

P Jocelyn, could we start with you please. Could you tell us your date of birth and when you were born please

J 8 2.1935 at the Mossman Hospital

P And what about you John

JW I was born 15th May 1935

P Where

JW at Woodford

P Which is near?

JW South east Queensland, west of Caboolture.

P So Jocelyn your family came here a long time ago. They weren't from south east Queensland.

J No.

P When did they come?

J 1897. Both my grandparents came from England separately and landed Mackay where they met and married and had two children. Grandad worked for a mill down there and he was on the weighbridge and he had to do two arithmetic exams before he could work there.

P What was Grandad's name?

J Alfred Francis. He was from a farming family in Nottingham in England and I don't really know why he came out here

P and why did he come to Mossman?

J Well he'd come earlier from Mackay to look at Bailey's Creek area as we called it then. It's now known as Cow Bay. Just when they were thinking about starting a sugar industry over there. And he didn't like it. So he went back to Mackay and then came to Mossman two years later in 1897. With Margaret and two children, Thomas and Charlotte.

P And so did he come to farm sugar

J Yes but they grew citrus and cattle and corn to start with, and he didn't send crops, send sugar to the Mossman Mill until 1911. After they finished working for Thomson Low, they took up four blocks at Cassowary which were all standing forest. And he was a person who wouldn't borrow any money, and he worked on the line from Mossman to Port Douglas and on the road when they were putting it in, and Margaret was left at home on her own with the children.

P And he left her something didn't he. A gun.

J Oh she had a Martini Henry gun, yes, to shoot the cockatoos and the snakes.

P Are they big guns?

JW Yeah

P Like a shot gun?

JW I don't know

J Just a big gun. Dad had it out at home there for a long time, but then when the Japs were coming, the farmers were all told to get rid of their firearms, so he destroyed it.

P Why were they told that

J So that when the Japs landed, they couldn't get some extra firearms.

P Couldn't defend yourself though

J No. Didn't matter. Anyway Margaret and Alfred had seven children up at Cassowary and the last one, Jim was born in 1918. He was actually born while their eldest son Tom was

fighting in France in World War One. She was obviously a change of life baby I suppose. He Jim was. Jim never married and he stayed home and ran the farm when Grandad got too old.

P Is the farm still in the family

J No. When Jim died, it had gone out of production because Jim was 80 when he died and he couldn't run it. He wasn't a farmer. He should've been sent off to the mill to do an apprenticeship because he liked machinery and stuff. But he'd spend half a day fixing stuff in the shed and never get around to going and doing any work. And he didn't have any direct descendants so his, the farm was left to be sold and the money divided between his nieces and nephews.

P So there were 7 children and none of them wanted the farm

J That's right. Well it's much the same these days.

P Did they stay in the area, the 7 children?

J No. I'm the only one left in the whole gang.

P So you're, your mother's, no, was it your mother or your father that was the Francis.

J Dad was a Francis

P Where was he in the order

J He was third. He stayed here and farmed and lived till he was 84 and enjoyed his life.

Mum was

5.29

a New Zealander. She came, she was going to marry someone that was killed in Paschendale and she said she never met anybody else and she worked with this English lady in New Zealand and they'd actually had a holiday together in Fiji and the English lady came from a wealthy family and she decided she'd go back to England for a holiday and she met Tom Francis who was gassed during the war, and a long sea voyage was the cure in those days. And they married in England and she wrote and asked mum to come up here as her housekeeper. And mum said she jumped at the chance because girls couldn't travel in those days like they do now. And she had a job in the home to get over here ?? Tom and Barbara picked her up, or she picked them up, I suppose it was in Sydney, I don't know, and came up here with them in 1924 and she said Tom had hired Phil Lynn's taxi and met them at the Port Douglas wharf and from there to the top of cassowary where Tom had his house, they saw one light.

P At night

B Yeah, it was nighttime. Anyway she met dad then and she stayed for a year and then she went off to work at other places down Brisbane way.

P So dad was Thomas's brother. So she married her boss's brother.

J Yes. *(laughs)*

P That's a story

J Yes, well everybody told dad that he got the best one. She was not popular, but **don't put that in your book**. You'll have to edit this

P Your mother wasn't popular or Barbara wasn't popular

J Barbara wasn't popular. She was a wealthy Englishwoman, the ladies about Cassowary they got dressed up in their high heels and their stockings and their hats and their gloves one day, walked up the dusty road to see her, the new bride in the district, and she opened the door and looked at them standing there and said 'I'm not at home today' and shut the door.

P Why was that

J Well that's the way they are in England. You have to notify people if you're going to see them apparently. And Tom had a car and of course we have a wet season here, and they were going to town one night and Tom pulled up to pick up somebody who was walking

along the road, and Barbara said 'I'm not having him in here with his mud and his wet.' **Don't put this in** or I'll get

P So this is the house we went to visit the other day with the beautiful ceilings

J Yes

P So she was quite a society lady

J Apparently, yeah.

P And he obviously had enough money to

J Well I don't know what state of a house she came to, but that, it was probably built with the ceilings and all that with her money after they got back here, but I don't know about that. You don't go into all those. When all those oldies, you're alive you're young and you don't have time to be bothered.

P True

JW Bible, Tom and his Bible

J Oh Tom, yeah. During World War I, well Tom was done up with the Diggers of Mossman or Diggers of Douglas or whatever it was, well he had a bible in his pocket and the bullet hole, it had a bullet hole in it, he was saved by his bible in his pocket.

P Where was that

J In France, when they were fighting. I don't know where the bible is, it's probably gone to England because Tom's son lives in England and he has two daughters there.

P So your family's quite spread out

J Yeah

P And out of the 7 children, there were 8 grandchildren, so there weren't a lot of grandchildren

J Herbie died of pneumonia when he was 17 and he was one of the brothers. And Ben was single and Jim was single. So the two girls had a family and dad and Tom, that was it, four of them had a family.

P Did they die here?

J Rose died here and Charlotte lived at Gordonvale, she died down there. Tom died in Brisbane, Ben died here, Jim died here.

10.30

P What did the children do? Alfred's children, like Tom was a farmer

J Tom was a farmer and a sawmiller, and Charlotte, a girl got married in those days, she was a housewife but she nursed at the Port Douglas Hospital but she married a World War One digger before she finished her training. Dick was a farmer, Herbie died, Ben had a mental illness and he wasn't really bad but he didn't have a career, he just worked on farms. Rose finished her training at Mossman Hospital, there's a photo of her somewhere and Jim was on the farm at home. They didn't move too far.

P Did they all work on the same farm, the brothers

J Yes, yes. Except Tom was the only, Tom and dad were the only ones who had their own farms

P They were all in Cassowary

J Then dad moved out to Syndicate Road. He couldn't get on with Barbara, nobody could get on with Barbara and he lived up the road further and had to pass her place every time he went to town (*road noise*), oh they just moved out there in 1935 I think, no '34, mum and dad moved out there. They bought a farm from Dick Donnolly who was an old pioneer. He pioneered the place out there I think, as far as I know.

P Syndicate Rd

J Yeah. Trevor and Carmen live there now, they've bought it from us, our son and daughter-in-law. One of our boys.

P So was there a farm here, because we're on Francis Road

J That was the farm down that was ours along here. There's a mile and a quarter, is it a mile and a quarter?

JW Yeah

J frontage to the highway and Dad,

12.16

it was standing timber when dad bought it, and it was owned by Bob Crawford. He owned most of the land around here that you can see but he never ever did anything with it. and he died on the railway line actually. Down there. He had a humpy out, under the mango trees somewhere. And it came up for auction. He's related, he's a relative of the Watsons at Brie Brie. He was the brother of the original pioneers there. And dad bought it at auction for 17, thousand

JW 16

J 16 hundred pounds. Well then John and dad cleared it, mostly John, and turned it into a cane farm.

P How many acres is it?

J 4 hundred and

JW 413.

P Does it go right up the hill here

JW Yeah way down, down to the farm the other side.

J The whole hill was in it.

P Right. And what is this hill called behind you?

J Don't know

P Francis Hill (*laughs*)

J Just a hill

JW just the hill

J When we did the subdivision here, John decided he'd call the road Francis Road because they'd been here forever and there's nothing with their name on it. And it was my maiden name so

P Rather than call it White Road

J Well we've got one out the other side of town. We did a block off the Syndicate farm for one of our sons and called it White Road.

P Is it difficult to subdivide like that?

JW No, it was alright for us because you're allowed so many blocks, being the

J family farm

JW family farm

P Do they still allow it though?

JW I don't know

J I'd say it's pretty well impossible now because friends of ours enquired. It cost us 600 dollars each block for headworks for water, and when our friends enquired some years later it was six thousand dollars a block. So you're not actually not allowed to do it, you can do it but at a price and so nobody does it.

P Yes, I heard that. So this mountain here, there's a hill behind you and then it goes all the way down, doesn't it, through Killaloe, does that have a name at all, that ridge?

JW Not as far as I know.

P interesting isn't it

J It doesn't go, that road that goes up to the subdivision, it just goes down, there's a thin strap up there that monitors the trucks, it goes down to that or nearly, a bit past that

P Where's that

J On this side of the road, way, about a kilometer down there.

P It's just a box

J It's just a box. It's about that high I suppose, it monitors the trucks, what speed they're doing, then they go past another box at Cassowary, or another box somewhere else if they're speeding.

P Does that go back to the mill

J No it's Main Roads I think. Police Department or somebody, I don't know.

P And do you know the name of this hill over here where the Noli's are. Does that got a name

J It does have, but I don't know

JW Mount Thomas is the next one.

P Behind the Mill

JW Yeah. There's Noli's hill and then there's Mount Thomas the next bit, that one hasn't got a name as far as I know.

J Its probably all part of Mount Thomas

P It'll probably end up being called Noli's Hill

J Goodness knows. They call it the Eagles Nest, their house up there

P Oh yes, that's right. So when you were growing up, Jocelyn, where did you live

J I lived at Syndicate Road. It's four and a half, it's about the same distance from town as this place was. Four and a half miles. And I went to school, mum thought I was too young to ride a horse at Miallo so she put me on correspondence to start with. Then I rode a horse to Miallo and the guinea grass was bent over your head on the road and the grass was up high, it was just two wheel tracks. And then Mum's mother became, she was ill with a heart condition in New Zealand and mum applied to have, you had to get permission to travel because it was war time, and she eventually got permission to go to New Zealand for three months. That's all she wanted. And she took me but we had to go right to Melbourne and catch a ship because of the war in the Pacific. And we trained it all the way to Melbourne, got on the ship and it was, had a war ship as an escort and when we woke up in the middle of the Tasman Sea one day we had two warships and then the Aussie one went back this way and we went on to New Zealand. When we got over there, the war in the Pacific became worse and we couldn't get home. They wouldn't let us travel and we were there for 11 months. And poor old dad was over here trying to work the farm with no fertiliser, no labour, no cook and he had a bad time, so eventually we got permission to fly back on a flying boat to Sydney and then we came by train up here.

P Where there any kids left at home

J No I'm an only child. All my brothers and sisters died in infancy. It was about five of them I think.

P Did you know any of them, were they born?

J No. I was the second youngest.

P Oh dear. They must've been pleased to see you

J Yeah (*laughs*) so then when I came back from New Zealand I didn't want to go to Miallo any more because it was a one teacher school and I spent all my time teaching the little ones. So I went to Mossman, I rode a horse to Mossman for a fair while and then rode a bike after a while.

P How long did it take to go on the horse?

J An hour. It was an hour on the horse or an hour on the bike. You could canter the horse along. I always had a horse

P And which way did you go? Along the road?

J Yeah. It was different then to what it is now.

P Was it bitumen?

J No. (*laughs*)

P So when was the bitumen put down at Mossman to, would've been Mossman to Daintree Road

J I've no idea. No I came round the back way. You know where Syndicate Road's a loop?

18.57

P Yeah

J I came round there, past the old chook farm where it was.

P And the Silky Oaks turnoff

J Yes.

P Was there a road there then?

J Yes, there was a road there then, but it was just a track, it wasn't very much of a road. There's high rainfall out there, there's higher rainfall out there than here and we got held up with floods quite a lot. I used to get annoyed if I was missed school because, when the exams were on, then I had to sit in the front seat with the boys because my marks were so bad.

P With the boys?

J Well it was all boys in the front seat. *(laughs)* No girls. I used to get annoyed. Anyway, you needn't put that in. The boys, some of them are still alive. *(both laugh)*

P They've probably done quite well having sat in the front row, do you think?

J Well one of them's done very well for himself and he sat in the front row. You can't always tell. This bloke probably sat in the front row too

P Did you John?

JW Yeah. *(both laugh)* Drawing aeroplanes and playing naughts and crosses.

J You wouldn't want to teach him. *(laughs)*

P So how many kids were at Mossman school do you think when you were there?

J Oh, well where Belinda lives, you know where Belinda lives?

P Yes, you'd better explain it because not a lot of people do.

J Well I don't know, no idea

P Syndicate Road, further out, is that the one?

J Belinda lives over the Saltwater Creek and that was our school, I sat in that as a school room

JW Going to Rocky Point

J It's on the left, they've got a mower repairing business

P Oh you mean the building

J Yeah, that was moved out there from the school in town. Sorry.

P Oh they moved the building

J There wouldn't been very many. Might have been 50. We had a lot of mill workers in those days and a lot of farm workers. There was a lot more farm workers in those days than there are now because there was a lot of hand work.

P Yeah

J Mum and dad used to talk about when the Depression was on, a lot of single men, or men, they had to move to get their sustenance, and a lot of them camped underneath the Mossman River bridge. There was a lot of men around looking for work in the Depression days and a lot of them stayed here and married local girls and set up families. Got jobs as times got better.

P On the farms

J Yes, and yes. The butchers and the grocers, Jack and Newells and Mossman Butchering Company, they used to send a man round on horseback in the early time once a week to take the orders, and then it was delivered in onto your kitchen table a few days later. You got two deliveries of meat a week and one of groceries.

P Of course there wouldn't be any electricity or refrigeration

J No. But we never got sick. There's all this fuss, fuss now about use separate boards and all the rest of it, I was never sick.

P You would've grown up without fridges would you?

J Yes. Mum and dad didn't have a fridge we didn't have an ice box, people in town used to have ice boxes but we were out on the farms and we didn't have, I don't know what, when we got a fridge, I suppose it was 1950s or something.

P Once electricity came, was it

J No it was kerosene fridge to start with. I think they got electricity, was it '64, do you remember?

JW Don't know

J It'll be written up somewhere. Someone will have it down.

P It was 50s I think in Port Douglas

J We moved out here in '58 and it went on then, it had just gone on, it might've been '57 I think it went on.

P Here at Killaloe?

J Yes, well it had to go past our door when we lived on the farm

23.17

so we just tapped into it. And the water came shortly afterwards, town water. Because we had a tank to start with when we first, that blue house down there, that's opposite the sheds, that was our farmhouse where we lived. It didn't look like it does now. (*laughs*)

P What did it look like

J it was a neat, clean tidy house.

P How many bedrooms

J four

P inside toilet?

J Yeah. I think we started with an outside toilet. But we had one at the time we got the second half built. I remember the outside toilet at home when I was a kid. There was nothing else you could do.

P Did someone come and clean them or did your father do it

J No it was a thunderbox

P So did you move it?

J No it was built over the side of the hill. (*laughs*) it just went away, away away. (*laughs*)

P And did it smell

J No, oh it did a bit you can't do much about that

P Did you have snakes

J Yes, yes, snakes. Snakes and spiders. Well it was, you know the country was, there was, at the north side of Mossman where the cemetery is now, a lot of that was still standing timber and it wasn't all cultivated like it is now. The cultivation's cleaned up a lot of them I think. We don't see as many as we used to. Plus your houses are screened and they're not such a problem

P Must've been very difficult

J Yeah, it wasn't for the faint hearted. I think England must've been a dreadful place when they came out here. The heat, they wore long stockings and long dresses and no fans, and corrugated iron houses and, it must've been, and wood stoves. I think England must've been shocking. And all the European countries. But anyway. Oh I'm going to have a break and boil the kettle

P Oh Ok I'll stop for a tick.

25.38

Jocelyn 2

P Tell us the story

J It was the barracks that dad had built, dad and the carpenter had built and this family were living there and Diane Cilento said there was a lady there who had a brothel and the farmers used to line up. Well none of that was true. It wasn't a brothel and the farmers didn't line up and by the time Diane bought it, John and I bought the farm, so that's all there is to it.

P So did she buy part of your farm?

J No she just bought this building, just the building because she found out, she had so many arguments with the council, she found out it was easier to buy an old building and shift it onto her property than it was to build a new one.

P And the building was on your property?

J Yeah, it was Mum and dad's farm to start with and then John and I bought from them when they wanted to retire. And when the cheque came, it was made out to us. Because I had phoned her and said John was about to cut the cane on the block beside it and I think in those days you burnt it

JW Mmm

J and I said we've dropped the insurance on it, they'll take all care but no responsibility. And it still took her a fair while to pay for it

P How did you move a building like that

J They just put it on the back of a big truck

P With a crane

JW I don't know how they shifted it. I wasn't there. *(laughs)*

P Do you want to tell us where you were

JW I don't remember *(laughs)*

J He worked between the two farms, this one and the one out there.

P Oh I see

J Could've been anywhere.

P Now you were telling us about grubbing through the cane, John, and all the sandflies.

JW Yeah well in the wet season you had to go through the cane by hand. You had a hoe and you went through. I always wore a bit of wire netting around the front of me hat to keep the leaves from cutting me. But you had to pull all the burrs and guinea grass out and when you got out the other end they were blowing, the sandflies'd be all buzzing round you, thousands of them. But because I used to eat a lot of Vegemite, I never got eaten.

P And did everyone else have Vegemite as well

JW I don't know, but I used to eat a lot of it.

P So it's vitamin B

J Yes, vitamin B's the secret

JW The other thing was Dick told us about the Chinamen. He had two Chinamen working out there on the farm when he was, early in the piece, and one of them had a limp, so he said to this other fella, he said "What's wrong with him, he's limping". And the joker said "oh blackfella spear him. He lun and he lun and he sceem and he sceem." *(laughs)*

P Is that true. Did he get speared do you think?

JW That's what happened. Well there's one Chinaman telling the story to, about the other one.

P So you had a bit to do with Chinese people did you

JW No not really only what Dick told us.

P You had Indians working on your farm

JW Yeah there was about a dozen Indians jumped ship in Cairns and they went all round the district giving a hand planting. They were good workers. One morning I was through a bit of the planting and I went out at 5 o'clock to start again and the barracks was empty and the Commonwealth Police had come in the night and took them all.

J There was a lot of them in the district, not only at our place

P When was this

JW I don't keep a diary.

J Probably in the late 70s.

P Oh OK, fairly recently.

J It's recent history. It's before all this mechanization came in for planting when you still needed a fairly large labour force

JW So then we had to run around town and try and rake up somebody that'll do a bit of stripping and poking a bit of cane through the plant. I went out to one of the caravan parks in Port one morning and I got chucked out of the place

P Why

JW Well I was looking for me worker out there and he must've cleared out somewhere else, and the people out there wanted to know why I was wandering round the caravan park.

P You looked a bit strange did you.

JW Yeah. Working clothes with big boots on, didn't go, didn't fit in with the rest of them. *(laughs)*

P Shorts and thongs. So how did you plant cane by hand

JW With a planter behind the tractor with a planter

P What's a planter look like

JW It's hard to explain but you fed it in the back end and it chopped it up and dropped it in the ground, fertilizer behind it

J And sprays

JW Yeah the spray with aretan to stop the diseases

J *(spells)* ARETAN

P Thanks Jocelyn *(laughs)* And what about the rest of the Chinese. Have you got any stories about other Chinese people being here

J Mum and I were in town with her friend staying there and the Chinese used to come down from Drumsara selling his vegies and I was still a baby and the Chinaman said "boy, boy?" and Mum said "No, girl" "no good, no good".

P What was his name

J Oh who knows. I don't know

P Did he have a family here

J I don't know. No most of them didn't have families did they

JW I came here in 1954 and they'd pretty well all gone by then

J Dad remembered when he was young, because he was born here in 1900, all of that side of the street where Bartolos and the chemist is, was all their little houses and they used to sit out the front smoking their opium and giggling away as the kids walked up the street. They had to go from the school up to the train to get the train to get the train to come back up the line here. then then had to walk from Elleslie up to the Francis farm which would be, what three ks.

P Where's Elleslie

J That's the turn off here, the Molloy turnoff is Ellerslie

P Oh I didn't know that. What's that named for

J Well there was a farm there where Robbie Porta lives, that farm there was called Ellerslie once. When the McLeans lived there.

P Where's that

J Well when you go past the Molloy turnoff, it's the first farm on the right, it's a cream coloured house. Before you get to South Mossman River. Going into Mossman.

P So it's after the turnoff to Molloy

J On the main road

P And that was Ellerslie

J Well that's what it says in the McLean family history. It said in somewhere I've read they talked about this turnoff being Ellerslie. Well I've always known it was Ellerslie. Mum and Dad called it Ellerslie. And when I read the McLean family history it's written up as Ellerslie that farm there.

P We should put a post up there on the corner with a little history.

J Well you can if you like.

P It's obviously a fairly important meeting point, even now isn't it.

J Walter Mullavey asked me twice in his older age, what's the name of that turnoff Jocelyn. Ellerslie. Even he didn't know but of course they were always Mossman people. They didn't live out, they just lived in Mossman and that's probably why he didn't know.

P So that school wasn't there at Cassowary

J No I don't know what year that was built, but Dad and his brothers and older sister had to go to Mossman school and because they were little kids and it was they had to walk from the main turnoff here right up to Cassowary where they lived. They usually only went two or three days a week because it was too tiring. Dad said they'd get home after dark. I don't think the train left Mossman till 5 o'clock to go to Port. And I had some of their report cards, I've probably got them still somewhere and said Would do better if came to school more often. *(Laughs)* That was one of Dad's brother's reports. Dad left school when he was 14. He was still in grade 3 or 4 I think because they used to keep them back in those days if you didn't pass and he said I wrote out cheques for all the smart ones that were in my class. The bank managers, the surveyors, somebody else, he said I employed the lot even though he was so, Mabel Lund was a tiny little lady, she lived in Mossman, she had a café and she was in Dad's class. She was a what was her maiden name. Wilson, she was Mabel Wilson. She said to me one day "I was the smallest and I was the smartest in our class and Dick was the biggest and he was the dumbest." She was a funny lady.

He did alright with his cane farming. Yeah. See his father, **don't put this in** Grandad Francis, I said it in somewhere, he wouldn't borrow money and there were farms that came up for sale, the bank managers and the local boys tried to get grandad Francis to buy but he would've had to borrow money and he wouldn't borrow money. So he never really got anywhere. It didn't bother my Dad. He didn't get very far either but he'd borrow money. Mum was going to have something for the house one year, they'd made a bit of money and she said "And he went and bought another bull" *(laughing)*

P Did he run cattle as well

J Yeah when he got out to Syndicate there was a lot of waste hilly ground. It had been cane holed by old Donnelly and it was cleared so he grassed it put decent grass on it bit by bit, fenced it and put cattle on it. He said I liked it but I'm sick of keeping the grass out of the cane. I like growing it for the cattle instead.

P What was the name of the farm

J What was it Cool Waters? The one out there

JW I wouldn't have a clue. Just the Syndicate farm

J It didn't have a name. all the farms on Syndicate Road all, Jack & Newell bankrupted the lot of them because they all bought their horse feed from Jack & Newell as Mum told me, they used to grow a nice crop and the rotten grubs would just eat it out and there was nothing they could do about it. None of them could pay their bills for their, Norm

O'Donohue knows more about this than I do, so they all got bankrupted by Jack & Newells and that's why all the farms on that line got called Syndicate Road except old Dick Donnelly owned where Mum and Dad were and he was on the mill, I think he was the mill director, and he got a pay from the mill so he managed to hang onto his place. But Mum and Dad then bought when he retired.

P So they got all their groceries and their feed from Jack & Newells

J They sold everything that the whole place needed

P Did they give them credit

J Yeah they all had a lot of credit until the crushing came and they got some money then. But I can remember as a child Mum'd say she'd like to buy such and such but I'd better not, not this month I'll put it off till next month

JW When we came here as cane cutters we booked all our tucker up to Jack & Newells then paid for it later on

P They must've had a pretty good bank roll behind them

J They really staked out the north, to develop the north I think

P But they resumed the properties

J Out there, that's the only place I've ever heard of, they put people off their farms on the Syndicate Road.

P Did they sell them

J I think they put managers in from what I remember being told. And then they were sold off. The gammexane to kill the grubs didn't come out till 1951. GAMMEXANE it didn't come out till I think it was '51 to kill the grubs to stop, the farmers planted cane and then the grubs just moved in and it just died.

P What about cane toads

J Well they were released in the 30s to try and kill the grubs but it was a complete failure. Because I finished school and I, the old man that used to come up here from, oh the commercials, the fertilizer and chemical company, he said to Dad give this gammexane a go, Dick, it's good. So I drove a horse and an applicator and put the gammexane on for Dad that year before I started nursing. It was alright.

P Did it work

J Mmmm. They've got something different now haven't they John. Don't use gammexane any more

JW I don't know what they use

P What was in it some sort of poison

JW I don't know but if you got it on your skin and you sweated, it'd burn you.

P When did you come here John

JW I come up here actually I'll go back to when I was down on the farm.

15.35

I was pretty well stuck there with an axe and a mattock and all the rest of it and didn't get out much but then Dad and Mum sent us off to Brisbane with the YAL, that was the first trip I had, Young Australian League. Then they sent us to Sydney and Melbourne on another trip which was good. And then they sent us up to Cairns and there was no flaming cows up here so this'll do me.

P Except for Jocelyn's Dad had some

J But they weren't milking cows, you didn't have to milk them. They were dairy farmers

JW I had an Austin A40 so I said to a mate of mine Do you want to go north. That's where I'm going. So we came up here and got a job cutting cane.

P Where

JW Out Syndiczte. At Bert Pollocks and Syd Evans's, I cut for about a month or six weeks, I forget now, I finished up, I had a lot of pain when I was down home but when I come up here it broke out again and I remember one morning I was rolling round on the ground up the cane paddock, I was in so much pain. Somehow or other somebody took me into Dr McGurkin and he put us in the Mossman Hospital and then I was alright up till 8 o'clock in the morning the next day and they'd just gone out of the room and I got this horrible pain back again. I yelled out to the nurse, Dr Hodges come in then, I was under him, and he said we'll have you on the table at 1 o'clock to take your appendix out. And that's when I met Jocelyn.

P She was holding the scalpel

JW No, she was the night nurse.it all happened from there.

J Poor old John

JW I was going to tell you what Walter Mullavey told me not long before he died. Down at the sewerage works, he said if you go behind the sewage plant you'll find a grave. A lugger came up the river one day with a body on it and they took it up on the bank there and they buried it. By that time the first part of the sewerage plant was built and I had to crawl over the bank because of the fence around the sewerage plant and sure enough here's the post of the grave still there. One of them was still there, it was knocked over a bit sideways. But it was a 5 be 5 timber with a point on the top so I knew what it was. Anyway I send down later on, 12 months later I was going to take a photo of it and when I got down there they'd cleared more of the back of the sewerage plant and the whole lot had gone. It was certainly a grave what Walter was talking about.

P Do you know who it was

JW He said it could have been Javanese or somebody like that. With Javanese features.

P What were they bringing up the river

JW The body off the lugger, he must've died out at sea and they were bringing him to shore to bury him. They came up in the lugger.

P Was it a pearling lugger

JW Yeah. It was about '55, no about '65 when I saw it.

P Wonder when it had happened

JW Years ago. Walter goes back a long way

P As if it was yesterday. You got married in Mossman

J '57. 12 month engagement I finished my training here and then did my midwifery in Cairns and we were married when I finished that the beginning of '57, then we lived over at say Cow Bay but we called it Bailey's Creek for a year because John was working over there for his uncle Dudley Kingston

JW When I got me appendix out the doctor said you can go back on a light job in a month or if you're going to go back cane cutting it's going to take 8 weeks. And I never had any money much and I went up the mill, they just had the new diesel locos so they give us a job as a fireman on the diesel, and no fire (*laughs*).

P What did you do

JW You just got to hook up the trucks and change the points

J They're still doing it today

JW shift work.

P That sounds pretty heavy work

JW No.

J They changed the points with a stick, you don't have to get down

JW They've got a lever out the side, same as you always did. So anyway from there in the slack season Jack Edwards took me into the mill with him, doing rigging and I went back

on the loco during the crushing and then the uncle started the sawmill over Bailey's Creek so I decided to go over there and snig a bit of timber. And then there come a slump in the timber and he had to close the mill down

P What sort of timber was it

JW Bull oak, white oak, yellow beech. All got sent through to Brisbane.

P No cedar

JW No. we never cut any. (*pause*)

J When there was a slump in the timber John's got a

JW When the slump come and Dud closed the sawmill down the only job going over there was on the council as powder monkey. Chris Sims (?) come along and said I'm going to give you a lesson at blowing trees, blowing stumps he said that's the detonators and that's the gelignite. Keep them separated. That was me lesson (*laughs*) so I used about, I think he was about 75 cases of gelignite blowing all the trees from Hutchison Creek right up to the top of the range doing all the blowing for the road. And at the time the road only went to the corner above the hotel in Cow Bay, Bailey's Creek. So we used to go up in the truck to the Daintree and row across the river with all our tackle and clothes and walk over into Baileys Creek. Take us about an hour and 10 minutes, 9 mile. And work in the sawmill and snigging timber and walk out Friday afternoon, go back home.

P What's snigging mean

JW Pulling logs out of the bush. One of me snigging tracks went out to Crocodylus, and the other one went up to the ice cream factory up Hutchison Creek. And the other one went down and across Hutchison and out towards Palm Road and I had to leave a heap of timber in there. Couldn't get it out. There was an early wet season and the swamp wouldn't dry out. I tried cordoroyding but when you've got those swamps over there it's continual tracks of water

P What cordoroyding

JW You've got to cut timber and lay it across. So you don't bog. Every time you snug a log through it, you'd snug the cordoroyd out so then you'd have to get off and straightened it all up for the next time

P So you're pulling them behind a tractor

JW Yeah

P And taking them

JW take them up to the sawmill. So the wet season come and we got out of there. I don't know what happened after that

P Did the trees grow again

JW No once you cut them down, that's the end of them

J After Christmas time you went and worked for the council. And then they started

JW I applied for a job on the semi trailers, that's when the sugar trailers started off.

P When was that

J '64 was it

P '58 they stopped the shipping

JW It was around '58 then. A bit of a disaster out there for the wharfies because they all got out of work

P Port Douglas. Did they get them another job

JW No. most of them just moved on, retired or moved on

J Some of them went to Cairns wharf

JW The road to Cairns them was only a narrow highway. At that time they started to widen it. I was on it for six years. And then I went onto the farm then, growing the cane and driving the truck. Finished up getting out of it altogether.

P Tell us about this driving, you drove down to Cairns

JW you leave the mill at 5 o'clock in the morning, you'd get back home about 10 or 11 o'clock and then you'd do a trip in the afternoon. Sometimes we were doing three trips a day but we didn't do that for very long. They brought in another driver. So I did two trips and somebody else drove me truck for one trip. They were doing three trips a day.

P Did you have any accidents

JW Yeah I had an accident down there in the old Cassowary cutting. I was coming up out of the bridge and we had a silly bloody dickhead working on the main road. and he come round the corner on a wet morning straddling the double line and as soon as he seen me he hit the brakes and slammed sideways into me. I couldn't go anywhere. I was jammed in the bank between him and the bank. So that made a bit of a mess of the truck.

P Was he alright

JW No he was alright. He just drove away (*laughs*)

P What about your truck

JW It was out of action for quite some time, quite a few months

P Did you all have your own trucks

JW Yeah. Bent all the chassis and most of the front of the cabin

P We'll talk about this convoy of trucks

JW I was on number 7 all the time

P Did you bring it up from Brisbane.

JW No no they had drivers brought them all up.

J You brought one up from Brisbane. There's his accident

P There's a picture of the accident. So they brought seven trucks up all at once in a convoy. I think I read that you used to cart bagged sugar first

JW Yes. Bagged sugar first.

P How did that work

JW it was on pallets, six pallets down either side and when you got to the wharf you'd come in alongside the wharf and the wharfies would come out with a forklift and take it inside. Sometimes when the sugar come out of the mill, by the time they put it on the truck and we took it to Cairns, it'd only be about 4 hours from the mill into the boat. That's the difference between there and Port Douglas.

P How long at Port Douglas

JW It's be loaded onto a train here, bag at a time, that was taken out to Port and it was unloaded into the wharf or sometimes if there was a boat it was unloaded straight onto the boat. I think the boat took about 400 ton. Then it was taken down to Cairns and they used to pull up alongside the big boats and our sugar'd be going on one side of the boat and then they'd be unloading from the other side, into the boat

J Double handling

P Why did they decide not to transport it in bags

JW It was easier, cheaper and easier. You just run in under the hopper in here and you pulled a lever and the sugar fell into the bin, and you went to Cairns and you tipped it out down there. That was how easy it was.

P But a lot of people were out of work

J That's how things happen

P Same thing happening now

J Well everything's getting more and more automation and all the rest of it.

P Do you remember a toll gate

JW No it's gone when I come here, it's gone. The houses were still there. But the toll had finished.

P And it was all bitumen by the time you came

JW Little narrow bitumen road and there was places down the highway if you met another semitrailer or a bus you had to back up sometimes, or they had to back up. But the other thing we found out, if you went forward until you nearly hit their vehicle they'd be able to go forward a little bit until they nearly hit you and you go a bit and they go a bit and you walk around each

P Did you ever hit them

JW No

P Was it rigid, not articulated

JW Semi.

P So it was articulated. Why did you leave the mill?

JW I left the mill to go to Baileys Creek snigging timber. That's what I did down home where I come from, snigging timber and cutting timber all that sort of nonsense

P How did you learn to grow cane

JW It comes easy you just stick it in the ground and it grows.

P Is that true

JW more or less

J He told me when he was driving the trucks and he used to watch the farmers down the road

JW Going to Cairns going through Tomatis Creek every day you'd see what they're doing. That was a good lesson. That was like going to school

P What did you learn

JW You'd see what this farmer was doing today and you'd see what he's doing tomorrow and the other farmers too

P Hoeing and things

JW Getting the ground ready, planting, cutting plants. It was a good education that.

P You didn't have any major disasters growing cane. Didn't lose a crop

JW No. but I said to Jocelyn if this cane ever looks like going down hill I'm getting out, I'm not going to hang around. When I sold the farm, the costs were climbing up behind us, we weren't getting any more for our cane. It took us 10 years to sell the farm.

J We wouldn't have sold it if we hadn't got that hill. There's only one lot of people sold a farm since we did as far as I know and now if you're old and you want to retire you've got to lease it out for not much because there's no money in it. The costs of production are as high as what they're getting

P Does it cost more because it's mechanized than it did to employ all those people

JW I don't know

J Not per ton it wouldn't, although wages were so cheap in the old days. I don't really know.

P You're talking about selling this farm not the Syndicate farm

JW We sold that one and this one down here where we used to live. Before I sold the farm I decided to do a subdivision up here for the family. This is a family subdivision. You could get away with a gravel road then. So cut some off for the kids and myself and I built this house before we got off the farm and had it paid off. 11 year ago

J We moved up here at the end of 2003 November 2003

JW Carol's just below me here, and Trevor's out in that house there

J Trevor's the one his wife and two kids bought the Syndicate farm. It used to keep Mum and Dad and I and Dad had a full time worker the whole year and cane cutters in the season. And now it wouldn't keep anything would it

JW No, terrible

P Because the price of sugar's gone down?

J Yeah. One lot of farmers here, two brothers, they cut 70,000 tons of cane. We used to cut five between the two farms. It's just you've got to bet big or get out that's what it is.

P do you think that's what's going to happen. All the farms will be amalgamated

JW I don't know, I can't see any future. I said to Jocelyn I can't see any future we're getting out of it. That's when I put the farm up for sale. This area here it's surrounded, there's just nowhere to go. Down the line there's other mills to join in with. But Mossman stuck here on its own. Sooner or later it's got to go down.

P That'll be sad

J It's just all tourism now. And see Brazil, when Dad was growing cane back when I was a teenager he used to say Cuba was our main competitor and he said if they have a typhoon in Cuba we'll be right. Well now it's Brazil. They have huge areas, the reale is low and grow heaps of cane, our dollar's dropped now but it was high for a long time and times have changed. The law has changed.

JW The first tractor I bought was two thousand something pound, the next one was five, and then it got up to ten and thirty and the last one I bought was I think I had to fork out 60 thousand as well as

J 68 thousand

JW get a new tractor and fork out another 68 thousand. And the sugar wasn't moving much. Pretty dormant.

P Would you have gone into cocoa

JW No.

J There's not really an alternative crop to keep a family is there

JW There's no crop. It doesn't matter where you go these days, whether you're talking about wheat or cattle, it's all, farming's not getting anything. Woolies have got the milk stuffed up and so it goes.

P We go from your family or your grandfather Jocelyn being self supporting to us eating imported food.

J They wouldn't have had any imported food at all. All the pioneers had gardens. Grandma and grandad always had cattle they killed their own to start with, I don't know how they got on when they first arrived here. No we didn't know what imported food was.

JW One of me hobbies while I was growing cane was doing this sort of thing

P That's a plane

JW We got them out of the Jardine's River.

P What sort of a plane's that

JW Aero Cobra. American fighter. And that's how it was when we got it, that's up the Jardine River where it belly landed

P It's wrecked

JW Yeah. Anyway it took us 3 years to track the pilot down in America and he came out on holidays, and we had a BBQ down at the house and he sat, I got it out in the shed there, and he sat back in it and he looked around and he said it's exactly how I left it, the fuel gauge is right over on the empty pegs because they just ran out of fuel

P They survived

JW Him and his leader survived. One fellow was killed. I'll take you back through the story of it. They were built and loaded onto a boat in Buffalo in America in crates, they come through the Panama headed for the Philippines the Japs took the Philippines before the boat got there so they were diverted to Brisbane. Offloaded at Eagle farm, taken out to, I'm not sure if it was Amberley or, that place outside Ipswich. It was taken out there and they pulled them out of their crates and assembled them and they brought six pilots down from Moresby and the idea was they were going to fly them back out to Moresby. Well they hopped up the coast at different places they had to land and refill. One of the places was

Anthill Planers behind Townsville. That's where the dam is now. When the dam's full it covers the airstrip they took off from there. They only had enough fuel to make Cooktown. They landed the old aerodrome at Cooktown used to be where the race course is now. They landed and refueled. They only had enough fuel to get to Horn Island but the weather closed in on them, raining and cloud and when they got to Horn Island they couldn't find the aerodrome and they had to go back over the coast and belly land. Our two planes that we got out, the leader found a bit of turkey bush country in the headwaters of the Jardine and he landed on his wheels but just before he pulled up he ran across a bit of a gully and broke his left wheel off under the wing and it just fell down on its wing tips. Other than that it was quite a good plane. But the other chap he come in and he belly landed so he bent all his prop up and made a bit of a mess underneath. Tore everything out from underneath but he got out of it alright. As he was landing going along the ground he spin around and went back into a tree and that bent one of the wings. Other than that it wasn't too bad

P What year's this

J '43 or '44

JW During the war. And they sat there for about 40 years fully armed. The fellow that seen them first was Percy Tresize when he was flying the DC3 up the Cape, up to Horn Island Percy found them first then Dick Watling, he was the Aerial Ambulance pilot, he came across them. But he was like the pilots that put them down, he was ducking and diving amongst the squalls coming down with a patient from Bamaga. He seen them them but it took about 3 years for him to find them again. There was no way we could get them out. There was no roads. There was nothing there so we didn't, dick didn't say anything about them, he just kept quiet about them and then when the Army did an exercise up there the last time before they were found, they took helicopters up and they got flying around there and they found them and they landed there and checked them over and found out they were fully armed. So we weren't allowed back in, anywhere near them. They went in and they blew the guns out. There was 250 calibres firing through the blades. There was a 37mm canon firing through the front of the propeller and 230 calibres on each wing, and that's the mess they made when they blew the guns out. That's the front of the cockpit

P Nothing left.

We'll stop for a tick

44.18

Jocelyn #3

JW Eventually, we found out Abby Seagren was going up and he had a dozer and he had work to do at Bamaga and the Cook Shire also found out he was going up there and they asked him to do the creek crossings as he went. So he did it, he got his float up as far as Coen and he wouldn't get it any further so he had to off load it and walk it right through to Bamaga. He did the clearing for them and we got him to push a rough track down to the plain but there was a lot of Ian Mullins and Nick had a lot of work to do trying to re-find them and get into them, you know. Anyway we eventually used Comalcos machinery loader and truck, we eventually pulled the wings off. I didn't get mixed up in it at that time, I didn't know anything about them. I didn't find out about them until they were up at Red Island Point. They sat there for 12 months before they got a boat that brought them down to Cairns and then they were stored in Cairns for a while. Some of it was taken down south of Cairns to a cane farm and the flood went through it and eventually I had the wings out Syndicate for a long time. And the fuselage got taken out as far as Mt Isa and the Bush Pilots were very good they used to fly me out and back once a year for nothing. I'd go out and work on it for fortnight, 3 weeks. But you got that way after a fortnight, 3 weeks you couldn't put up with it. So tedious. If you wanted to pull part of it apart, you had to make a mud map,

take a photo because all the aluminium skin, one lot would overlap the other lot and there might be another layer underneath that and they all had to go back into their right 1 2 3 and if you didn't have them right then nothing fitted

P How long did it take you to get it back together

JW 30 years. It was just a hobby. Kept us out of the pubs. I enjoyed it but I wouldn't ever do it again.

P Where are they now

JW We restored it to what you see in there then a fellow from Wangaratta bought this one off us and the other ones up in the museum at Mareeba. We sold ours to a fellow in Wangaratta. We didn't know what he wanted it for. He just paid us money for it and took it south. Anyway he completely pulled it apart. He took the wings off, he stored them. He didn't want them. Over in America they didn't want the wings because the strength had the wings to fly it had to be specially made and they had the knowhow to make them over there. They didn't want our old restored wings. But anyway there was a fellow down at just north of Adelaide, Parafield, and we knew he was rebuilding one but he never had any wings. He had the centre section done from the nose to the tail but he couldn't find any wings so when this fellow bought ours and took the wings off he had them stored at Wangaratta so this fellow came up and bought them. So our wings are on his plane. Our plane from the propeller to the tail is completely pulled apart. They used every part for a pattern and they pulled it all apart, they used every part for a pattern and they made a brand new one. And he boxed it up and sold it back to America. Then he died after that so I don't know what's happened.

P What an adventure. You must've learnt a lot doing that

JW Oh yeah. If it hadn't been for Ian Mullins it would never have happened. He was the one that kept it all together. He had the brains. He was a very brainy fellow and he had the brains to

J He actually made stuff

JW We had to make parts. It sat on the ground up at the Jardine for 40 odd years so it was sitting on the ground it all gets corroded then bushfires went through it.

P Incredible that you got it together

J Everybody's marriage broke up except ours

P How many kids did you have

J Five.

P Only two left here

J One's in Perth, one's in NSW, ones in Tully

P Did you have them all in Mossman

J Sort of. It's **not for publication**. Nothing about – you can say we have 5 children, but that's it. We adopted four. Because they said, there's nothing wrong with John but I just, we had a couple of lots of investigations by top specialists in Brisbane. And then after we adopted the last one, 14 months later I had a home made one

P That happened to my cousin

J I didn't know at the time, best brains in Brisbane didn't know but I was full of endometriosis and I just to complain to the doctors about this loss. 'Oh once you have your first baby you'll be right'. **That's not to go in**. Say we have five children, nobody needs to know that.

You asked about planting. They're not good photos

P This is a planting machine

J That's the back view of it

P I'll take a photo of this

J It's in the 80s. here's some old photos you can take home and look at. I've written so much as I can.

P Your father and mother, did they meet in Mossman

J Yeah came up as a housekeeper

P Yes we did do that. That was a good story. Were they religious, did they go to church

J Don't think so. My grandma Francis was a Catholic in England and grandad Francis was a Methodist and they had their kids all baptized Anglican (*laughs*)

P In Mossman

J I've got their certificates and stuff. Her parents were in England and she was in Mackay and she was a bit of a rebel, grandma Francis. If she went out somewhere and someone had something nice cooked she asked for the recipe. And they'd write the recipe out for her. And when she cooked it, if it didn't turn out the way she'd eaten it she used to throw the recipe in the fire.

P Maybe they deliberately left something out

J And with a wood stove they always had a kettle of boiling water on the stove, it went all day. It was bad for snakes up there but it was stony ground and she just get to get the kettle and pour it all over the holes where the snakes went down. She had to live. Carmen's got the basket out there when Jim died, I was left executor of the will and there was a lot of old stuff up there, most of it had fallen into disrepair but there were two big cane baskets that they used to carry the corn in at the farm. Trevor hadn't met Carmen very long, she's our daughter in law, lives on the Syndicate farm, she's a little German girl, two daughters. I said to her one day Has Trevor taken you out to see the old Francis farm? No. Come on, I'll take you up. And they had these two big baskets up on the top of a big cupboard in the shed and she's got one out there. She collected it and took it out there she's got it in the house up on the top of the cupboard. Anyway they must've made them. They're not painted or whatever you get from Asia, they look like they've been made out of split lawyer cane to me. They carried their corn in from out in the paddock.

P Who's got that farm now

J It's all sold for subdivision. There was four blocks there. They varied in size. Grow cane on them all. As Jim got older he should've given up and gone long ago, sold out but he just wanted to stay there and he wanted everything left the way Mum and Dad had it. He used to sell a bit of ground off every now and then to keep the wolf from the door. When he died there were 8 nieces and nephews and I was executor so we just sold the blocks. The blocks went individually. They were 13 hectares and 12 hectares and stuff. When you go up Cassowary you see the sports ground it's on a corner, those blocks are there. Murrin Murrin on the Rex Highway was one of his cane paddocks. Not Murrin Murrin, is it Willow Bend. Murrin Murrin's the sports ground. She's got a sign up on the corner. They all back onto the hill. Four blocks. They used to call the one furthest up Cassowary Mum's block and I thought it was a bit strange never took any notice of it. When I had to get all this paperwork, it was in the name of Margaret Ann Francis, this one block. So she was ahead of her time because in those days the men owned everything. Anyway John and I thought we might get few thousand dollars for it all, 40 thousand we thought and we got about

JW Around 80 wasn't it

J They sold each block for 40 thousand, round about.

P All under cane

J They built the houses up in the hills. Some of them there's not enough ground to grow cane on. Padovans were leasing the cane are before Jim died. They're good farmers. I don't know who, oh Jenny, I don't know what her other name is one of the nurses bought one block.

Dad was actually born up there at the back of where Raw and More are, right up in the corner, they owned right up to your area [*Shannonvale*] and they had cattle running there but when they put the road up the Rex Range up they couldn't manage their cattle so they let it all go back to the government Mum told me. John's hauled cane from up that side when Jim was still alive. Never get his cane off by the end of the crushing. The family had to go up there and get it off. He and Tom were not farmers, they should never have been farmers. They just liked to mix things and muck around in sheds whereas Dad would get out and grow a crop of cane. It was just the difference in natures. Because all there was for people to do in the old days, they just drifted into farming. When we had kids, they'd go and do what they wanted to do.

P Did they all go to school in Mossman, your kids

J Yeah they all, I was the oldest mother in the playground. I was 30 by the time we got Carol down here. I died my hair for years so I wouldn't look quite so old (*laughs*)

P That's not old now

J It was 50 years ago

JW When we built that house down there, it was built in pieces

J The one on the farm the blue one on the old farm,

P Francis Road?

J No faces the highway

JW We couldn't afford a full house so we built the first half of it on the Cairns side, then the next part, the studs went up with the roof on, and I think we lined one room

J Yeah. They wouldn't let us adopt a baby unless we had a special room for her. And we were just going to put her, we had one bedroom and a kitchen and shower and toilet built. We were just going to have her in our bedroom. That's where she went when we got her home.

JW Anyway we put the room on and the studs up and the next year we lined it, what else did we do

J Following year Mum and Dad gave us the stuff for the bathroom

JW We never had any money

J We had 100 pounds when we moved in there and my Dad lent us a thousand to build half a house which we paid back as fast as we could. Later on we bought the whole farm from him, we paid that off as fast as we could. When we retired from down there, this house was paid for because we rented it out. We had a new car and we were debt free just because they'd sold the plane. John got share out of it and that got us out of debt and bought us a new car. Dad used to call his brother (*laughs*) No Money Tom, he could've called us No Money John and Jocelyn. But we didn't look like, we didn't live like Tom lived. He was, Barbara shot through, the wealthy wife of Tom, she retired to Brisbane and took the two kids with her and he leased his farm out and went mining at Einsleigh but I don't think he found anything in the dirt out there. Doesn't make him any worse than we were

P He was a councillor for a while

J Yeah he was. Dad used to say Silly bastard running round worrying about other people's business instead of stopping home and growing cane (*laughs*)

P Did you go on holidays when you had your kids

J Yeah we did a lot of camping

JW There's a lot of it in there. Take that home and have a read. You might get a couple of shocks in there (*laughs*)

J John and I have done a lot of travelling. We went overseas in 2000 when we were still farming. We went up to that railway in Thailand, Gallipoli, England. John didn't want to go because he was worried about money but my Dad had died so I just spent what he left me.

P He must've made a little bit of money out of his farm

J Dad did alright. He was a bit of a funny old bloke too

P Did you go on holidays with him as a kid

J No. We wouldn't afford to go anywhere. Except we went to NZ and got stuck there, Mum and I. As he got older he had emphysema because he was a smoker and he used to cough quite a lot and he never felt comfortable in somebody else's company. Those old timers, it didn't worry about them about travelling. Mum went to NZ quite a lot and I went with her a few times, to see her family. We say we never had any money but none of us were hungry or homeless and we had a good standard of living

P Did you go to Cairns when you were a kid

J Not much. We only had an old Dodge ute and then we had a cane hauling truck.

JW I'll tell you a funny story. When I was down on the farm at Mt Mee, I used to catch carpet snakes and skin them and sell the skins to NZ Loan (?) in Brisbane and one of the skins was 12 foot 3. So they were big snakes. Anyway Dad said to me one day, don't shoot them, I used to shoot them through the head. I'll grab it by the tail and pull it out. As soon as he touched it, it come straight for him, there was a hell of a yell. (*laughs*) And he fell down. The snakes used to camp up on top of the fallen scrub so you're about 5 feet off the ground and he got that bit a shock he fell down amongst this timber. He didn't know whether the snake was going to get him or not. I used to make good money out of skinning snakes

P What did they use the skin for

JW Handbags and shoes

J Like crocodiles now

JW I used to catch dingoes as well. The calves those days you couldn't sell them, you couldn't get anything for them so you'd have go to and knock them on the head and I'd take the calf and put it up in the tree about 6 foot up where the dingoes couldn't quite get it. And then I set a heap of rabbit traps underneath. They'd jump up and miss the calf and he'd fall down and get caught in the rabbit traps. I went down this day to shoot this dingo and Dad said don't shoot it, I'll hit it on the head with the back of the brushing hook. He made a swipe at it, the dingo stepped sideways and the brush hook hit the spring on the trap and the dingo got out, and it run off down the headland. And I said There you go, there goes my 10 shillings down the headland. (*laughs*)

P Did you get paid for them

JW Yeah you got 10 shillings a scalp

P That's a lot. What were they doing

JW Killing the calves. They're always a worry to the cattle

P Did you ever catch pigs

JW Not down there. Up here, oh yeah

P Did you get paid for them

JW No they knocked that out in here at the Canegrowers because fellahs were catching pigs way up in the scrub up Julatten and taking the ears and bringing them down here and getting paid for them. So they had to knock that on the head

P How much did they get paid

JW Was it \$5. I forget now

J I never lined up with the pigs ears

P Do they still do it, or have they got a permanent man now

JW It's mainly the farmers. Any fellahs got pigs on my place I just paid them \$25, \$30 whatever.

J There's young lads around town that go pig hunting

P Do they make a mess of the cane

JW Oh yeah, pigs and white cockatoos

P We'll stop for a tick

22.08

Jocelyn #4

P We want to talk about the sailing club

J I don't remember what the year was, I think I've done a history on it. Just turn that thing off while I ...

P OK

0.11

Jocelyn #5

P We were talking about the sailing club in Port, that's the one on the beach, not the Yacht Club

JW It started off down the

J Inlet

JW It shifted around. It was in the inlet for a while that wasn't satisfactory so they shifted it to the northern end of Four Mile beach. When the little ones got out in the water, they finished up learning to sail so they didn't know what to do so they finished up drifting in onto the rocks. So Barry Case and myself and I think it was Alan Stafford, we went up to where they are now and we got it shifted up there

P That's sort of Solander

JW Yeah so that's where it finished up. I wasn't a sailor but I soon learnt (*laughs*) we had Gary who had a dislocated hip

J Congenital

JW My adopted son, it was something that he could do that kept him up with everybody else because everything else he was handicapped. We decided to get into the sailing club where he could compete. That's how it all started. I'd never sailed a boat in me life (*laughs*)

J John had a Laser and he called Johnny Arse Up.

P You'd tip it over did you. Was it good sailing off the beach there.

JW Yeah it is

J The sailing club's waxed and waned, it needs dedicated members to work like all clubs do and sometimes they're there and sometimes they're not.

JW We give them a little Fergie tractor, I probably could've got about 5000 if I'd sold it. I give it to the sailing club. Give them a little trailer. We used to use it for starting, when they come across the line. I bought the outboard motor, Billy Denk bought the rescue boat. Billy Denk just out the other side of town, he bought the second hand boat and I bought the motor. That was about \$800 just for the motor

P They still got that

JW No. they had it for a long time, did a bit of work. We always had it tied onto the back seat. Had a bit of rope round it. Somebody went out there, didn't tie it on, they went into reverse and it just, the propeller come up, over the side it went. (*laughs*) So it's laying in the drink out there somewhere

J They made us life members and we worked hard. We had a BBQ every sailing night and ran raffles and stuff.

JW We had working bees and built the sailing club out there

J They built the house.

P When was that

J You look in your history

P You've got it written down. Does your son still sail

J No. Once they all grew up and had their car licences and could tow their own boats they just gave up. We used to go up to Tinaroo and camp up there and tow boats up there,

I'd have one behind me in the car and John had one on the top of the ute and one behind. Camp up there. School holidays. Nice place for kids to sail.

JW I had the catamaran on the trailer and the Laser pulled up underneath the catamaran. And the Sabot's on the roof. Oh Jesus.

J it was a dirt road up the Rex Range then. I think about it, I used to go up there and tow a boat.

JW Did you get a photo of that

P We've got another story of that. Tell us the story of this photo

JW For a number of years that fellow got killed by a cassowary, it's written there

J 1926

JW Philip McLean. All the people at Cassowary reckon he's buried there where he got killed and there was always the old father, I suppose it was old man McLean, where he got killed Dan put up a cross made out of hickory. And you might notice the other day there was a bit of a depression in the ground where I had the hole down. I don't know how the story started off, but everybody thought he was buried there. Joey Allan (?) in here at the Mill, he's part of that family and he's adamant he's buried up there where that it. Anyway I done it up as a grave. I didn't know any better

J Well Dick Padovan who owned the farm before his sons own it now, he put up a cross, I don't know who put the cross up there he put star pickets round it like you have round a grave

JW It was old McLean that put the, nowadays you go along the road and somebody's killed and they stick in a cross and I think old Dan was before his time because that's what he did up there

P So that's where he was killed but not buried

JW Yeah. What happened eventually was Clicker McLean down in Cairns, I'd forgotten all about Clicker I didn't know he was part of the family. I might've rang him and told him and I took him up and showed him and he said Are you sure that he's buried here. And I said I don't know I'm only going by the cross and the bit of depression in the ground and the four star pickets around it and what everybody's saying. And he said On the family history, the big book there

J It goes right back from when the family came from Germany before the first World War

JW In that it says he's buried in Port Douglas. So I got Noel Weare, he's pretty good on the computer and I told him the story and he said I'll get on the computer and see what I can find out. He was tied up with that boat club and eventually he did get on to it but in them meantime, this thing I done up there was done as a grave and different people come and had a bit of a sticky beak. Then I had to change it from a grave to what's on there

P Memorial site

JW I had to dig it all out and turn it around. That's cut by a laser cutter. Everything there is stainless steel, even the reinforcing in the concrete is stainless steel so there's nothing there that will rust away.

P this says In 1926 Philip [*McLean*] lost his life in the area. The McLean family history reads that he was buried in the old Port Douglas cemetery. He was aged 16. While pig shooting two brothers Philip and Buck, 13 years, with their dogs encountered a cassowary. And the cassowary chased the dogs back to Philip who ran and tripped. He fell on his back leaving his throat exposed. As the cassowary ran over Philip its front sharp claws severed his jugular vein.

JW He got up to run home but he only got 100 yards and he just fell over and died.

P That's quite hilly

JW Nobody knows now. We're only going by where old McLean put the cross in

Must've been his father

J Was his father Dan McLean.

P Is that why it's called Cassowary

JW Could be. Don't know.

J It's always been Cassowary to me but then I was only born in '35 so I don't know.

JW But anyway the whole thing was a bit embarrassing to me. But it's all fixed up now.

J Did you tell Pam that you got an auger down

JW I explained all that.

P You didn't find anything

JW I didn't put it down the grave straight away I went to the side testing how hard the ground is. I only went down that far and it's as hard as billy-o. I went where his feet would be and it was still the same. If that ground had've been dug up it would've been, I could've gone down easy with the auger but it was hard. I went in the middle of the grave and every bit, I had to use water even though I had that auger I had to use water to get down it was that hard. Everything I bought up on the auger I kept. Johnny Anich went right through it, dug right through it. *(laughs)* He said there's nothing there. It was hard I went down for six feet. It was hard all the way. So that I knew he wasn't buried there.

P What do the locals say

JW I went back and seen Richard Padovan. Those fellows up there, I used to go up at quarter 6 in the morning. Leave here at half past 5 and get to his workshop and wait for him to come to work, he'd be there at quarter to 6, other than that you'd never find him. He'd be out in the paddock doing something. He must be 50.

J He's got a grown family

P What did he have to say

JW he said Dad was no fool. He put those star pickets in there

J John and I knew Dick

JW His father was a nice person. He wasn't stupid. He's like the rest of us. He's been fooled by that wooden cross and that's be easy enough to do

P And there's no one left that can remember

JW No they've all gone

P '26, they'd be 90

JW No it's all the next generation now and they don't remember anything

P There's quite a few people buried on their properties round here. Do you know of any others

J Up at Mango Park, they've got a cemetery up there. And that Jones cemetery at North Mossman. I was talking to a lady the other day and when her daughter was having a baby she was quite sure they were both dong to die. She went as far as enquiring at Townsville and they told me how many hectares you have to have which isn't a very big plot and you can be buried on your own property. I think she said 26 hectares

JW Something like 70 acres. But John Norris, up at Norris's at Daintree Road, he's up on the hill when you're coming back from the north you look and see the house right up high on the hill. He used to be on the sugar trailers with us. When John took that farm on he was putting a road in one day and he nearly dozed this grave out. It's got proper cemetery galvanized iron four posts. Anyway he backed off and left it alone and told me about it about 30 odd year ago and I used to say Have you done anything with the grave yet. No haven't done anything yet. And it got to the stage with waitawhile he said I'll have to bring the excavator, he's got one of those big excavators on tracks, he said I'll have to bring that up and have a scratch around. I thought If you're going to do that, you're going to wipe everything out. I went up again and I said John I'm going down to find that grave. He come down, he's not too good on his legs. He stopped down below. I crawled up the bank and I'm

fighting my way with the brush hook. He said You must be on top if it now. There's nothing here but a big tree. He said that must've fell down on top of the grave. I was just walking away and I happened to look under the limb and here's this cast iron post, when the tree come down it'd driven it into the ground and it was sticking up about that high and I said to him I've found one. I didn't go back up for another 3 weeks and I took the chain saw and cut the tree off and chucked it away and then we couldn't find the other, we did find one, the next one to it. It'd eroded out and slipped down the bank and somebody found it and put it over against the shed near there, against one of the uprights of the shed. Bernie Hall he'd got a metal detector, I said come up and see if we can find these other posts. On the ground there's vine about thick as your thumb and that was all grown in a mat like that. It wasn't a hard vine, it was a soft watery sort of vine but it completely covered the ground and he found it with a metal detector. He said it's under that. He showed us where it was laying. So I had to get down with a cane knife and cut either side and pull all this stuff off and then, there was two there and we stood each one up and it stood back up into its hole where the tree had uprooted it from. I took that auger and I cleaned the hole out with the auger and put them back in so we had the four post back. Then John did some work with a, he took some dirt down. The dirt had eroded away on the bottom side. He built it all up and fixed it all up. It's a fellow by the name of WATERSTON. But that's all we can, it's W. Waterston. John found that out somehow or other. We don't know what he did or anything about him.

J Somebody said he was a drover

JW Yeah They seem to think he might've, they used to bring cattle down from the top of the Cape, they'd come down through China Camp, down into the headwaters of the Daintree then down through Daintree then right opposite the barge turn off on the main road, up there was yards and a dip

J Excuse me, I'm going to put my feet up

P Thanks Jocelyn

JW That's gone once they got assignment on it that was cleared away and the dip was filled in

P So he might've been a drover

JW When they put the cattle through the dip, then somebody had to look after the cattle before they brought them further south. I remember when I come here in '54 the cattle coming through Mossman township, pooping all down the road. They took some of them up Rex Range to Julatten and some went up to the slaughterhouse in Mossman, up behind when you're going up towards the Gorge, up to your left there, that subdivision just past the hospital, goes up to the left

P Coral Sea Drive

JW Could be, I don't know the name

P Was that Mossman Butchering company

JW Yes. Anyway somebody thinks he might've been a drover looking after the cattle out there. Years ago sometimes nobody'd go near you for a long time and they just found him dead in bed. He'd been dead for a few days. So they just dug a hole up on the hill, wrapped him up in his blankets and took him up and put him in there. But if we could've found out about it when old Tommy McKay was alive, he would've put us on the right track. But those fellahs have all passed on. Old Hector McKay.

P There's a lot of knowledge in older people. John it's been fantastic. We've exhausted Jocelyn (*laughs*)

JW She's got to get her feet up

P Thank you, it's been wonderful, thank you very much for doing it

Part 2 recorded on 15th October 2015 at their home

Jocelyn #6

JW I've always been interested in the history around Mossman and Jocelyn came home one day and told us about meeting a Miss Grogan at the time. She was a nurse at the Mareeba hospital and Jocelyn was doing her middy in here and she told

J No no no

JW You put me right off

J Mrs Melva Mullavey told me her mother was a Miss Grogan and she nursed at the Mareeba hospital in the pioneering days. I was training at Mossman hospital

JW I give up on this bloody thing (*laughs*)

P Don't take it off. Leave it on. Oh he's taken *the mic* off

1.07

Jocelyn #6A

JW ... Miss Kathleen Grogan who married Walter Mullavey senior and she became Mrs Mullavey but she told Jocelyn while she was nursing in the Mareeba hospital about, there's a grave up at Thornborough, there's a lot of children died and they were only very young when they died. Anyway she told Jocelyn about the Mareeba hospital sent out a doctor on the train to investigate about the children who died and were buried in Thornborough cemetery. And the guts of the whole thing is that they were bringing in homing pigeons to supplement their meat supply and the pigeons were nesting on the roof and their faeces was going into the water tank and it turns out that as soon as they got rid of the pigeons they got rid of the problem. That's all I have to say.

P That's sad

JW I can't talk and carry on

P But Jocelyn said you specially wanted to record a story

JW But that was it.

P Let's talk about Ellerslie because I'm fascinated now

JW I don't know anything about Ellerslie because it's come from Jocelyn, come from her father

J When you read the McLean family history, there was a drought and the McLeans on the Ellerslie farm here seem to have done broke or whatever the proper term is these days insolvent. When you get Clicker's history, it's in there. But you've sort of got to put two and two together that they left from there and went to Cassowary, Upper Cassowary where this lad was killed.

P So was the land cheaper in Cassowary

J I think it would've been. It wasn't as good a farm as Porta's.

JW No Porta's was a better farm

J Old Mr McLean was a director of the mill for one term. Get onto Clicker. Only took the history back a week ago

P What about Richmond. Do you remember the house

J Yes it was a white house with lattice around the front. That was old Raymond Rex, Chairman of the Douglas Shire for donkeys years. He was a funny old bloke. He got things done in the Douglas Shire and it was very early days

JW Neville Rex lived in it in the finish.

J He was the son who was single.

P Where was it

J There's a little road goes up to it. When you cross the south Mossman bridge coming this way look across when you get off the bridge at this end, there's the railway line and there's a bit of a track going up the hill and it was on the right. At the top of the hill

JW I think the fire brigade burnt it down

J They did, because it was full of white ants

P Do you know who owns it now. Can you drive up there

J I suppose what's his name Rex. Nobody lives in it. You couldn't live in it. When David Rex died, they moved into his brick house at south Mossman. You'd have to David Rex's house.

P That's Raymond

J that's his grandfather. I think they still own it. They don't farm it. Raymond doesn't do anything. He worked with something to do with the aboriginals up the Cape for a long time and I used to meet him at physio and he had a pulled muscle in his upper thigh from changing a tyre on a 4WD up the cape. And I don't know what happened. I haven't seen him for year. But to get any Rex history, you'd have to go and see Raymond because they lived in a funny little house, I reckon it'd be Rex's barracks just on the top of the bank there and as soon as David died, his father had the brick house and they moved in there.

P That was Rex land where the school was

J I believe the Rex's donated it for the Cassowary school

JW I remember it

J it was a high building

JW I came in '54 and it was still a school then

J It faced towards the hills the steps went up the back

JW It faced towards the road, the steps went up the front. I've got photos of it.

P Didn't they move the building

JW I don't know where it went

P Someone said it went to the kindy

J It could've done. They always recycle things around here

JW It just disappeared

P How did they move them John

JW I don't know, probably just backed underneath it with a truck and took it away.

J There's people that do that for a living

P there were houses on Low Isles for a scientific expedition in 1928 and I heard they moved them to Newell or somewhere. Do you know that

J Before our time. We were never very aquatic.

P Do you remember the Queen coming in 1972 to Snapper, is that story true that she left the cutlery there

JW Supposed to be. I don't know whether that's true or not. They come in and anchored on the other side and she came ashore and had tea there

J Had a party, a picnic. Somebody pulled up in a boat and said Where's the Queen and she's supposed to have stood up and said She went that way. *(laughs)*

P Do you reckon that's true

J Probably. Who would ever know.

P Wonder why she went to Snapper

JW On her way from Cooktown

J No she flew back from Cooktown, on her way to Cooktown. Sick of being five star on the whatsaname. We went to have a look at it [*the Britannia*] in Glasgow one of the places. Her boat. There's only one double bed on it. I suppose they got that for Charles and Diana when they had their honeymoon.

JW Only single beds on it when we looked at it

More about Britannia

P Are there any other old houses we've forgotten, there's Ellerslie, Richmond, Fairymount

J That's where George and Shirley Vico live.

P Apparently that's the third house

J The old pioneers when they came here with their swags they would've built a humpy. You hear about the ones out west on their cattle properties they slept in their swags to start with. It was hard times. Rex's were one of the first to have the phone on, I know that because Dad's brother died of pneumonia in the Port Douglas hospital and Dad said they were saddling up their horses to go out and see him and Neville Rex arrived up with a phone message to say that he'd died. My grandparents up there had the phone on that I remember, I don't know when Herbie died, about 1916 or something

P They had the phone on then

J Rex's did

JW Neville Rex never ever got married and he used to use his pushbike a lot and he went away down Maytown one part of it. I was surprised because I'd go down there a lot and I'd found out he'd been way down there on his pushbike

P What did you find there when you went to Maytown

JW Nobody had been there. The bottle collectors had just arrived. I'd been up to the Jardine river in the truck when those Aero Cobras come to light and I couldn't get across the river so I come back down and went across Fairlight to Palmerville and the Wilsons were there at the time. The mother and father had taken one daughter to Brisbane because the daughter had ear or eye trouble and there was Mrs Parsons, I think she was the librarian that was living in the main house on high blocks. Old Jim Callagan was well known there he was living in the stables and Wilsons were living in this low house. Anyway I met Diane and Robert, they're the two that's in trouble now because Robert killed Dave Thornton and Diane got mixed up with this Struber. So they're all in jail. That's Palmerville. Anyway we had lunch with the two kids. Robert was about 14 and the girl was about 16 at the time and I got a mission off them to try and find me way through to Maytown which is 24 mile up the river and at that time, it was 1971, and nobody had been through there for years. And I found me way through but because nobody had been through there for years, it's hard to define where the track was. We come across one PMG pole and a couple of cuttings on the hills and that's the only thing that told us we were on the road. We got into the town, Maytown and when we got into Maytown all the bottle collectors had got in there. They'd gone in, they'd turned off at between the second and third reedy (?) and they'd gone in through the original road

P Is that from Cooktown

JW No, going up from here. It's a fair way up the Cooktown road. But that other road that we go in now, that wasn't pushed in. That was pushed in by Bethel that used to be down here clearing ground. He went up there mining

P gold?

JW yeah, the road that's there now is quite steep compared to the original road that comes out at the reedys and I don't know why they didn't stick to the old original road. When the western gold went in there to get the copper out of the Diane mine, they opened up the old original road because it wasn't as steep. They brought everything out that way

P When was that

JW Oh be round probably between '60 and '70 probably 1970. The Diane mine was named after an aboriginal called Diane. Let's turn it off a minute

P OK

14.51

Jocelyn #7

JW ...and was the wife of Rob Keddy and then at Cannibals Creek there was a hut in there called Keddy's hut and she was the one that showed Bob Keddy where this Diane mine was. And it was that rich, the copper that come out of there was that rich that the trucks used to take it to the Cairns wharf and unload it there and the stone went straight into the ship. I think it was 75% copper. I did a lot of running around Maytown. A lot of the roads in there you couldn't, I tried to follow one road out there one day, there's a vine that grows on the road itself, I call it wire vine I don't know what the name is. And it just wraps around your windscreen, wraps around your mirrors and you can't get through it. You've got to back off. If you go down on your hands and knees and have a look underneath it but you can see where the track is but last that time you couldn't push through it. Anyway the metal detectors they come in looking for gold, they soon got rid of it, they just dropped a few matches. But there was a lot of trouble there because Mrs Wilson and her husband, they'd go in and drop matches, a lot of trouble, they'd go in to drop matches and just let the place burn. They got to depend on grass for their cattle and they were burning them out all the time. The more she complained the more they burned it. I don't know what happened to them in the finish. They just seemed to disappear out of the place. Stuber (?) took over.

P Why did they call it Cannibals creek

JW I don't know there's a story there. There was an old hut there down on the side creek and it'd had an old tank beside it. Somebody had come along I think they come from Chillagoe way and they pulled up there to boil the billy and so forth. And they had a black fellow, aboriginal, with them and when they made the tea, the tea was black as ink and he wouldn't drink it but the others drank it and died. Somebody before it had plastered the tank up there was some white powder inside the hut and he got this powder and he plastered the tank up where it was leaking. I think it was cyanide or something like that. It was a poisonous powder anyway. I went down there and had a look. There's a grave there alright. I only found one grave. I don't know where the second fellah was or whether he survived. There's a lot of stories in there. That'll do for a while

P Were they cannibals

JW I don't know whether that was anything to do with Cannibal Creek. I just don't know why it got called Cannibal Creek. There's Cannibal Creek and there's Tin Creek and the two of them are pretty close together. I used to pick up the school kids from in here when they finished their, Grade 12,

J They used to go on school trips

JW When they did Grade 12 before they went into High School

J No that's 7 or 8

JW Well anyway, I used to go and take the kids and their parents, we'd go way down the Palmer or up to Cooktown, just camping out for a week or 10 days that went on for quite a while then the Outward Bound came in, so that was the, I didn't do any more after that. They all seemed to go away to this Outward Bound, whatever that was.

P How big was Maytown do you think

JW I can show you. No I can't show you a photo

P One street

JW No, there's half a dozen streets

P How can you tell, did they have gutters

JW Yeah. The main street was stone pitched, the gutter was stone pitched. You go there now where the shops were they've got a stainless steel plaque with the name of the shop. I don't know they know exactly whether they're all right or not.

P Do you think we should put more plaques up in Mossman

JW Don't know. They cost a bit of money

P They sure do

JW I just had an episode with Robert Sing. Would it be 10 year ago

J When he first got in touch with you. More like 5

JW It'd be longer than that. Say 6 year ago. A lady in here asked me if she bought him up whether I'd have a yarn to him and take him into Maytown. So he came up and we took him in there and we had a yarn

J It was Fay Adams

JW She knew them, they come from down in the back road there between Cardwell and Kennedy. Anyway I took them in to Maytown. There was about half a dozen altogether. And they had a look round there he was looking for his old grandfather's shop because the grandfather come out from China and he went to Maytown and erected a store and then the other relation that come out also he had the warehouse in Cooktown. Just turn it off
7.40

Jocelyn #8

JW There was another family came out, I don't know whether they came out on the same boat, but there was another family come out from China and they had a slave girl with them. Anyway they took this slave girl into Maytown and they used to give her a pretty bad time. They finished up breaking her arm. But she used to get scared and she would go across the road and get in this fellow, the first Chinaman's store and hide there from the other Chinaman. Anyway the better people around Maytown said to him Why don't you buy her back from this first lot. which he did. And then he married her. Robert Sing come and seen us, he wanted to go back into Maytown the second time and he wanted to go in in September when the school holidays were on so his grandkids could going with him. I didn't want to go, it's too hot them. Anyway he annoyed me enough I took him in and I didn't get any further than the Palmer River. I passed out from the heat and had to be driven home. I give the rest of them me mud maps and all the information I could and they had been in there with me the time before, so they knew where I was talking about. but Robert Sing had a bit more information and he reckons he found where his grandfather's store was. Anyway I've got a lot of history and Carleen, that's Robert's wife, I went down to Kennedy and seen her. She's got the grandfather, it's a big photo of this Chinaman on the wall in all his Chinese regalia. She said That's the grandfather. She said to me Would you like to have a look at the slave girl. I didn't really want her going to a lot of trouble. I thought about it for a few weeks. I rang her up and said Do you mind if I do have a look at this slave lady. I went down and we had to pull the main photo apart because she had the slave girl in behind him in the photo, that's where she was storing it. Got it out and I've got photos of it. But he put on a. when they got married he put on a luncheon, wedding reception it was in the big, I'd call it town hall they called it another name, in Maytown. There was two wedding receptions. The first one was for men only, and then in the afternoon it was for everybody

P Did the bride to go the men only one

JW I don't know. But at the time it cost him 200 pound for the wedding reception. But anyway

J After, long past

3.49

JW This fellah that had the warehouse in Cooktown, he used to take the supplies in on packhorses through Hells Gate Carleen told us. But after Robert had come back the second time he wasn't home long and he passed away. I didn't really see him, I don't think I did see him after the second trip. He drove a tractor into his shed down there and he died on the tractor. He didn't tell me at the time he had 6 bypasses. We'd been trooping around in the

heat. I was quite healthy but I passed out (*laughs*) Robert Sing, he was part Chinese but his wife's not Chinese

P Did the family stay. How come he's here

JW I don't know what happened. This grandfather that married this slave girl they had one daughter while they were here and she finished up going back to china and she died of cancer. What happened to the others I don't know. I've got the photo of the 4 of them that came here originally.

P four brothers

JW They were married when they, the ones that had the warehouse in Cooktown, they got married in china before they come here. The old grandfather come here single, he got married in Maytown and what happened to them eventually I don't know where they're buried

P They often went back, they often sent their bones back, that's why we don't have many descendants here

JW Yeah

P We don't have many stories they had great influence here

JW Yeah I took them over to what they call the Wild Irish Girl it's an old battery that belonged to old Sam Elliott. He was a real old bushman, gentleman. And he lived in there for most of his life and he died in there. He was in the army during the war, he was up the coast here he was a coastwatcher. He went back in there after the war was over. That's where he lived and he used to take his stuff in from Cooktown, Lakeland Downs, Springvale. He knew all those tracks in there.

P Did he have a horse or a car

JW No, horses. There were no roads there, there were roads but you couldn't use them. He used to come and go. He was the one who really found Hells Gate or knew where it was.

P You know where it is

JW Yeah. I took 10 adults and 3 kids in there we had a long weekend and we went up towards Laura, up Corts Creek and left the vehicle, it's about a 12 mile walk in there. We walked in one day, camped in the creek and went up to Hells Gate and come back and camped there the night and walked out the next day. Hell's Gate. It's just a crank handle split in the rock, in the divide. More like a strung out Z shape.

P And you can walk through there

JW You could get through with a pack horse

J The aboriginals used to sit up the top and speared a Chinaman that's why it got its name Hells Gate

JW I took a metal detector in there and I give it a good go over and all I found as a tea spoon or a dessert spoon and a knife. There was nothing else.

P It's amazing how they find their way into these places. Were they old aboriginal tracks

JW No. Some of them could've been.

J Old Alex Lyall who was a part aboriginal, part Chinaman he used to tell the tale about when there was a fight on in Maytown, he was born up there, his mother used to put him up a hollow log and he could see the feet all going one way and then another way. He's got a lot of descendants in Mossman so **don't quote that.**

JW The troopers, they're the police troopers, he could see their feet going (*laughs*).

J He lived to a ripe old age. He was a real old gentleman. He used to come and plant for John and when there was a lot of hand work around

JW He lived in the house down there with us

J He used to stay in the house with us. The only worker we ever had in the house

JW He had a property up Daintree and he had a wife and some children. A decent old fellah.

J Some of the children are dead now. He was a decent old guy

JW There used to be an old mining road going up Mt Windsor and he'd want to go and have a look at his cattle sometimes. We used to take him in there. Terrible road to get into. I only had had Falcon car, he used to flog it. Got up the western side of Mt Windsor right out to Piccaninny Creek. Mt Windsor is on the right going up to Cooktown round Curramore, pretty well opposite Curramore.

P What was he doing with his cattle, raising them for beef

JW Yeah. He was an old drover.

P you had lots of different people working for you. You told me about Russians

JW it's too long ago, I forget. I had aborigines kept falling over in the trash. I said to the other fellahs What's wrong with him. Oh he's been on the plonk. He had a bottle of plonk there, (*laughs*) so I had to put him off.

J It was the Indians

JW The Indians were out Syndicate

J When you went over Syndicate hill, on the road there's quite a hill that you have to go over before you get to the next valley you could smell the curry from up there (*laughs*) there's a lot of them working round the district

JW They jumped boat in Cairns, there were 8 or 10 might be a dozen. They worked round here for a couple of years

J No. it was weeks.

JW Anyway I was doing the planting at Syndicate there and I had about 8 of them there giving me a hand. I went out at 5 o'clock in the morning to start planting and there's nobody there. The Commonwealth police had arrived in the night and took them all. (*laughs*)

J It was a one bedroom barracks with a kitchen and a veranda and there was about 8 of them living in it. I don't suppose they cared

JW Flour all over the table, all over the floor, flour all over everything, just flour. I don't know what they were making, some of their cooking. Plenty of curry powder around.

P Would they buy that in Mossman

J You could see them, they didn't hide themselves, you couldn't hide that number of people

P Did they sell curry powder in Mossman

J Yeah they do in the shops still. We've always had some, always bought curry powder when you didn't have much to go on. Just put some curry powder in the old meat, cooked it up. we were all brought up on curry once a week at least.

P What else did you eat when you were kids. Was it different

J It was plain cooking. The butchers only came twice a week and nobody had a fridge in the early days. Mum used to get fresh meat and corned beef and you just had to cook it up the second day. You ate your fresh meat first and corned beef next time before the butcher came.

P Did you eat a lot of meat

J Yeah the working men did. Dad did. Meat and veggies. When the floods were on and the Burdekin bridge was over, it was a little low bridge and nobody grew potatoes on the Tableland, you couldn't get any potatoes, you couldn't get anything much. Mum and Dad used to eat yams and cassava. Mum'd boil it up like potato and then mash it up and make patties out of it with egg and onions and stuff

JW Don't know whether I told you about driving north in 1954. I was 19 and I got sick of chasing up cows so I left home and come up here Dad'd give us, we had to work hard on the farm and never got time off. He give us a trip around Brisbane for the Young Australian

League. That cost five pound. The next year he let us go down to Sydney and Melbourne with the Young Australian League. I don't know how much that was but it was a fortnight away. We lived underneath a grandstand they had it fenced off and they put a whole heap of canvas stretchers and we just camped there. The showground. Round the main ring. I come up as far as Ellis Beach, no cows, this'll do me. (laughs) anyway I decided to leave home and come north. I sold the motorbike and Dad gave us a hand buying an old Austin A40 and I said to a mate of mine I'm heading north do you want to come. He said Yeah too right so he come up with us. He'd not long broken his arm but anyway we come up through Rockhampton and we get out to Marlborough and we sort of run out of road. It was half a dozen wheel shapes going through the trees. Didn't matter which one you took they joined up eventually then they joined up again. We had to come up through Funnel Creek, through the back way and Lotus Creek into Serina. We got a bit of bitumen in Serina and a bit in Mackay. And we got up as far as the Burdekin River and we run out of road again. You just went down the bank into the river bed, there was a bit of gravel in there, run across below the old railway bridge to the other side there was a little tiny bridge, the water splashed up through the planks and you went across. They must've had a bit of a dry year because this was May and the river was pretty well dry. Anyway up the bank the other side and we kept going. Got up to Ingham and thought the motor, the car seemed to be a bit stiff so we got the crank handle out and turned the motor over, it was starting to seize up. I said to Keith we'll have to camp beside the road, might be right in the morning. Got the crank handle out and it was all freed up so away we went until we got to Mossman.

J Tea or coffee

P Strong white no sugar please

JW I had two aunties living here. One was married to Mum's brother who got killed in the timber down south and the other one Lillian she had married Doug Kingston and he had the taxi service in town here, one part of it. We stayed with them. It was about a fortnight three weeks till the crushing started. I don't know for how long. Eventually we were cutting cane out at Bert Pollocks and Syd Evans's. I'd had a lot of trouble with pains in the stomach down at home. I'd only cut cane for six weeks and I got terrible pain one morning went to the doctor Dr McGerkin, and he sent us up to the hospital to Dr Hodges up there. He had a look at me and said if you're alright by lunchtime you can go home. He hadn't been out of the room a quarter of an hour I got a terrible pain again. The doctor came back and he said We'll have you on the table at one o'clock, your appendix is coming out. That was the end of cutting of cutting cane. They had a new loco at the mill and I got a job firing on that. That was pretty easy going. And that's where I met Jocelyn in the hospital. She was a nurse (laughs)

J Night nurse.

JW Anyway we carried on from there. I finished up going over Baileys Creek working in the timber over there. Doug Kingston had moved over there and started up a sawmill with Mason. And then the mill closed down because there was a bit of a slump in the timber. They wouldn't take shorts. They would only take 62s upwards. 62 inches by over six feet. Had to be 8 feet or more bull oak, white oak whatever was in there. It was railed to Brisbane. A lot of it went into furniture. White oak wasn't any good for furniture. It used to buckle. I don't know what they used it for. Bit of old beech over there plus other stuff

P I think I heard that the floor of the old picture show went to Kingston's shed. Is that true

JW I don't know. Kingston didn't have a shed as far as I know

P Must be a different Kingston

JW He had a house where the Caltex servo is in town. There's a house at the back that Mrs Patterson was living in. Might've been his brother Evan was living out the other side of

town, Daintree Road, must've been him. Anyway they moved the house back and built that Caltex servo in front of it.

P Who built the Caltex servo, he did.

JW No. Somebody else bought the house off Dud. They moved the house back and put the servo in front.

P When do you reckon that was

JW I don't know. The only job going over Baileys Creek after the mill closed down, Jocelyn and I had a house over there and I done a fair bit of work on it to get it up to living standard so I didn't want to leave the place and the only job going was powder monkey on the council. So I took that job. Chris Senn was the foreman overseer and he said I'll give you a lesson in using gelignite. He said You see that jelly in that case, that's the dets over there. Keep them separated. (*laughs*) so that was the lesson on using gelignite. SENN.

Anyway I had to blow all the trees from the creeks to the top of the range. Council didn't have a very big dozer at the time. (*dishes noise*) Then we moved down here once the

P Did you blow the trees up for the road

JW Big mess mate. I put a packet under every one and the trunk of the tree would lift up about two feet in the air and fall back in the hole and the limbs would all come crashing down. The jar of the tree getting blowing up, the limbs all came off and they all fell down around the base. Then the council dozer still couldn't push it over.

P How did you know which way to go

JW We marked it all out. When I went over to Baileys Creek, the road was only a dozed road. The council run out of money above the hotel. There's a big corner there above the hotel, before the airstrip. We had to brush a track down to the sawmill and the council gradually got a bit more money and did a bit more. Anyway.

P Just a track up there

JW It was just a track. It used to take us, Dud would go up in his ute to the Daintree and leave it there. We'd row across in the dinghy, leave it on the other side and walk from there to the sawmill. Used to take us two hours ten minutes to walk from the Daintree river to Hutchison Creek. Walk out Friday afternoon with all our dirty clothes and come home and get another lot of feed for the next week.

P Where was your house n Baileys Creek

JW It was on McLean Creek opposite where, just down from where the soldiers memorial is now. Just down that creek a bit.

P Were there many people living around there

JW Yeah. Masons had put an ad in the paper in Melbourne wanting people to come up and take up ground there. I had 25 acres as long as I got it surveyed off I could've paid for it but I didn't go ahead with it. I bought one of the houses, fellow name of Cheeseman owned it. He was broke when he left here and when he went back to Melbourne he bought a Casket ticket and won first prize.

J He'd need it to start again because they all went broke up there, Baileys Creek

JW The day we moved into Baileys Creek, they were moving out. Mason came in with his barge up the river and they were all down at the Niggers Landing ready to load up and get out of the place. Because they had to rely on the tides. They had to pick their fruit and pack it and rely on the tides for him to come in and pick it up and take it to Cairns and by the time they got to Cairns it was half rotten. Pineapples and bananas. Anyway some of the houses were just left there and they rotted away and fell down. I think the hippies finished up living in mine.

P Was it near that Cow Bay road

JW Yeah just downstream from that Cow Bay road but that wasn't there

P That was Quaid's road was it

JW He did a lot of subdivision there

J That was long after you left

JW One of my snigging tracks went out to where the ice cream factory is out there. That long straight, that was one of me snigging tracks and then the other one went out the other way to Crocodylus, that's where I picked the last log up out there.

J We got back from our honeymoon on South Mole island and Dudley John's uncle and boss rang and said Bad news hasn't taken long to arrive, John hasn't got a job, I've had to close the sawmill down. And all the small sawmills in Queensland closed at that time because they didn't want small timber then, they just wanted the big stuff. Anyway we survived.

P Where was Niggers Landing

JW It was fairly well down Baileys Creek. We put a road down across Baileys Creek, there's a cutting there now around the side of the hill. The side of Mt Hutchison. I don't know if it's Mt Hutchison but anyway it doesn't matter. It's not Hutchison that's where John Nicholas was. We went on down through the mangroves to Niggers Landing we had a dump down there, timber skids. We could put about 32, 34 thousand super feet of timber on the skids. Mason used to come, he had a big coastal boat I can't remember the name of it but it worked up and down the coast here during the war. You'd get the name of it from Pat Mason up Tribulation. He used to come in and he put a lot of the timber down the hold and he had it stacked on deck he had it stacked everywhere, he'd go through to Cairns with it.

P Did they ever replant any trees

JW No. if you go up on that road going out to the ice cream factory way you'll find all these trees planted. The dozer that made the road then the hippy fellows went in there and planted this big row of trees. You can't get in to clean the drains out or anything now.

P Didn't the school kids plant up there too

J Probably. Alexandra Bay School

JW They came in down here and planted some damn trees. I cleaned right out to the bitumen, cleaned all the trees up and I planted cane on that section between the railway line and the power line. I used to keep it all slashed. One day all these kids were going along digging holes and I thought what the hells going on here. Next thing there's trees growing in there

J In the drain.

JW All this area I'd cleaned up and used to keep slashed I used to slash right out to the bitumen. Next thing there's bloody trees growing there.

J That was Berwick's idea. That was when all the greenies were rampant

P Are they still there

JW most of them are, yeah

J That was when John went on strike and said I'm not mowing out to the bitumen any more. There was getting to be too much traffic. He was getting held up, had to stop every time a car goes by.

JW Some of them died, some have lived but there's some big trees there now out from the house.

P I'm going to stop this for a minute

32.53

Jocelyn #9

JW I get a big sheet of white paper about that size. And I drew a mud map of all me snigging tracks, where I got timber from. What I put mainly in there was where everybody was living, all their houses and the school over there, Alexandra School has got it.

P Have you got a copy of it

JW Could be. Up here.
J I don't remember
P Can you do another one for the historical society
JW I don't remember now
J Too many years gone by
JW I've probably got a copy somewhere
P That'd be very interesting
J Alexandra Bay might have it
JW I got a letter thanking me for sending this, whatever it was.
P There's some great photos in that collection Jocelyn
J I've forgotten what was there. Carmen had that one enlarged onto canvas for Trevor because Dad, to own your own outfit in those days was like owning a harvester now but I have found a better one since. Don't know where it is now.
P I took photos of most of those
J Did you. Golly. We're a poor old pioneering family. Look at that poor horse I used to ride. But I had, being a kid, I had to have a quiet horse and they still used to dump me off at times. Anyway.
P Press stop
2.17

Jocelyn #10

J A nice crop of cane in the old days and there was nothing to combat the grubs and the grubs would come and eat it all. The district had hard times back in the 20s and 30s. until they discovered something to kill the grubs and that was 1951. (*dishes noise*)
GAMMEXANE. It's banned now
P What do they use now
J I don't know. We're not farming any more.
P Cane toads didn't work did they.
J No that was a fiasco. Just brought a lot of stuff you don't need into the country
P Do you remember the fellows coming home from the war
J No not really. I was 10 when the war finished. We didn't have any relatives here in the second World War. There was a lot in the first but not in the second. Mum and Dad used to talk about time when the men couldn't get work, the Depression. A lot of men camped under the bridge at Foxton looking for work. And Dad used to employ them because those were the days you had to employ labour. It was just horses and hoes. And a lot of them married local girls and stayed here and built homes and raised families. This is like a Chinaman's breakfast, you'll never make sense out of this
P Oh yes I will
JW We heard a good one the other day about under the bridge down there at Foxton. I drove around there one day last year and these old arm chairs, they'd been given all these old lounge chairs and that's what they were sitting on down there. We heard a story the other day you know the old fellow who used to sweep the street in Mossman before these vehicles took over. Do you know his name?
J No
JW Apparently when the trucks took over in there sweeping the street, he lost his job. I don't know where he's gone but he's took his chooks down and give them to these darkies underneath the bridge there and they had them leg roped, they had them tied up by the leg on ropes. Collecting the eggs.

J He gave it to the darkies telling them they didn't lay eggs any more, they weren't, anyway the abos told him later on that they lay eggs now. I suppose they've been all eaten by now

P How long ago is that

J When did the council buy a street sweeper, they've had one since we went into Cairns

P It was called Poppy Dan, they had a name on it

JW They call it the White Cockatoo out there and the Black Cockatoo under the bridge

J She's hearing things she can't publish today

P I liked it when the White Cockatoo was nudist. Well named

J People complained about. If they want to do that they're all hidden, why sorry. Spoiled sports in the world. Not bothering anybody else

P Your Dad was one of the tallest men I've seen in photographs

J He was 6 foot 5 and a half. His mother was about four foot ten. Grandad Francis he was elderly when I knew him but he would've been probably five foot 10. Their four boys were all six footers. But apparently Dad was, see the mothers just had their babies at home and apparently whoever the doctor was here said that Dad must've been a bit poorly and he said if you don't feed him up you'll lose him. She fed him up. It was something in their genes.

P You're tall

J I was six foot and half an inch when I was younger. I've got second cousins in England, one of them danced at the Windmill in Paris for years till she got too old. John and I have met them because her father he's my first cousin. He's Harry Francis. They had John's name, instead of John's name in the paper. He's tall. My sister is tall.

JW We went to the theatre where she worked when we were in Paris

J She'd retired by then. Jane Francis

JW There's another story I'll tell you at Bailey's Creek. **Switch it off**

There was an old fellow lived at Baileys Creek by the name of Mac, he was Mack McDonald. He lived there for years and then there was another fellow come along while we were working for council there called Harry Moses. They couldn't live together so Harry had to get out and he went up Coopers Creek and built a bit of a humpy up there. But they still used to look after each other. They'd go out at 7 every night with a lantern and they'd wave the lantern to each other and if the light wasn't there, one'd know the other was crook so he'd go down the next day and see how he was going.

P Wouldn't go then

JW 7 o'clock at night was too late to go. Old Harry was around for a long time.

P Do you know who it was named after, Bailey's Creek

JW No. what's that explorer, had a lot to do with Irvinebank mining area

P Venture Mulligan, Dalrymple

JW No. he went over there and he was going to bring that Bailey's Creek, he was going tunnel that hill there and bring the railway through the hill across the Daintree

P Which hill

JW That runs down to Cape Kimberley. The one you're looking at there now on the horizon

P Is that Thornton no it's not

J Thornton's up the back

JW Moffatt's who it was. I've got a write up there about him. Anyway he was going to bring the Baileys Creek area into cane, tunnel it through the hill, come across the Daintree.

J that was about 1895. [?? *didn't arrive till 1897*] That's when my grandfather came up from Mackay to look at that and he decided he wouldn't be in it. I suppose they all decided it was a no go. It's written up in the books

P they had a lot of good plans then, they had a vision. the other one I'm interested in is who named St Crispins reef out there

J Don't know anything about that one

P John Morris told me it was Capt Cook but St Crispins day is in October and Cook got to Cooktown about June

J That was a nice write up you did about Marj.

P You knew them well, you worked together

J We were at their wedding. They're some of our oldest friends

JW I come back from Baileys Creek and applied for the job driving the sugar trucks

J No you worked for the council. You still worked for the council when we got back from Baileys, then you did apply, '58.

P What did you do for food at Baileys Creek, did you grow your own stuff

JW No. Took a bit of corned beef that's why we had to walk out every weekend. Come home and get a bit of, hunk of corned beef and a few spuds and onions

J By the time I went over there in '57 the tractor used to come and go from the river. You didn't have to walk over there any more.

P But you lived over there

J Yeah for a year, '57 then we came out for Christmas and that's when the council ran out of money, Christmas '57. We lived in Mum and Dad's barracks in Syndicate road, the one Diane Cilento eventually bought, for a little while until we built a house out here. Built half a house out here.

P Was it tough living at Baileys Creek

J It was alright just for John and I, wouldn't be too good with kids. I had a bit of a holiday over there. (*laughs*) I had a holiday. I'd just finished my middy in Cairns and we were supposed to have 12 trainees and we never had more than ever and you just worked like a galley slave. It was upstairs and downstairs with no lift and it was short staffed all your life and you spent your life on night duty and that's when everybody had their babies.

JW There was one lady just lived down McLean Creek from us by the name of Philips and they just more or less walked out. They had a house there with a roof and hessian walls and she more or less just walked out and left everything behind, even her wedding ring. She come back two years later on her own and everything was there. Right from the wedding ring. Everything. All in tea cases. She packed it all up and I'm not too sure how she got it back to the river, took it back over the roadway and she went back south with it all.

P When are we talking about

12.59

J You went over there about '56, '55 '56.

JW It would've been '56, '57

J Was I there when that happened. I think I met her

JW I think so

J I wasn't there before we were married. You weren't allowed to go and live with your boyfriend in those days

JW One afternoon I saw smoke going up and I thought there's trouble down there so I raced down it was about half a mile to get there around the snigging track, and here she is she's got just a bra on and a pair of shorts or something or other and she's bashing away at this fire and it was going up the posts of the house still had the bark on them, and it was zipping up this bark trying to get into the house. I raced down the creek, got a bucket of

water. We were fighting the fire half an hour to keep it out of the house. She decided she'd burn off a bit of the rubbish around the house and it got away on her.

P Did she cook outside on a fire

JW I don't know how she cooked, there was no fire outside

J We had a stove when I got there

P Wood stove

J mmm

JW We had an old kerosene fridge, Silent Night. It went alright. I got a couple of sheets of iron and soldered them together and made a bit of a tray inside and that was our pull-up shower, just a hole in the middle to let the water get out underneath. (*laughs*) I went and cut a couple of palm trees down and hollowed out all the piss in the middle and I had them over the drain to take the water out. (*laughs*) Propped them up with a few sticks. She went down to the toilet

J We had an outside dunny naturally. John was out brushing, we had about 25 acres was it, he was out brushing and I'm sitting in this toilet and this red bellied black snake's getting closer and closer. He couldn't hear me because he was making a noise and he's too far away and I thought Oh God. He built the toilet so well I couldn't bash the back wall down to get out. Anyway the snake took one look at me and left. I was lucky.

P Did you have it built over a hole

JW No we had a tin. It was there before we went there.

J The people that lived there before us

JW Don Cheeseman. He finished up going the timber cutting, him and Petersen

P That wasn't Arnie Petersen

JW No

J Somebody from the south. Masons had put an ad in the Melbourne paper asking for people to come up and grow tropical fruit and stuff. Did they all have 25 acres.

JW Roughly

J It was a bit of a con job, well as you know there's no transport to get your stuff to market, no refrigeration. When you go down and see the professional fruit farms now, it's just. They were pioneers and I suppose they were sick of Melbourne

P and they gave them the land did they?

J There was an ad in the Melbourne paper

JW They give them 25 acres and they could work it and they could buy it, they didn't say how much but you could buy it when you got it surveyed.

J There's still Mason kids in the district so you can't say too much about it. Masons were pioneers. This was Walter Mason. He was the brother of the pioneers at Cape Trib. You can't say too much about it because there's still a lot of people here.

JW across the road from the end of the airstrip where the soldiers memorial is there's a creek there called Fairy Creek and it's got its name because there's a couple of poofs living on it. That's how it got called Fairy Creek. Runs into Hutchison Creek

P What ever happened to them

J We didn't mix with people like that (*laughs*)

JW There was another fellow came into Baileys Creek while we were working the saw mill we called him the Bower Bird because if there was anything you left behind, he had it. He got an old 303 rifle Walter Mason had, old corroded, took 303 shells, he got the hornets, cleaned out the barrel and he used to take that and blast the fish down the creek. We called him the Bower bird because he just picked up everything. He had a little tiny woman with him. Little tiny thing.

J Another chap was there, just found him down in the nursing home,

JW Old Tarzan. He was around then. He was away up the coast he went everywhere. He used to go into the sugar mill in here and he'd get a hessian bag and wrap it all round his feet and tie it up with string, somehow he got a loaf of bread and he'd go up the mill and where the fugeles are, all the molasses and sugar comes out the fugeles, and he'd put his bread underneath there and get heaps of that stuff. That's how he had a feed.

He wasn't silly.

P Did you have any other ladies at Bailey's Creek

J I was the only one

P Was it lonely

J No I always did fancy work and stuff. I enjoy company but I'm quite happy on my own too

P Was it hot

J Can't remember it was hot. Same as here

P But you didn't had fans

J Nobody had fans

JW We just had wooden shutters

J Mum and Dad didn't get the power on in Syndicate Road until '62 I think. We were the forgotten north.

JW If you turn this thing off I'll try and find some photos

P OK I'll stop it

20.43

THE END

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