police Act. There were regular, homeless men who came up before him and it almost got to, you know, being friends with these regulars. You wouldn't get away with it now, but I always remember come about May of each year, he'd say to the sergeant, the prosecuting sergeant, "It's getting a bit cold, sergeant. I think you'd better round up our friends and we'll give them bed and breakfast for three months." So he'd give them three months' imprisonment for habitual drunkenness. They all knew what was going to happen and so they had a bed and breakfast for the cold months. As I say, you couldn't do that now; well, you can't do it anyhow, because they're not offences any more. But that was the thinking of the man; he was a very compassionate person for people who needed it.

RC It's an interesting story.

DON DOIG And I'll always remember one particular fellow – he would say to this fellow, "Why don't you get a job?" and the fellow's response was, "I got something coming off next week, your Worship" and so next week he'd come up, "You haven't got that job yet?" "No, I got something coming off next week." Then all of a sudden he didn't turn up for probably three months and he turned up three months later and he was on crutches. He'd had a leg amputated and the Magistrate said, "I thought you said you were going to get a job?" He said, "No, I said I was going to have something coming off, and he

said, “It was my leg.” (laughs) But there were other funny stories too. A mate of mine, he was a bench clerk, and he saved up and bought this nice tailored sports jacket. He was playing football at North Fremantle Oval and his sports jacket disappeared. About a week later, one of the regulars, one of the people who were up for drunkenness came in and there he is wearing my mate’s sports jacket. The only trouble is it looked as though it had been slept in for a week so he just kept his mouth shut. (laughs)

RC I’m interested also, Don, about your actual work, the work you did at Fremantle Court in those early days as a junior clerk. I know you also went on to become a Magistrate’s bench clerk, cashier and various other jobs as well. Could you tell me about the office organisation and your work there at that time?

DON DOIG Well, Fremantle Court, looking back, it was the best training ground a court officer could get because you had petty sessions work, you had local court, you had children’s court, you had coroner’s court, you had registration of births, deaths and marriages, you were agent for the State Treasury selling revenue stamps on contracts and those sorts of things. As cashier you were also receiving rents for State Housing properties, so it was a varied range of experience that you got that was seized upon by the head office administration to train clerks because of the range of experience that you would get at Fremantle.

RC In the organisation there, how many people were working in that organisation at the time? What was the sort of breakdown? I presume there would be quite a few office staff.

DON DOIG Yes. As I recall, there would’ve been about six or seven males and two females plus the Magistrate and plus the Clerk of Courts. So it wasn’t a big organisation.

RC I’m interested as well - we were talking about the late 1950s, early ‘60s - in office equipment and that sort of thing. Could you tell me a little about that? I mean, I’m thinking about today where we have all these

sophisticated computers and all this stuff – compare that to when you first started there. Can you tell me about that?

DON DOIG The cashier had a National cash register that you could've anchored a boat with, it was so big and heavy. The only other bit of equipment was a big adding machine that produced a tape and of course the females had typewriters; that was about all, manual typewriters. That was the only equipment we ever had.

RC What about photocopying? We have photocopiers now. It was carbons, I suppose, was it – carbon paper?

DON DOIG Yes, carbon paper; that was about all you had. Of course, one of the jobs I had was registry clerk, registering the births, deaths and marriages. In those days, everything had to be in iron gall ink[5] which was a permanent ink and the Clerk of Courts had me practising my handwriting to make sure it was copperplate on ruled foolscap and you'd do rows of "a"s, rows of "b"s, rows of "c"s to make sure they were all the right shape and size. I suppose over the years it did me a great service because I've still got a fair hand when you write and when you see how the young people write now, crikey; it's terrible.

RC That's right, yes. I see in 1964, you were also made Magistrate's bench clerk – can you tell me a little about your work on that?

DON DOIG In those days, you had to prepare all the magistrate's papers to take into court. I suppose it equates to an associate to a judge in the Supreme Court, you sit in front of the magistrate in court, swear witnesses and issue warrants when there's a sentence of imprisonment imposed and advise people by notice if they've been fined.

RC So it's really seeing that the court runs smoothly, in other words?

DON DOIG Exactly right.

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5 Iron gall ink, also known as iron gall nut link or oak gall ink, a purple-black or brown-black ink made from iron salts and tannic acids from vegetable sources. See ink-corrosion.org

RC In September 1962, Don, to March ’64, you relieved as assistant Clerk of Courts at Northam. Can you tell me how this came about and your work at Northam?

DON DOIG The Clerk of Courts at Northam was Bill Fellowes who later became a magistrate, but his son became critically ill and was transferred to Perth and to allow Mr Fellowes to be closer to his son, he was transferred to Perth, initially for six weeks, the thought was six weeks, but as it turned out it was near eighteen months and his deputy at Northam acted in his position and I acted as assistant for the whole of that period.

RC So was this the first time you had worked away from Fremantle?

DON DOIG That was the first time I’d worked away from Fremantle, yes.

RC So how did you find that? What I’m getting at is you worked at Fremantle all the time and then suddenly you went to Northam. I’m just interested in how you found the transition from Fremantle to Northam.

DON DOIG The work was very similar although you had to be a jack of all trades at Northam because there was only the Clerk of Courts, the Assistant Clerk of Courts and a typist and so although it was a magistrate’s headquarters and the magistrate used to do the circuit of the wheatbelt, all the experience you gained at Fremantle was very useful. There were a few things in Northam , extra things – you were electoral registrar, you had to keep the electoral rolls up to date, you were agent for the State Government Insurance Office and that was quite busy at the time because they were building the new railway line, the standard gauge railway line through to Perth, and a lot of the big contractors had very big equipment that they used to have to insure through the State Government Insurance Office so you became a bit of an expert in selling insurance.

RC I’m thinking about cases as well, that went through the court at Northam. You probably got the same sort of cases that you had in Fremantle

but there were any sort of particular areas of cases you didn't come across in Fremantle, in other words, that were peculiar to Northam?

DON DOIG No, I don't think so. The volume was a lot less and you would only have the magistrate in attendance on one or two days a week because the other days he'd be out on circuit. On the intervening days you would have to arrange for a justice of the peace to come in to deal with the routine stuff that the police had arrested overnight. If there was anything difficult they were remanded until when the Magistrate's Court was scheduled.

RC So you found Northam a useful experience?

DON DOIG Yes. As I said earlier, that's where I met my wife so it was very very beneficial to go to Northam.

RC I'd just like to ask you now, Don – you mentioned this earlier, that you found that you had to do some studies at TAFE, you studied for a Diploma in Public Administration, the Diploma of Legal Studies at TAFE. At what point in your career did this occur? When did you start your studies?

DON DOIG I think I started very soon after I started work because in those days in the public service there were certain levels above which you could not proceed unless you got to a certain standard of education, so it was just a progressive thing that the more you did the more chance you had of progressing.

RC And how long did these studies take you?

DON DOIG A fair while actually, because in those days when you were playing football and you had other interests, you probably only did two or three subjects at most a year and in those days, I think the Diploma in Public Administration was, if I recall rightly, about at least fourteen subjects so it took a fair while.

RC So it took a fair amount of your time. In February 1966, Don, you went to the Crown Solicitor's Office as a Clerk (Recoveries). Could you tell me how this occurred? I believe this was a promotion – is that right?

DON DOIG That's right. It was a promotion and that was like the recoveries that you deal with in any law firm where it would be for government departments that have money owing, they would send it to the Crown Solicitor's Office and a local court summons would be issued, or if it was for a bigger amount a Supreme Court writ would be issued, so you had to manage the collection and management of these debts that were owing to the State in one way or the other.

RC How did you come to take up this position? How did this come about?

DON DOIG Well, in those days, the Government Gazette had vacancies within each department.

RC Was it an advertised position?

DON DOIG You had to apply for them. In those days, in that particular position, you would have to go and appear before the magistrate in Fremantle, Midland and Perth and interview judgment debtors as to how they were going to pay the amount that was owing to the State.

RC I'm interested as well in the organisation of the Crown Solicitor's Office at that particular time; we're talking about the mid-1960s. What were your impressions of that office when you first went into the position?

DON DOIG You realise how big an organisation it was, inasmuch as in those days, under the Crown Solicitor was the Crown Prosecutor, before the Director of Public Prosecutions Office was established so you had the prosecutions which, in those days I wasn't involved with, I was only involved in the civil side. Then you had the Parliamentary Counsel's Office, who did the draft legislation for the Government, the Crown Solicitor's Office who gave advice to the Government on every manner of things so it was quite a complex and detailed legal office.

RC So it must've been quite a transition for you then, from working in Fremantle Court and Northam and then you suddenly go into this fairly large organisation. Is that right?

DON DOIG Yes, but the work wasn't that unfamiliar to me, inasmuch as it was still dealing with local court civil matters that I dealt with at a different end when you were working in Fremantle Court and Northam Court, but you initiated the matters rather than dealt with them at the court level when you're working in the courts, so it wasn't too dissimilar.

RC What was the location of the office at that time – the Crown Solicitor's office? Where was it physically located, can you recall?

DON DOIG It was in what was the R. & I. Bank building that was just behind the old Treasury building. I don't think it even exists now[6].

RC The organization, you've spoken a little about that, but again I'm just interested in the number of staff. Can you recall any names? Who were the key figures in that organisation at the time?

DON DOIG Clyde Langoulant was the Crown Solicitor in those days. I was just thinking who was the Crown Prosecutor in those days – Ron Davies was also the Crown Prosecutor for a while, who then became a Supreme Court judge. I'm just trying to think in order of precedence – Oliver Dixon was the Crown Prosecutor very early on when I went to the Crown Solicitor's Office and Garth Thornton was the Parliamentary Counsel.

RC I'm going to move on now to a period from January 1967 when you relieved at various courts as Clerk of Courts, various locations in Western Australia, but before I move on to that I'd just like you to ask if you have any other observations about your work at the Crown Solicitor's Office.

DON DOIG No, it wasn't for a long period. The experience I had at Fremantle Court I think was crucial to my career, inasmuch as it gave me a very rounded experience in a number of jurisdictions. One of the benefits I

6 The R & I Bank building was constructed in 1959. It was removed in 1994/95. See heritageperth.com.au

found of working at Fremantle Court was the teamwork that you had to adopt to make sure all the work was done and this inspired me to make sure that wherever I went the work of the court was managed properly, to make sure it was always done. When I say teamwork, as I recall, no one went home from work having unfinished work because everybody would make sure that they would bog in and help whoever had work unfinished before they went home, and it set a great example in how work should be carried out for the whole of my career actually.

RC That's the key word, I think, isn't it, teamwork, from what you say.

DON DOIG It is, yes.

RC As I said, in January 1967, you were appointed as Relieving Clerk of Courts and in this position you relieved as Clerk of Courts at various locations, including Bruce Rock, Albany, Derby, Moora, Manjimup, York, Boulder; quite a lot. I don't intend to ask you about each specific one but I would like to give you a general question, Don, about those locations. They're all important to you, but are there any that particularly spring to mind that you could reminisce about – and any particular anecdotes or cases that you'd like to talk to me about in that position as Relieving Clerk of Courts?

DON DOIG One of the unique duties as Clerk of Courts at Bruce Rock was that you were also manager of the Commonwealth Savings Bank - Beverley was the only other place where it had a Commonwealth Savings Bank, although I didn't work at Beverley – so that was quite unique, one of the duties that you had to do and you had your regular customers coming in and depositing money and withdrawing money with their old Commonwealth Savings Bank passbook that you used to have In those days. Derby holds a special place too, because I served at Derby twice, once before I was married and in circumstances which were fairly unique. In 1967, when my wife and I got married, we'd arranged to go to Albany for our honeymoon and I was told, "No, you can't go to Albany because you're needed in Derby." I said, "Well, I'm going to be on my honeymoon" and so Arthur Power, who was the Chief Clerk

in those days at Head Office, he said, “Well, I’ll tell you what I’ll do. I’ll get you on one of the State boats and we’ll send you from Fremantle to Derby on the *Koojarra*”, which was fairly unique because we had the honeymoon at government expense, arrived in Derby – in those days it was 118 degrees [Fahrenheit] and we were allocated the Clerk of Courts’ house up there which had an asbestos roof, metal louvre side walls and a fan in the lounge and a fan in the main bedroom, so it was as hot as blazes, in those days, so that was fairly unique. I always remember, after we’d been there a week or two, we went to the pictures at night-time and they had an outdoor theatre with deckchairs and coming home they used to have about a forty watt globe in each of the street lights about two hundred metres apart so it wasn’t very bright and the house we were occupying we only had a key to the back door. So we found our way around to the back of the house and I walked up the back stairs and walked into what felt like a dead body hanging on the clothes line on the back verandah. I couldn’t see what it was, so I sidestepped that, opened the door and switched the light on to find that somebody had hung on the clothes line a fresh barramundi that was about three foot long, too big to get into the freezer. So after being to the pictures, about eleven o’clock at night, I had to then fillet this barramundi, skin the barramundi and then cut it up and make room in the freezer. We lived on the fat of the land for the whole period we were in Derby. So to this day I don’t know who put the barramundi there. It was probably for the fellow I was relieving, but he didn’t know about it either. (laughs)

RC All those various locations, Don, that you visited as Relieving Clerk – was the work very similar then or each had its own peculiarities?

DON DOIG The bulk of the work was similar. As I say, Bruce Rock was a little bit different inasmuch as you had the Commonwealth Savings Bank. Some of them had some mining work, issuing miners’ rights. Albany, when I was down there, had a Court of Sessions where it was like a Supreme Court. The magistrate had been delegated as an acting judge so I did a Court of Sessions in Albany. Luckily, although a jury had been summoned, the accused changed his plea at the last minute so we had to dispense with the

jury and what looked like being quite a long session was over in half a day. As I recall, Oliver Dixon was the Crown Prosecutor who appeared in that particular case.

RC Just thinking about the various magistrates as well, in those locations – are there any particular characters that you'd like to talk about?

DON DOIG I spoke about Keir Dougall, my first magistrate. As I say, he retired probably about three years after I started at Fremantle. His daughter lived in America and he arranged to go to America by ship, but I'm sad to say that he died at sea and never got to see his daughter. He was replaced by Hector George Smith, who had been the magistrate at Albany, and I've never met a more pleasant man in my life. He had a smile on his face the whole time, he treated everybody with respect and it didn't matter who it was. I've said before, if you wanted to change your personality, he'd be an ideal role model; he was an absolute gentleman and I enjoyed immensely working with him as magistrate at Fremantle. Talking about Fremantle, the births, deaths and marriages – I did that for a couple of years and it was at a time when television started. It was amazing how the names of television characters found their names into the new births. I won't mention the names but the shows were Casey Jones and Perry Mason and it's amazing how many of those sorts of names found their way on to birth registrations at that time. I remember seeing the death registration of the last murderer that was hanged in Fremantle Gaol, Eric Edgar Cooke, so the death registration showed the cause of death as "death by judicial hanging". But going back to the very old records which were there – and I mentioned earlier about handwriting – the copybook handwriting of the very early registers had to be seen to be believed; they were absolutely immaculate. It was disappointing to note in the very early days the number of children who died from diphtheria or whooping cough, at a very young age. It must've been epidemics of children who passed away in those very early days so it would've been very hard to imagine the difficulties they suffered.

End of Recording 1

Recording 2

RC Don, I wonder if there are any further recollections you have - before we move on to the next topic – about your time as Relieving Clerk of Courts in various areas in Western Australia.

DON DOIG One that comes to mind is Derby, a story attributed to Sergeant Weaver who was in charge of the police station at that stage. The police station also had a small gaol attached to it surrounded by a corrugated iron fence and the story goes that one particular day, one of the indigenous prisoners pulled off a sheet of corrugated iron and took off across the mudflats, which you could see from the back verandah of the police quarters. The story goes that Sergeant Weaver, who was an avid rifleman, was cleaning a .303 on the back verandah of his quarters and one of the other prisoners came up and said that a prisoner had escaped and you could see him on the mudflats disappearing over the horizon. So the story goes that Sergeant Weaver put the rifle together, put a bullet in the rifle, fired over the head of the escaping prisoner, who immediately stopped, put his hands up, returned and got back in through the open corrugated iron fence. So it became a bit of a legend up there how this occurred.

RC Good story. Are there any other stories you'd like to tell me? I'm going to move on to your position as secretary of the Parole Board of Western Australia, unless there is anything else further.

DON DOIG No, nothing that comes to mind at this moment.

RC In April 1968 you were appointed as secretary of the Parole Board of Western Australia. I wonder if you could tell me how this appointment came about and something about your work in that position.

DON DOIG It was part of the public service promotional arrangements that you had to apply for advertised vacancies and it was one that was a promotion for me so I applied for it and in the end was successful. It wasn't a job I enjoyed because of the routine involved in it, because the work involved fortnightly meetings making up identical files for each board

member of every prisoner who was coming up before the Parole Board. The difficulty was getting all the reports coordinated in time for the meeting. I was there I think for a couple of years as I recall, but as I say, it wasn't a job that I enjoyed immensely and I was glad to move on to other things later on.

RC You didn't enjoy the job because it was repetitive, you said. Was that the reason?

DON DOIG That was the main reason and the need to have everything done at a particular time and having to deliver files to board members before each meeting, making sure that everything was up to date, so you had to rely heavily on your staff to make sure that things were put together properly because the chairman in those days was Supreme Court Judge Oscar Negus, who was a very hard taskmaster and many a parole officer was taken to task about grammar and details that weren't correct; he was a stickler for preciseness and rightly so. So it became a real challenge to get everything done, and at that particular time our first son was born so we had a growing family and a job that I really wasn't enjoying, so I was glad in the end to move on to something that I felt more comfortable with.

RC In December 1969, Don, you were administrative officer in the Department of Agriculture. Could you tell me a little about that job and your work there?

DON DOIG Probably out of frustration I applied for a job that was quite different to anything I'd done previously, but in the end it did lead to some interesting work in the Public Service Board later as an industrial officer and then as a senior industrial officer. The work at Agriculture was personnel officer-type work in administration so, as I say, it was quite different from anything I'd done previously but it did help me with work later on when I went to the Public Service Board.

RC I was just going to move on to that, Don. In April 1972 you were an inspector with the Public Service Board. How did that come about? Can you tell me about that as well?

DON DOIG Again, it was an opportunity to move out to something new and I certainly didn't regret that experience because it was a very challenging job and it meant doing inspections of particular jobs in various government departments to recommend whether the position was correctly classified or whether there was justification for an increase in classification.

RC Was that the main part of your job?

DON DOIG That was that particular job and then later on, as the industrial officer, you appeared before the Public Service Arbitrator to appear for the person who was recommended for a particular job against whom some other applicant had appealed.

RC And you became senior inspector in 1973. How did your role change as a senior inspector?

DON DOIG A different level. You had supervisory responsibilities for other lower level industrial officers, although I wasn't in that position long before the position of Clerk of Courts Fremantle came up.

RC But your work as inspector and senior inspector with the Public Service Board, can you recall any particular cases you worked on which stand in your mind?

DON DOIG No, they were much of a muchness with the type of work. You appeared before the Arbitrator and argued the case to justify the appointment of the recommended applicant and then you cross-examined the appellant as to why his claims were superior to those of the recommended applicant so it was an adversary type proceeding before the Public Service Arbitrator.

RC And you became secretary of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal. I think that was part-time. Is that right?

DON DOIG That was part-time, yes. That grew to bigger than Ben Hur later when it became a separate entity with a number of staff. Sir Reginald Sholl was in charge of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal then.

RC Unless there's anything further you want to tell me about your work at the Public Service Board, Don, I'd like to move on to 1974 when you were appointed secretary of the Royal Commission into Airline Services in Western Australia. Could you tell me how you came to be appointed to that Royal Commission?

DON DOIG The government appointed the Royal Commission and then the government sought the advice of the Public Service Commission [Board] as to somebody who they thought could have some knowledge of court proceedings and who could be made available to serve the Royal Commission and the Public Service Board in their wisdom selected me.

RC Were you the only candidate for this position?

DON DOIG Well, it wasn't a job that was advertised so I suppose a number of people were considered but who they were I don't know, because it wasn't a job that was open to appeal.

RC How did you feel about that appointment?

DON DOIG It was challenging and I very much enjoyed the work because it highlighted the importance to Western Australia, particularly outback Western Australia, of having a reliable air service and the need for busy routes to cross-subsidise less busy routes in order to maintain a viable service throughout the State.

RC Why was it necessary to set up the Royal Commission?

DON DOIG It was run by Ansett Airlines - the service in Western Australia - but TAA[7] in those days wanted to join in and provide a Perth-Broome-Perth-Port Hedland route mainly, which were the cream of the high volume routes. The perceived outcome was if they succeeded in doing that, then the opportunity for the established airline to service less frequent routes would be compromised.

7 TAA- Trans-Australia Airlines, renamed Australian Airlines in 1986 and later sold to Qantas Airways Limited in 1992 for $A400 million. This included regional subsidiaries. See Wikipedia.org

RC I'm just interested in its findings – what was the outcome of the Royal Commission?

DON DOIG The outcome of the Royal Commission was to recommend that TAA not be granted the opportunity to compete in intrastate services, so as to preserve the status quo of a viable network that then existed.

RC Just looking back, Don, on your work on that Royal Commission as secretary, what value do you think it was to your future career?

DON DOIG Well, the benefit as far as I can put my finger on, was the Royal Commissioner was Sir Reginald Sholl, who was an ex-Victorian Supreme Court judge and we had proceedings in various courthouses throughout the states. The various airlines were represented by very senior Queen's Counsel, and it was the secretary's job to make sure that the proceedings were recorded properly, the documentation was as required by the Royal Commissioner and to the satisfaction of all parties involved, so it was very relevant to the administration of justice. It served me well subsequently in my view.

RC In March 1975, Don, you were appointed as Clerk of Courts at Fremantle. How did your return to Fremantle come about?

DON DOIG In those days, jobs were classified Grade 8, Grade 9, and at that stage I was a Grade 8 in the Public Service Board and Fremantle was a Grade 9, so it was an opportunity to get back into (a) the court system which I loved and (b) Fremantle which I adored.

RC So it was a really good move?

DON DOIG It was a good move. But I spent a lot of time away from Fremantle Court relieving in the Crown Solicitor's Office, but yes, it was a good move and one that I certainly didn't regret.

RC Could you just tell me - you were then Clerk of Courts at Fremantle – what responsibilities did you have there? You'd been before at Fremantle – how had your role changed?

DON DOIG The role didn't change inasmuch as you were a Clerk of Courts, I had been a relieving Clerk of Courts, I knew precisely what needed to be done, how it was to be done and who was going to do it and it was my role to make sure it was done properly. So, yes, I enjoyed that immensely.

RC And, as you said before, you relieved as well as office manager in the Crown Solicitor's Office, so you were really occupying a dual sort of role, partly in Fremantle and partly in the other office.

DON DOIG Yes. I think Head Office were using me up because I'd had experience in the Crown Solicitor's Office previously and when the opportunity arose for somebody to relieve there, my name was more often than not at the top of the list so I quite enjoyed that still.

RC At that particular time in Fremantle, who were you working with there? What names spring to mind?

DON DOIG John Syme was the magistrate in those days, but a lot of time there were visiting magistrates because sometimes there would be two magistrates there, one who'd be servicing the Rockingham-Mandurah area before they got resident magistrates in that area so you had to organise rosters for magistrates.

RC Any other anecdotes or stories about that particular time? I'm talking about the late 1970s in Fremantle.

DON DOIG Only Con Zempilas, who became the Chief Magistrate. I remember he was assigned to Fremantle for a while and I got on the wrong side of him because, inadvertently, I threw out his annotated Criminal Code and we never found it. We sent people out to the Fremantle rubbish tip to see if we could find it there and when I see Con he still reminds me of the fact that

I lost his annotated Criminal Code which he'd spent many years putting together.

End of Recording 2

Recording 3

This is Ron Chapman. Today is Friday the 14th of March 2014 and I am continuing my interview with Don Doig. This interview is for the Law Society of Western Australia Oral History Project.

RC Don, between 1977 and 1978, you were senior administrative officer of Federal Affairs in the Attorney-General's Office with the Honourable Ian Medcalf QC. Could you tell me a little about that appointment and about your work in that position?

DON DOIG Yes. It wasn't an appointment as such. I was relieving the substantive officer who was relieving elsewhere but Ian Medcalf was very concerned about Federal affairs, the relationship between State and Federal governments and the use of the external affairs powers to take away the rights of the states and he was very active in arguing the importance of states being quite independent and that the external affairs powers of the Commonwealth should be used much [more] sparingly than they were.

RC So that was only a brief filling-in appointment?

DON DOIG It was only several weeks is my recollection, on a separate couple of occasions but probably an aggregate of about three months during that period.

RC In April 1979, quite a large appointment, to a promotion, if you like, in your career, Don. You were appointed as Assistant Under Secretary for Law in the Crown Law Department. How did this appointment occur?

DON DOIG I was back at my substantive position as Clerk of Courts Fremantle early in 1979 and I noticed the position of Assistant Under

Secretary for Law was advertised in the *Government Gazette*. It attracted my interest because having worked in Head Office I was aware briefly the role of this office, so I applied for the position and several months went by and out of the blue I got a call from Head Office saying that the Under Secretary, Mr Roy Christie, wanted to see me and could I report to Head Office at a particular date and time, which I did. When I entered his office, I thought I was going there for an interview for the position and Mr Christie shook my hand and welcomed me and said, "Congratulations, you're my new Assistant Under Secretary for Law." So that was a great surprise. Even more surprising was the fact that he said that within thirty minutes I had to be at the Treasury Department to have a briefing on the Grants Commission, which I knew nothing about. Luckily when I got there, there were representatives from most government departments there so my lack of preparation was not exposed, so I was quite lucky.

RC So personally, how did you feel about taking up this position – with some trepidation?

DON DOIG No, I was quite excited about the prospect because, you know, I'd started as a fifteen year old in the Crown Law Department at Fremantle Court in 1954 and this had been a long term goal, of seeking promotion within the department because I really loved the sort of work that was undertaken by the department and the great camaraderie that existed between the officers that I'd worked with over the years, so I was quite proud of the fact that I'd got to that level.

RC And the Crown Law Department itself – how was the Crown Law Department organised at that particular time?

DON DOIG Well, Head Office was made up of the Parliamentary Counsel's Office, the Crown Solicitor's Office, which in those days included the Crown Prosecutor and then outside the department there was the Public Trust Office, the Registrar-General's Office and the Titles Office, all within the umbrella of the Crown Law Department.

RC I want to ask you about responsibilities now, Don. What were your responsibilities as Assistant Under Secretary for Law?

DON DOIG At that particular time, the department was engaged in an extensive capital works program and working with the Under Secretary and in consultation with the Public Works architects, judges, lawyers, police and others involved in the administration of justice, the District Court building was planned and constructed during my period as Assistant Under Secretary for Law. That project was very important because it incorporated many new concepts in the separation of access to courtrooms for judges, prisoners, jurors, and public access was a very important component as well. I think that, in the end, what was achieved in the District Court building at that stage broke new ground in courthouse design.

RC And just overall, the Crown Law Department – what do you see as its functions? I'm thinking about its relationship to the government at the time and to the judiciary. Where did it sit, if you like, in those fields?

DON DOIG Well, the courts were obviously occupied by judicial officers who were independent of government and it was necessary to make sure that that independence wasn't compromised in any way. The Crown Solicitor's Office was the legal adviser for other government departments and ministers, so that was quite a big responsibility for the department.

RC At that time when you joined the department, who were the key figures at that particular time, apart from yourself, of course? Who were the other key figures around at the time?

DON DOIG In my initial appointment?

RC Yes, your initial appointment.

DON DOIG Reg Green was the Under Secretary for Law, but being in Fremantle and being a fifteen year old, you never got to encounter much contact with the powers that be at that early stage. It wasn't until later on

when I started to do relieving work in Head Office that I came across more senior people in the department.

RC I believe you were selected to attend the Australian Management College at Mount Eliza in Victoria while you were Assistant Under Secretary. Is that right?

DON DOIG Just after I was appointed, the Public Service Board advised me that I'd been selected to attend the Australian Administrative College in Mount Eliza and that was, as I recall, only about an eight-week course but it was very intensive and it included public servants from every state and every jurisdiction and it was quite concentrated.

RC So that was one of the courses you really had to do?

DON DOIG That's right, yes.

RC In December 1983, you were appointed as Under Secretary for Law in the Crown Law Department. How did this occur?

DON DOIG Well, again, it was an advertised vacancy and I had to apply and compete for the position with other applicants. Luckily I was selected. I probably at that stage – and I don't recall or even since that anybody within the department had risen from a fifteen year old junior clerk to head of department in the space of twenty-nine years, I think it was - - -

RC It is quite remarkable really, isn't it?

DON DOIG Yes, but over that period I'd covered a lot of ground in practically every facet of the department so I think that stood me in good stead in the selection process.

RC Who did you take over from? Who was the Under Secretary?

DON DOIG Roy Christie was the Under Secretary when I was Assistant Under Secretary and we worked together from 1979 till 1983. A fantastic man, a great people person and one of the many people within the

department, they were nature's pure gentlemen. I've mentioned a few previously and Roy Christie was certainly one that just made a great impression with everybody, his calm attitude, very understanding of staff, so he was a great mentor for me in that four years.

RC Thank you. How did your responsibilities change in your new position? I'm talking about from being an assistant to being the Under Secretary for Law?

DON DOIG Well, much wider, of course, including budgetary management, which in those days was quite difficult, but the capital works program continued after the District Court success because we had new court facilities being constructed at Midland, Bunbury, Geraldton, the Perth Children's Court and Joondalup plus additions to the Supreme Court and Collie Court, so it was full on from a capital works program and unprecedented before and since.

RC I'm interested to have your views on why the capital works program occurred at this particular time. Why was there such activity in capital works, do you think, at that time?

DON DOIG I think, looking back, court facilities had been neglected over a long period and with increased activity there needed to be bigger and more modern facilities for the administration of justice right throughout the state. The expansion of the metropolitan area meant that new courts at Midland, Perth Children's Court and Joondalup courts were built to serve the expanding needs of the metropolitan area and Bunbury and Geraldton courts of course were thriving country cities which needed better facilities.

RC You held some ex-officio appointments in your role as Under Secretary as well, for instance, the Council and the Board of Management of the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration. Could you tell me a little about those?

DON DOIG The Institute of Judicial Administration was set up some years before I was involved. It involved representatives from the judiciary and

courts' administration from every jurisdiction, every state and territory. It was designed to examine ways of administering justice more effectively, more efficiently, and there was some considerable work done to improve the way justice was undertaken and it was instrumental in getting ideas together to introduce computers into the administration, the work of the courts. So a lot of work in that regard was undertaken by the AIJA.

RC And also the Board of the Australian Institute of Criminology?

DON DOIG That was set up by the Commonwealth and the Institute was appointed to allocate funds to various professional researchers to look at aspects of criminality and every different aspect that affected the administration of justice within the community.

RC I'm just interested on that point. Richard Harding – did you work at all with Richard Harding? I'm just thinking of Richard because I actually interviewed him as a criminologist and as Inspector of Custodial Services as well and I just wondered if you had any interaction with Richard.

DON DOIG Richard was chairman of that board, the Institute, for a period I was involved, so he was quite aware of issues affecting Western Australia and he was a boon to getting funds to look at issues that would benefit Western Australia.

RC And the Board of the Western Australian Crime Prevention Council?

DON DOIG Yes. Not a very active body. It was a voluntary organisation that I was involved in. In the end, I'm not sure whether it even continued long after I was involved. It involved judges and magistrates and justices of the peace within Western Australia but looking back, I don't think it was that effective.

RC And you were invited to attend an international conference on courthouse design in Phoenix, Arizona. Could you tell me a little about that?

DON DOIG That arose out of the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration who had been in contact with its counterpart in the USA. When we'd had such success with the District Court at that stage, it was suggested that I might represent Australia by attending this conference in Phoenix, Arizona. It was a bit of an eye opener in a way, because one of the visits we went to, was a new courthouse that was being promoted as state of the art in America and I was flabbergasted to find that in this particular courthouse the judges, the prisoners in their orange overalls and the jurors all used the same passageway to get to the courtrooms and I thought to myself, well, if that's the best they can do, they've got a long way to go, in my view.

RC An interesting story, that.

DON DOIG We also went to a magistrate's court – magistrates are called judges over there – and this was virtually like a traffic court, but the security in that little court, you had to go through metal detectors and I went into the judge's chambers after the court and he was an Elvis Presley fan because every scrap of wall space was taken up by photos and memorabilia of Elvis Presley and I thought well, he's got to occupy himself somehow I suppose. (laughs)

RC During your term of office, Don, as Under Secretary for Law, the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions was established. Could you tell me about that?

DON DOIG Yes. There had been developments within Australia to have an independent director of public prosecutions. As I said earlier, part of the Crown Law Department included the prosecution section which came under the control of the Crown Solicitor and the Solicitor-General so with the need to create an independent Director of Public Prosecutions, new legislation was established and that office was set up I think in 1991, or 1990.

RC I have 1991 here.

DON DOIG Yes, 1991. That was just a couple of years before I retired.

RC Yes, you mentioned it briefly. Why was it necessary to create a Director of Public Prosecutions at that particular time?

DON DOIG Only to provide for the Director of Public Prosecutions to be completely independent of any interference from government or anybody else. It was a fairly daunting task to undertake that job, very busy and continues to be busy as you read in the newspapers. The long term plan was to have state prosecutors taking over from police prosecutors in magistrates' courts and that hasn't gone to such an extent as was originally planned.

RC Was that a good idea?

DON DOIG I think so. When you see the pressure police prosecutors were placed under in courts – they were given briefs five minutes before the trial started and they did a wonderful job, police prosecutors, but they were under terrible pressure most of the time.

RC From the volume of work?

DON DOIG From the volume of work and the fact that cases were moved from one court to another and briefs were transferred between prosecutors to prosecutors with no preparation at all, and it was a very hard task. Had they been better managed by a professional prosecution service, I think it would've been a step forward.

RC Was there any opposition at the time to the creation of the Director of Public Prosecutions?

DON DOIG No, not at all.

RC So everyone saw that it was the way to go?

DON DOIG Yes.

RC The Public Guardian's Office was also established. Could you tell me about that and why it was necessary to create the Public Guardian's Office?

DON DOIG I think the Public Guardian now is called the Public Advocate but the Public Guardian was a person almost like an arbitrator, to look after the affairs of people who were incapable of looking after themselves and that introduced the guardianship for people who needed somebody to manage their affairs and the authority to exercise an enduring power of attorney when that became operative. People made an enduring power of attorney which was only activated on them becoming incapable and the Public Guardian then took over as guardian and made decisions on their behalf.

RC So do you think that's been a success?

DON DOIG I think so. I think what justified it was some examples of abuse by family members of people who were incapable and this served to eliminate many of the problems that arose out of family issues like that.

RC I did notice some time ago there was criticism in the media about the Public Guardian's Office, or the Public Advocate, about the powers that they had to organise or look after people's affairs. Have you any comments on that?

DON DOIG I wasn't aware of that, to be honest. But it is an emotional area and decisions are always made in the best interests of the person who needs care and sometimes people affected by those decisions aren't happy.

RC You mentioned briefly about computers, computerisation. I'd just like to ask you about the steering committee to computerise all Western

Australian legislation. Could you tell me about its objectives and how that arose?

DON DOIG Well, as I said earlier, the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration was fairly active in promoting the use of computers in courts, and one of the initial projects in Western Australia was to computerise all legislation so that it could be accessed quickly by computer. We were breaking new ground there because the equipment that was available which was used to scan hard copy had some difficulties because in technical terms the Government Printer used proportional spacing and the computer program didn't always recognise the different spacing on pages so we had some teething problems early, but they were all eventually overcome and the improvement in equipment over the years has made that job so much easier.

RC I think there is one about court management as well. I believe Western Australia pioneered the use of computers in court management. Is that so?

DON DOIG That's true. That was interesting too because a lot of people didn't quite understand how the development of a computerised system worked and I recall going down to the Supreme Court and confronted by one judge who said, "I've got my computer but it doesn't work." But of course nothing had been developed by then and of course the first thing that went on to the court's database was the legislation and then progressively when evidence was recorded and entered into a database the judges had access to computerised transcripts, which must've been a boon to them, and of course progressively other aspects of the court administration were computerised and so over the years great strides have been taken in computerising the courts. Mind you, I'm talking about twenty years ago and I'm not up to date with what's happened in the last twenty years but I imagine it would be quite outstanding progress that has been made.

RC I'd like to talk, Don, about a few other initiatives as well during your time as Under Secretary for Law. One I have here is the Inrep System to enforce unpaid infringement notices. Do you know about that one?

DON DOIG Yes. It's changed completely since I left twenty years ago, but we had an infringement Notice Enforcement section in the Central Courts there and up until that stage police officers had to go around and collect fines under the power of a warrant and eventually the police (a) ran out of resources and (b) didn't like the job of trying to collect money. They thought it was a debt collection issue, and we had to find a different way of recovering it so since then I notice that the amount of outstanding fines runs into millions of dollars so I don't know how that's ever going to be recovered.

RC Also created during that time was the Legal Practitioners' Disciplinary Tribunal. Were you involved in that?

DON DOIG No, not at all.

RC And also pre-trial conferences to promote settlement.

DON DOIG That was a development that I didn't have a lot to do with. That was initiated by the judges and the legal profession, to try and shorten the duration of trials and eliminate unnecessary trials.

RC Don, I'd like to ask you now about your work with justices of the peace. Over your years as Under Secretary for Law you were involved in training of JPs. Could you tell me why you believe justices of the peace were so important within the justice system?

DON DOIG The justices of the peace have been an important component of the administration of the law in Western Australia since day one. They are particularly important in country areas. For example, where a magistrate's headquarters, say, might be in Northam, there might be a dozen circuit towns which the magistrate visits on a monthly basis but in those smaller towns where there might be an overnight arrest for one particular issue, the question of bail had to be considered. Well, of course, with the magistrate not being on site, we had to rely on justices of the peace to deal with bail applications or in some cases, just to deal with matters where a plea of guilty was presented to the court before sitting JPs. They usually sat in pairs and it worked very well and has worked well for years.

RC Educating JPs as well – could you tell me a little about how you set about training JPs and your work in educating them?

DON DOIG It became critical to formalise the training the JPs when the new Bail Act was introduced because there were very important principles set out in the Bail Act that justices had to be acutely aware of and so we set about holding annual seminars in each magisterial district throughout the state. We produced a comprehensive training manual which became almost like a bible for justices of the peace and we relied heavily on the local magistrate to reinforce that training whilst he's on circuit. Country magistrates did a great deal in training JPs because when they were on circuit more often than not they would invite local justices of the peace to sit on the bench with him to deal with cases while he's there and that became a very sound training ground for JPs throughout the state. The justices seminars were very well attended, hosted by the local magistratae in each magisterial district and we achieved a lot in training justices of the peace in the new provisions under the Bail Act.

RC And in November 1991, I believe your work in training justices of the peace was recognised by Governor Sir Francis Burt. Is that correct?

DON DOIG Yes, I got a note from Sir Francis Burt in I think it was November of 1991 where he'd read in the JP Journal that I'd been made a life member of the Royal Association of Justices and his note, as I recall, congratulated me on the work I'd done in training of JPs and wished me well for the future.

RC Just with Francis Burt again, when he was Chief Justice, in 1988 I believe you also received a letter thanking you for your help to him during his term as Chief Justice and in particular, for "Justice", which was your brainchild. Can you tell me about the letter and about "Justice"?

DON DOIG Yes. Anybody who's been in the Supreme Court, outside the Chief Justice's chambers there's a magnificent stained glass window which has the coloured stained glass of "Justice" and a friend of mine I

commissioned to take a photo of it, framed it and presented the framed photo of this stained glass window to Sir Francis Burt on his retirement and he very much appreciated it.

End of Recording 3

Recording 4

RC Don, I'd like to move on now to ask you, if I could, about the period known as WA Inc. between 1983 and 1991 and the WA Inc. Royal Commission. This was obviously during your time as Under Secretary for Law. As a general question, could you give me any insights into this period from your perspective?

DON DOIG It involved the Crown Solicitor more particularly in the day to day issues that arose for the government and I'm sure that, in my view, the situation would've been far worse had it not been for the involvement in the Crown Solicitor's Office in advising the government on issues that were important.

RC What was your position? I take it you didn't have a great role in relation to WA Inc.?

DON DOIG No, the only issue that I recall quite vividly really is that I had a visit from the Under Treasurer, who happened to be my cousin, Ross Bowe, with a request from the government that I give the government access to the Public Trustee's Common Fund, which in those days was probably worth $100 million. But as I pointed out to Ross, it wasn't the government's money and as far as I was concerned the government had no right and over my dead body would they get access to that money. Well, I never heard any more about that so my advice must've been received.

RC And the Royal Commission itself – have you any thoughts on the findings of the Royal Commission?

DON DOIG I think what came out of it, so far as the whole of the public service was concerned, was the need to properly reflect on

accountability and effectiveness in government, and I think that it changed not the role but the outlook of many senior public servants on the need to be more accountable.

RC That's fine for the public service which is what you can speak about, but just broader in terms of Western Australia and politics and the judiciary, if you like, how do you see its impact?

DON DOIG I don't think it had an impact on the judiciary because they were quite independent of all the issues involved in that and they only got involved when matters were brought for determination. I probably think that politicians learnt a salutary lesson from the way in which they dealt with private enterprise and I think that was probably one of the better things that came out of the whole of the WA Inc. Royal Commission.

RC Just reflecting back now, if I could ask you to look back over those ten years as Under Secretary for Law, Don, what gave you the most satisfaction over those years in that position? What do you consider to have been your most satisfying achievements?

DON DOIG In my view, the department ran very effectively and I'm proud of the way in which I completed the job of Under Secretary but in saying that, I couldn't have achieved what was achieved without the help of a fairly large band of loyal staff who were just fantastic.

RC I was going to ask you another question about your closest colleagues but perhaps it would be good if you could actually talk about that as well.

DON DOIG Yes. Glen Coffey was my Assistant Under Secretary and he came from a computing background and was the driver of many of the computerisation initiatives that we introduced over that period, particularly in the courts. He had a great rapport with the judges of the Supreme Court and he and Mr Justice Paul Seaman, who was very technically aware, together did great work in putting together the initial design of the computerisation of the courts.

RC I was thinking as well of particular projects and developments during those ten years. Are there any of those that you have a particular affinity for, if you like, that gave you greatest satisfaction?

DON DOIG No, I just loved the job. Every aspect of it was so enjoyable that it was a pleasure to go to work every day and it was a sad day when that all came to an end in 1993.

RC Just on the other side of the coin, Don, did you have any regrets or disappointments, frustrations, if you like, things that you wanted to achieve that weren't achieved?

DON DOIG No, I had the benefit of having two particular Attorneys-General, Ian Medcalf and Joe Berinson, both of whom were very aware of issues within the law, both being lawyers, and they were very receptive to the needs of the court and the department and I was very fortunate that both of them were able to provide great support and assistance over the time. We always struggled for sufficient funds, but that was common with practically every department, you never got totally what you wanted, but I must say that I had great support from Ian Medcalf and Joe Berinson over the period I was Under Secretary for Law.

RC Don, soon after the Court Liberal Government came to power in 1993, the Attorney-General, Cheryl Edwardes, introduced the Ministry of Justice Bill, which aimed to create a single Ministry of Justice incorporating the Crown Law Department, the Department of Corrective Services and the Youth Justice Bureau. I'd be interested in your thoughts on this legislation.

DON DOIG After studying the legislation I was concerned that it would have a problem assimilating because of the vastly different cultures that existed in the Crown Law Department and what I knew about in what was then the Prisons or Correctives Services Department. So when I made my concerns known to the Attorney-General, I was told that those views were unwelcome, the legislation was going to proceed in any event but regrettably

my concerns came to pass some years later when all the problems I forecast seem to have eventuated.

RC Can you tell me about some of those problems?

DON DOIG Well, the idea was that you could put a prison officer in any position and, without mentioning particular courts, the idea of putting a prison officer to be a Clerk of Courts in a busy court with no background into the way in which the courts operated was, to me, a fallacy because from long experience it takes years and years to develop the range of experience to operate in a magistrate's court.

RC Were there any other reservations you had about the new legislation?

DON DOIG I was concerned that the emphasis seemed to be on doing what the Prisons Department wanted to do and I was concerned that this may have an adverse effect on the senior staff in my department who had provided such loyal and efficient service to me over the years. As it turns out, that also came to pass with several of my senior people being moved on.

RC The new legislation effectively abolished your position as Under Secretary for Law. Why did you decide to resign and take redundancy rather than apply for a position in the restructured Ministry of Justice?

DON DOIG When I saw the proposed structure of the Ministry of Justice there didn't seem to be a position which would accommodate me, so in the end I decided that the best option for me at that stage was to consider redundancy which was offered to me and which I took.

RC When you announced your resignation, Don, you received many letters of support and regret about your departure, from various bodies and organisations and you have several letters here. I'll just read out some of the organisations. We have the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration, the Children's Court of Western Australia, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Coroner's Court, the Australian Institute of Criminology, the Crown Law

Department Magistrates' Courts, the District Court of Western Australia, the Parliamentary Counsel's Office, the Public Guardian's Office and the Member for Ashburton, Fred Riebeling, JP.

DON DOIG Riebeling. He used to be a Clerk of Courts as well.

RC How did you feel about this show of support at the time?

DON DOIG Well, as I said previously, I was proud of my achievements during my decade as Under Secretary for Law and also for the loyalty that was offered to me by many people within and without the department. I adopted an open door policy so that if anybody needed to see me, they didn't have to make an appointment, they just came and if I was free I would see them at the drop of a hat and I think this was very much appreciated. I was on call for any of the judicial officers who had a problem that they wanted to discuss. I went out of my way to make sure that judicial officers received all the support they needed to administer justice effectively. So, yes, I had great rapport with practically everybody in the department so it was a sad day when I had to leave and that's been mutually respected by the letters of support I received from various sources.

RC It must've been heartwarming.

DON DOIG It was, it was; yes.

RC After you left your position there, Don, between 1993 and 1996 you undertook several investigations on behalf of the Public Service Board under the Public Service Management Act. Could you tell me something about these investigations and why you were called upon to carry them out?

DON DOIG I had worked in the Public Service Board as an advocate there so I knew a bit about the Public Service Act and the way it was to be administered. The Public Service Board invited me to act as a consultant if and when the need arose, which I did. I undertook several investigations under the Public Service Management Act.

RC Are you able to tell me about any of those investigations, or ones that stick in your mind?

DON DOIG One that sticks in my mind is a problem which arose that a particular Minister had attempted to influence the selection panel for a senior vacancy in a government department. I was called upon to investigate whether there was any substance to this allegation and on interviewing the particular Minister I encountered some resistance to answering questions as part of the investigation. It wasn't until I alerted the Minister that in the event that he refused to answer I could go back to the Public Service Board and ask for the investigation to be converted to a special investigation in which he would be compelled to answer questions; that brought about a change of attitude and all the information I asked for was provided by the Minister concerned. In the end, I made a report to the Public Service Board which confirmed that whilst there was evidence to suggest that some attempt was made to influence, that in the end there was no active change by the interviewing panel to their recommendation. So in the end it all resolved itself.

[After retirement as Under Secretary for Law and before accepting an appointment as an Anti-Corruption Commissioner, I was appointed as a member of the Builders Registration Board, the Building Disputes Committee and the Painters Registration Board]

RC Thank you, Don. In October 1993, you were appointed to the Western Australian Constitutional Committee, which was tasked with examining the principles and changes that should go in the Federation and the implications of the creation of a republic for Western Australia. Could you tell me how the committee was set up and how it set about its task?

DON DOIG The government appointed then Malcolm McCusker QC as chairman of that body and I think there were eleven other members, one of which was Wayne Martin QC who went on to become the present Chief Justice. We conducted about a dozen public meetings throughout the state and looked at people's attitudes to the possibility of a republic being established in Western Australia and the implications if that happened. It was

enlightening to hear the public's response because there wasn't widespread support for the idea of a republic, particularly based on the American model of an executive president. The commission looked at all aspects of the implications, how it would affect Western Australia, and produced a fairly comprehensive list of recommendations to the government after those meetings.

RC How did you come to be appointed to that committee?

DON DOIG You'll have to ask the powers that be, I suppose, but I was available and perhaps because of my association with the law that connection was made.

RC I'm interested in your input into the committee as well. What were your particular views on the subjects that the committee was investigating?

DON DOIG There was widespread agreement on many of the aspects. My view was that inevitably Australia will have a republic but it will be based more on virtually little change, inasmuch as the Governor-General would become the non-executive president and the states would continue as they do now. That's essentially what the committee recommended.

RC The other important part of the committee's inquiry was into federation or democratic federalism, if you like, as opposed to a republic. One of the findings was that the concentration should be on federalism and how federalism is administered. What are your views on that?

DON DOIG Well, my views were shaped by being involved with Ian Medcalf in the Office of Federal Affairs. Ian Medcalf was very adamant that it was important that the states retain their individuality and become important aspects within a federation within Australia and not be overtaken by the Commonwealth under this external affairs power.

RC I was going to ask you to talk briefly about the committee's findings and recommendations. I've actually read the report but could you just give me your views on the committee's findings?

DON DOIG Well, I haven't read them for some years, to be honest. There were numerous - I think there were twenty or thirty - recommendations and they're all contained in the report that went to the government. They were unanimous from within the committee and I think they'll serve as a good blueprint further down the track when the issues of a republic are more actively pursued.

RC One of the important recommendations was the need to promote public education about constitutional issues and the report actually resulted in the foundation of the Constitutional Centre. Would you like to tell me something about your views on the Constitutional Centre and public education?

DON DOIG I've not been to the Constitutional Centre but the report, as I recall, pointed out that many of the public were keen to be acknowledged as Australians and separately acknowledged as West Australians, so the importance of the separation between the Commonwealth and the State was evident within the community.

RC Don, in October 1996, you were appointed as one of two commissioners of the Anti-Corruption Commission. Could you tell me how you came to be appointed?

DON DOIG It was unusual in a way because - I referred earlier to my report under the Public Service Management Act that went to the Public Service Board - unbeknowns to me, a copy of this went to the Anti-Corruption Commission and some weeks later I was called by the chairman of the ACC to come in for a talk, which I agreed to. When I got there he referred to my report and commended me on my report and asked whether I'd be interested in taking on the role of an honorary commissioner of the Anti-Corruption Commission because at that stage all the positions were honorary and there

were no investigators within the commission and only a couple of clerical staff. So as a result of that and the change in legislation, Deputy Police Commissioner John Porter could no longer serve on the commission because he was a police officer. Commander David Orr was the other commissioner and I was invited to fill the vacancy left by John Porter's departure, so that's where it all started.

RC How did you feel about this appointment?

DON DOIG I was quite excited about it because it gave me something tangible to do. It wasn't a full-time job, it was only probably one week in two – you had to go into the office to go through reports that had come in and then decide on how matters were to be investigated because in those days we had none of our own investigators and matters that needed criminal investigation had to be referred to the Police Department.

RC Could you tell me about the work of the commission? I'm thinking in broad terms – what were its responsibilities?

DON DOIG In the early days when we were all in honorary positions?

RC Yes.

DON DOIG We had to try and work out ways in which we could reduce opportunities for corruption within the public service generally, which included police and local government, but we relied heavily on reports being made to us where instances of corruption had been discovered. We had no real power to go out and conduct investigations to determine issues for ourselves.

RC You mentioned it was an honorary position in the early days. That changed, I take it?

DON DOIG That changed when the Anti-Corruption Commission legislation was introduced and the positions became paid positions and under the Act we had power to appoint our own investigators, technical staff and that

included telephone intercepts, staff and investigators and computer people, and we had to run our own administration.

RC So it really broadened your powers, if you like.

DON DOIG Yes, it did, and it was different altogether to the initial involvement with the honorary position.

RC When did all this change, Don? Can you recall that?

DON DOIG It wasn't long after; I'm not sure, to be honest.

RC That's all right, but it wasn't too long after you were first appointed then?

DON DOIG No.

RC In June 2001, the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council agreed to establish the Joint Standing Committee on the Anti-Corruption Commission. One of the committee's function was to "monitor and review the performance of the ACC". What are your views about the establishment of this parliamentary committee to oversee the work of the ACC? For instance, do you think it was necessary?

DON DOIG I think it was necessary because every organisation needs to be accountable and so this was one way in which the functions of the Anti-Corruption Commission were examined and reported upon.

RC Was there any opposition to the formation of this committee?

DON DOIG Not from within the Anti-Corruption Commission, no.

RC I believe you held regular meetings.

DON DOIG Yes, as I recall, about once every three months. The chairman and the two commissioners and the chief investigator had to front before the committee and disclose, to the extent we were allowed, issues that were under consideration by our body.

RC So was it also reviewing the work of the ACC during that previous period?

DON DOIG Yes.

RC I was going to ask you, Don, about any particular cases – not naming names, obviously – that you may be prepared to talk about but I understand you may not be able to do so.

DON DOIG Without researching it, I think I would still be bound by the Secrecy Provisions that existed under the Anti-Corruption Commission Act so that I could not disclose specific details of cases.

RC How long were your appointments for, Don?

DON DOIG Under the Act each commissioner could only be appointed for a maximum of eight years and each appointment usually lasted for two years and then renewable after two years.

RC Although you can't talk about cases, how did you find the work on the commission?

DON DOIG Frustrating at times, stimulating at times, but a real challenge, and I enjoyed the challenge and I think that we did make a difference over the years. We were criticised from all and sundry for our Secrecy Provisions. The press hated us because we could not give them chapter and verse on things we were looking at and they went out of their way to belittle us, one to the extent that we took him to the Press Council and he was disciplined for untrue allegations made in an article, but I think in the end generally we made a big difference. Attitudes in the public service changed, people were aware that if they stepped out of line somebody was going to catch up with them and I think that one of the large benefits we had was not with the cases that we investigated but with the influence we had in preventing instances of corruption within the public service.

End of recording 4

Recording 5

This is Ron Chapman. It is Wednesday the 19th of March 2014 and I am continuing my interview with Don Doig. This interview is for the Law Society of Western Australia Oral History Project.

RC Don, I'd like to move on now to ask if you can tell me something about the Anti-Corruption Commission's involvement in the 2002 Kennedy Royal Commission into the Western Australian Police Service.

DON DOIG Well, very early on we had a round table conference with the Royal Commissioner involving staff for the Royal Commission and the Anti-Corruption Commission. It transpired that as the Royal Commission got under way the Royal Commission relied quite heavily on some of the work that the Anti-Corruption Commission had done in relation to investigations of corruption against police officers.

RC I believe the Royal Commission exposed some of the difficulties and limitations within the ACC. Is that correct?

DON DOIG That's true and having refreshed my memory looking at the Interim Report of the Royal Commission, the Royal Commission noted that some of the matters that were subject to earlier investigation by the ACC had provided the opportunity for assessing the benefits to be derived from the powers granted to the commission under the Royal Commission Act as compared and contrasted with the more limited powers granted to the ACC under its Act.

RC What was the result of the findings?

DON DOIG As a result of the Interim Report the government then decided – well, the recommendation was - that a new body should be established with all the powers necessary to conduct investigations into corruption. Ironically, the Anti-Corruption Commission had been seeking these for years beforehand without success and it was ironic that in the end the Anti-Corruption Commission recommendations for legislative change found their

way into the legislation which was created to establish the Corruption and Crime Commission.

RC The Royal Commission into the Western Australian Police Service – in your view, was that Royal Commission necessary? I want to ask you about its findings as well, if you could comment on that.

DON DOIG Well, it's a vexed question whether it was necessary or not. In one way, if the Anti-Corruption Commission had been given the powers it sought very early on in the piece, you could argue that probably the Royal Commission was not necessary, or may not have been necessary. On the other hand, it probably was necessary by virtue of the fact that the Anti-Corruption Commission didn't have the necessary powers to operate effectively.

RC I'd like to move on now just to ask you if you're able to comment on the case of Moira Rayner. Moira Rayner was a Corruption and Crime Commissioner who worked with you but she resigned in August 2005 following allegations that she had warned a parliamentary staff member that his phone was being tapped. I'm aware that this particular incident occurred after you retired, or you left the service, but I just wondered if you are able to comment on that at all and about Moira Rayner herself.

DON DOIG I worked with Moira as a commissioner on the Anti-Corruption Commission until the Anti-Corruption Commission was abolished in May of 2004. Moira Rayner subsequently joined the Corruption and Crime Commission as Acting Commissioner and the incident you referred to occurred in, I think, August of 2005 so I was long gone by then, so I wasn't aware, other than what was publicly available, of what the circumstances were. But certainly it didn't do the credibility of the organisation much good.

RC How did you find Moira Rayner when working with her?

DON DOIG She was just a working colleague along with the others on the commission. There were no particular issues involving her.

RC You retired in May 2004 at age sixty-five or you were approaching age sixty-five. At that time the ACC was abolished and replaced with the Corruption and Crime Commission. Could you tell me about this transitional period of those organisations and how it affected the staff?

DON DOIG Yes, it was a fairly disruptive period, as I recall, because ideally the Corruption and Crime Commission could have adopted a transfer of all staff and all facilities but that didn't occur for some reason or other. Some staff were denied transfer to the new organisation and had to find work elsewhere, so that was a fairly disappointing outcome from my point of view; it could've been done much better because many good investigators and professional staff were denied a career. They had to move elsewhere to continue with their careers.

RC Thank you. I'd like to move on now, Don, to some more general questions but before I ask those I'd just like to give you the chance to relate any further anecdotes or stories that you may have, just looking back over your career. I know we covered a few very early on in the interview but I'd just like to give you the chance if there is anything else.

DON DOIG Not particularly at this stage. Perhaps I may recall some a little bit later on but not at this particular stage.

RC Looking back over your remarkable public service career from 1954 when you were employed as a junior clerk at Fremantle Court, through to 1983 when you became Under Secretary for Law and to your retirement in 2004 as a commissioner of the ACC – what do you see as your career highlights?

DON DOIG I don't think there was any one particular highlight. The most satisfying aspect was, as you say, starting as a junior clerk and then starting at the bottom and then finishing at the top twenty-nine years later – that to me was a highlight and I don't know whether it's been done before or whether it will be done in the future; it's hard to say. But it was a very satisfying moment in my working life to reach the office of Under Secretary for

Law. I remember when I first started work as a junior clerk in Fremantle Court, the stipendiary magistrate then was Keir Dougall and he counselled me, he said, “If you get to be a country Clerk of Courts by the time you retire, you will have done really well” and I think in retrospect he would’ve been very proud of the fact that I went far beyond that.

RC You mentioned Keir Dougall. Just for the record, Don, how do you spell that?

DON DOIG K-e-i-r and D-o-u-g-a-l-l.

RC You mentioned as well, when you actually retired, you received the good wishes of staff. Would you like to comment on that? I think that was very gratifying, you mentioned.

DON DOIG Yes, it was very gratifying and I think that stems from the fact that over the years, I’d adopted an open door policy that nobody needed to make an appointment to come and see me if they had issues about their work. I got out and about quite a bit and was able to mix with staff on a regular basis which was much appreciated, particularly those in the country areas, who if they didn’t see anybody from Head Office they perhaps felt they might’ve been ignored but I regularly got out to visit country courts and mix with staff and I think that stood me in good stead.

RC Looking back over your career, Don, what do you see as having been your most satisfying achievements, or your most notable achievements, in the public service?

DON DOIG When I was appointed as Under Secretary for Law I’d spent four years prior to that as Assistant Under Secretary for Law and at that particular time, not only in Western Australia but throughout Australia, there were increasing attempts to improve the administration of justice and looking at innovative ways to achieve that. One, of course, was the introduction of computers into the justice system and we, in Western Australia, led the way in many aspects in relation to that, particularly with the computerisation of legislation where all legislation was computerised and was available to the

legal profession and the judges online, so that was a great innovation. The other aspect that I'm very proud of – and I must give credit to successive governments too because without funding the development of court buildings would not have proceeded at the pace that was then undertaken in the eighties. I've already mentioned the new court buildings that were constructed during that period. So, together, they would be quite important highlights in my career.

RC In a broader context, Don, the public service as well and the court system over time – how has the organisation changed? I'm speaking more broadly now, the public service attitudes, if you like, in the public service and management of the public service. How do you see the changes over the years?

DON DOIG Well, of course it's twenty years since I finished so I'm not up to date with what current practice is but whilst I was involved the move by governments and the Public Service Commission to avoid permanent appointments and move towards contract appointments I think didn't do the public service any favours because you tended not to have that camaraderie, and people looked after their own patch to make sure their contract was renewed, rather than not having to worry about that and made sure the organisation worked as a team.

RC Thank you. And the court system – how do you see that as having evolved, if you like, over the years? How has that changed? I'm talking about your time, of course.

DON DOIG Yes. The court system goes back in history a long time and not a lot needs to change or needed to change. It was only the introduction of new technology that introduced some changes within the organisation so that's about all I need to say I think on that aspect.

RC On the other side of the coin, Don, what about disappointments and frustrations during your time? Are there any projects, if you like, or

changes that you would've liked to have seen implemented that weren't, that you couldn't implement?

DON DOIG I was concerned at one stage about the cost of summoning jurors into a jury pool in Central Law Courts because research we undertook indicated that many jurors were summoned to attend the jury pool but were never used and I just wondered whether there couldn't be a better system of reducing the number of challenges and stand asides from jurors to reduce the number of jurors that needed to be recruited. That didn't go down very well with the Law Society and the legal profession generally. I think it's probably still an area where some savings could be made.

RC Not necessarily during your career, Don, but have you any thoughts on changes or innovations or improvements that could be made to the justice or the court system in Western Australia to improve it?

DON DOIG I alluded to earlier about the difficulties police prosecutors were placed in when cases were reassigned with very little notice and the disadvantage the police officers have in coming to grips with a particular brief that they've had for, you know, just minutes beforehand. I think that a better system of assigning cases to prosecutors needs to be examined if it hasn't already; that's one area that I think probably should be looked at if it's not done now. Administration of justice in country areas has always been a difficulty inasmuch as some magistrates have to cover vast areas and on circuit matters in some courts can be delayed because of the timing of circuit visits by magistrates and judges to a certain extent too.

RC Over the years, Don, you've received several awards which have included life membership of the Royal Association of Justices Western Australia, that was in 1991, life membership of the Melville-Palmyra Tennis Club in 1994, the Australian Sports Medal for service to sport, in that case, tennis, in 2000, and the Australian Centenary Medal in 2001. Could I ask you what these awards mean to you?

DON DOIG It's a satisfying recognition of the circumstances which led to the awards. The Royal Association of Justices – that came about by the concentrated effort we undertook to train justices [of the peace] regarding the new provisions of the Bail Act and so that went on for several years and I got a very nice letter from Sir Francis Burt in regard to the fact that I had been made a life member of the Royal Association of Justices. In relation to the Board of Management of the Melville-Palmyra Tennis Club, for twenty years I'd held various offices within the Club, including seven years as president, and whilst I was a member of the tennis club I helped organise and was instrumental in facilitating the City of Melville Junior Tennis Tournament for something like thirty-five years, so that was a well-supported tournament and as a result I've received life membership of the tennis club. It was probably also the basis, in 2000, for me being awarded the Australian Sports Medal for services to sport, which was related to tennis. In 2001, I was awarded the Australian Centenary Medal probably because of public service and services to sport.

RC Thank you. We're approaching the conclusion of this interview, Don. Before we do conclude I believe you would like to tell me something about your family's links with Fremantle and especially about the family's football tradition. According to my research, seventeen members of the Doig family have represented either East Fremantle or South Fremantle football clubs over three generations. Would you like to tell me something about the history and football?

DON DOIG Yes. Well, the Doig family links with Fremantle began in 1886 when my great grandfather, James Doig and his wife Agnes, moved from Adelaide with their then three sons. Two more sons were born after their arrival in Fremantle. James was a carpenter and joiner and in 1890, his company, Petrie and Doig, secured the contract to build the Scots Church in South Terrace, Fremantle near the Fremantle Markets. Looking at some of the notes on the building, it was designed in Gothic style by Talbot Hobbs and the foundation stone was laid by John Forrest. That church remains today, just outside the entrance to the Fremantle Oval. In 1895, James was lured to

Kalgoorlie by the gold rush and whilst there he suffered serious head injuries after falling from his horse. A minister transferred him back to Fremantle where he subsequently died of his injuries in December 1895. His widow, Agnes Doig, was left with five boys, ranging in age from five years to eighteen years. All five boys went on to play football with East Fremantle Football Club. Four of this group achieved life membership and three played over two hundred games. Two of them became presidents, one of East Fremantle and one of South Fremantle so at one stage, two brothers were presidents at the same time; one at East Fremantle, and one at South Fremantle.

The sons of this group, seven in all, played with either East Fremantle or South Fremantle. There was Ron Doig senior, James Doig, Norman Doig, Bill Doig, Edgar Doig, Charles Doig, George Doig, my father, and Dave Doig. Three of them achieved life membership and my father, George Doig, was inducted into the AFL Hall of Fame and was made a member of the WAFL Hall of Fame with legend status. Then the third generation included four members who played with South Fremantle; there was Ron Doig junior, Ron Bowe, Ross Bowe and myself. So as you say, in all, over three generations, seventeen members of the family played with either East Fremantle or South Fremantle. The family's involvement in football was recognised by the Fremantle Football Club when they named its club champion award, the Doig Medal, which my father originally presented. On his passing, I now have the honour of presenting that award annually. It was interesting just the other day, my son called me to say that he and his wife were members of an organising committee for the hundred and tenth anniversary of the Bicton Primary School. He was saying that in the course of his research, thirty-one members of the family had attended Bicton Primary School over four generations so in one way, we have a Bicton heritage as well.

RC Don, I'd now like to give you the opportunity to raise any further issues or subjects or any other anecdotes you'd like to tell me about, or discuss, before we conclude the interview.

DON DOIG Anecdotes – one of the jobs I had, and I don't know whether I mentioned this earlier, was to buy lunches for the staff when I was a

junior at Fremantle Court and I had the job of getting one of the old cast iron pushbikes that the police used in those days and I had to ride out along South Terrace to buy fish and chips and coming back on South Terrace the wheel of the bike got caught in the tramlines and I went base over apex in the middle of South Terrace with fish and chips surrounding me on the roadway, so I wasn't very popular. But my career spanned thirty-nine years and it was unique by virtue of the fact that I started at the bottom and finished at the top. I'm proud of my achievements. Being in the one organisation for so long it was gratifying to see the careers of my colleagues blossom over the years and they've gone on to take on important roles within the public service and the court system and I'm sure that the community was well served by the dedicated team of court officers throughout the state, who gave their whole careers to serving the justice system.

RC Thank you, Don. If there is nothing further, I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking you for giving your time for this interview and to thank you on behalf of the Law Society for agreeing to take part in this oral history project.

DON DOIG Just one final word – in the words of Albert Facey[8], "I've had a fortunate life." And I still do. Thank you, Ron.

RC Thank you very much.

End of interview

8 Albert Barnett (Bert) Facey, (1894-1982) soldier, farmer, tram driver and autobiographer, wrote his life story when he was 86, and which was published as *A Fortunate Life* (1981). See *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol. 17, (MUP), 2007.