

**City of Adelaide**  
**Oral History (Extension) Project 2011/2012**

**OH 115**

**Interview with**

**Dr Rex Lipman AO**

**Long-time businessman in the City of Adelaide**

**Conducted by Madeleine Regan**

**15 March 2012**

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\*A timed summary provides an outline of the content of an Oral History interview and keywords that make it possible to navigate the recording of the interview in sections.

## **The City of Adelaide Oral History Project**

As part of its concern to preserve evidence of Adelaide's past, the Adelaide City Council established an Oral History Project in 1984 to conduct recorded interviews with persons who had made a notable contribution to the City of Adelaide. This included former Lord Mayors, Councillors and long serving former Corporation staff, as well as long-time City residents, business and community identities.

The project coincided with the lead up to the State's 150 Jubilee in 1986, the national Bicentennial in 1988, and the Corporation's own 150<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations in 1990.

The Oral History Project concluded in 2000, but was revived in 2011 at the time of the State's 175<sup>th</sup> celebrations in order to capture the experiences and memories of more people closely associated with the City. This interview forms part of what is known as the Oral History (Extension) Project.

The oral history interviews provide a record of the City and its Council's past that complements the historic documents held by the City Archives.

Copyright in the recordings and transcripts is shared by the Council and the interviewee for the duration of the interviewee's life and vests wholly in the Council on the death of the interviewee. Access to recordings and transcripts for either research or public use is governed by any restrictions imposed by the interviewee during his or her lifetime, and subsequently by the Council.

## **Biographical note**

Rex Lipman was born on 26 April 1922 in Adelaide. His mother was Esther Lipman Jacobs nee Solomon who was the first woman member of the Adelaide City Council. Rex's father, Hyam John Lipman, was a dental surgeon. Rex had a sister, and an older brother died at seven years of age. Rex attended Walkerville Primary School and St Peters College. He left school in 1937, and at 15 years, was employed as a junior in the pastoral bank Goldsbrough Mort. He joined the Citizens Military Forces, and enlisted in the Army at the start of the War.

He completed Leaving Honours at Woodville High School after the War to gain entry into Dentistry at the University of Adelaide, graduating in 1951. In 1947 he had married Eve Fisher and they had five children. They lived for a time on a farm at Campbelltown, and Rex built up his dental practice in the City and at Campbelltown. During the 1960s, Rex became involved in finance, and was on the Board of Devon Credits Ltd. He established the merchant bank, International Merchant & Finance Corporation (IMFC) with the Royal Bank of Canada and the National Bank of Detroit as major shareholders.

In 1970, the family moved to Balhannah where Rex and Eve bred and raced thoroughbreds, working for a time with Bart Cummings. In 1976 he resigned from the bank, and set up Angas Travel Agency in Hutt Street in the City. He was Honorary French Consul for an extended period from the 1970s. In 1991, he co-founded, and became inaugural Chief Executive, of the International College of Hotel Management at Regency Park and collaborated with the Swiss Hotel Association and Le Cordon Bleu.

Dr Lipman was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for his service to the banking industry and to the thoroughbred horse industry. In 2008 he was made an Officer of the Order for service to the tourism and hospitality industry, and to education through support of learning opportunities for young people. The French Government acknowledged his work by making him both a Knight of the Legion of Honour and an Officer of the National Order of Merit.

In the interview, Rex speaks about his family; growing up; his experience as a young employee in Goldsbrough Mort; and getting to know the City of Adelaide. He discusses his War service and the steps he took to study dentistry from 1946 – 1951 as a newly married man, supporting a growing family through different sources including growing vegetables on the farm at Campbelltown which was a thriving area with newly arrived Italians. Other areas covered include: the development of his dental practice; the international context of his involvement in finance and banking; his entry into the travel agency; term as Honorary French Consul; his horse-racing pursuits and his authorship.

## Photographs



Lipman siblings: L – R Gerald; Rex; Alice



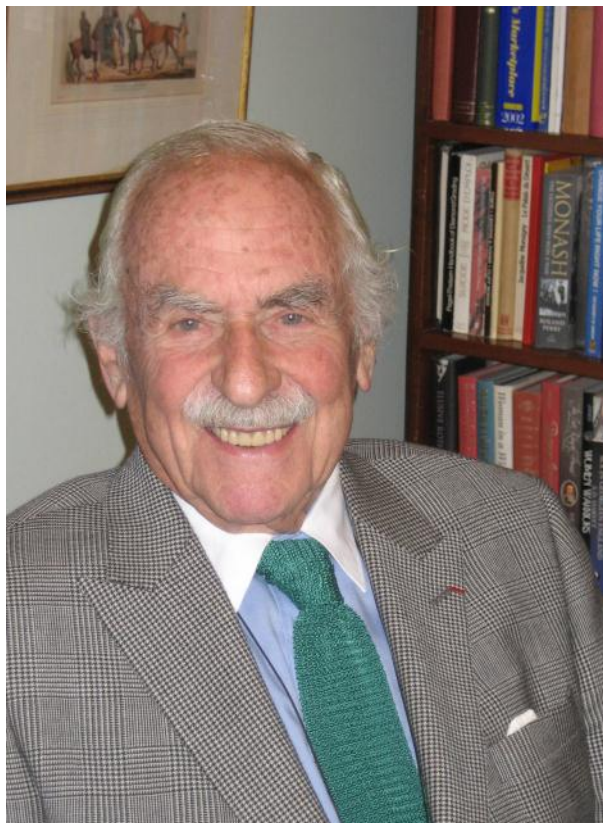
Rex, a young Scout



Rex, in Army uniform



Lipman family at the unveiling of the bust of Esther Lipman –Jacobs OBE Gardens, 27 April 2012  
L – R Wendy Forwood; Eve; Gerald; Judy Munro; Skip; Rex; Susie Herzberg



Dr Rex Lipman AO, Angas Travel Agency, July 2012

**FIRST INTERVIEW WITH DR REX LIPMAN, AO  
RECORDED BY MADELEINE REGAN**

**in the City of Adelaide  
on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

**Transcript of first interview (15 March 2012)**

*This transcript has been edited by the interviewee. The original transcript is available in the Adelaide City Archives, with the audio recording.*

Oral Historian (OH): Thank you, Rex, for agreeing to this interview, and also agreeing to the copyright conditions.

We're going to start the interview by talking about your background. Could you please give me your full name and date of birth?

Rex Lipman (RL): Rex John Lipman. My date of birth is doubtful. It was either on 25 April late, or in the very early hours of 26 April. Actually I was born on 25<sup>th</sup> and registered on 26<sup>th</sup> because my mother went from the 1922 Anzac Day March straight to *Kinetta* Hospital, I think, in Hill Street, North Adelaide, to have me.

OH: And the year was?

RL: 1922.

OH: Which means that next month you'll be 90?

RL: Absolutely.

OH: Congratulations. Rex. Was there a significance about your name in your family?

RL: My mother had a girl in 1920 called Alice, and everyone called her Allie, and the next year on 14 February she had a son called Gerald, and they called him Gerry, so when she got a third child in April the following year she thought she'd get something they couldn't shorten, so they called me Rex.

OH: Can you tell me what your parents' names were?

RL: Hyam John was my father, and Esther Lipman was my mother. She was Esther Solomon before she was married.

OH: Can you tell me a little about their backgrounds?

RL: My father was born in 1889. His father had 10 hotels in Coolgardie, and at the time of the Boer War the gold in Coolgardie dried up and everyone deserted. He was left with 10 empty hotels and I think was pretty well bankrupt then, although



he must have had some because he had a beautiful home out in Unley, just on the corner of George Street there, called 'The Gums' – it is still standing – and my father went to Prince Alfred College. In the family they had about seven or eight girls and three boys. That was the background on the male line.

My mother's line, she was the daughter of Vaiben Louis Solomon, and he was one of the Constitution Fathers of Australia, and with The Honorable John Downer was the South Australian representative on the Constitution Council. He too, like so many people there, had business things, he had a big flour mill over in Coolgardie, which went bad, and then of course he was one of the pioneers of Darwin, and he represented Darwin in Parliament, and he was in the State Parliament and Leader of the Opposition for a long while, and for a very short time was Premier. He was bankrupted at one stage, and by virtue of that he had to resign from Parliament. He represented West Adelaide at that stage in Parliament, but there was nothing in the Act that said an undischarged bankrupt couldn't stand for Parliament, so he stood at the by-election and got in by a bigger majority than he'd got in before. He died in 1908 and was just about to go off as Agent General in London, in 1908, and he died.

He had a son, Vaiben Louis, who was an accountant and very involved in the early automated forms of accountancy, which was the precursor to computers, and Elizabeth, or Betty as she was known, she died a little while ago, was born in 1908 and she died a couple of months off 100 years of age. So that was their background. ...Mother... when VL died he left nothing so her mother, my grandmother, went back to live with her mother and they were in very restricted financial circumstances, and she had to leave the boarding school she was at and go to the local state school, and she went to work at 13, and I think she was in the Commonwealth Bank when it was first started, and she stayed there until she married my father. She wasn't allowed to marry until she was 19, and she was married on 9 April 1919. So that's really their background.

OH: Thank you, that's interesting. Rex, where did you grow up?

RL: In Adelaide ... We lived in St Peter's, in Harrow Road, and then a bad year in 1928, my brother who was a year older, he was seven, and he was quite a prodigious child in that he ran very fast, he played an incredible game of cricket, and somehow or other he got a staphylococcal infection - staphylococcal pneumonia and died, and that was an utter disaster because my father worshipped him, and my mother and father decided to go overseas for 12 months, and we were sent to Melbourne to live with our grandmother, and I was meant to go to Melbourne Grammar but they found I was under 8 years of age, I couldn't go, so I was put in as the only boy in a girls' boarding school with my sister, in 1929, and when I came back I was at Queen's College for a little while, a couple of years, and then I went to the Walkerville State School, and then to St Peter's College, and I left St Peter's at the time of the polio epidemic in 1937, took a couple of jobs, and then got into Goldsbrough Mort at the beginning of 1938, and I worked with them until September 1939, and I joined the Army a couple of days after the war broke out.



OH: Leaving school at 15, how was that viewed?

RL: The Headmaster... I was quite paranoid about a war coming, and I'd read a lot of history where the unprepared died or all got killed, and I studied soldiering, I studied wars, I studied military history, and I went to the Headmaster and said: *There will be a war very soon* - and this was before the Czechoslovakian fiasco, I think it was when they went into the *Sudetenland* 1937, and I said: *I've got to get out into the world, I want to get experience before the war comes, because if I'm going to have to be a soldier I want to be a good one*, and I joined up in the militia. I went down there, I was only 15, because this was in 1937, 1938, I was only 15, and I went down to the Torrens Drill Hall, I went up the stairs and said *I want to join* what was then called the CMF, the Citizen Military Forces, it was the old militia just been reformed. Joe Lyons was the Prime Minister, and they asked me how old I was and I said, 15. He said: *Go home to your mother and come back when you're 18*. I went down the stairs, a double staircase, you could go up either side up to the first floor, and I thought *Bother you*, so I went up the other steps to the other side of the building, and I fronted up and they said: *How old are you?* And I said 19.

The fellow went away and I could see through the crack of the door. I should add that when I was 15 I was bigger than I am now. At the attestation they said I weighed 14st 7lb, and was 6ft 1½in. I can remember the conversation this Sergeant had with the Adjutant for the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, he said: *There's a big young guy out the front* - it was interspersed with several adjectives - and he said *How old is he?* And he said: *He says he's 19 but if he's 19, I'm the Duke of York*, he said to the adjutant. I could see the Adjutant look through the crack in the door, and said: *When they're big enough they're old enough, sign him up*. So I came into the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, and that was how I started my soldiering.

OH: At a very young age?

RL: Yes.

OH: What were your parents' views about this?

RL: I think I had a sort of armed truce with my family. They didn't want me to leave school. It was in the middle of the Depression mind you, and they didn't want me to leave school. They rang the Headmaster, Rev. Guy Pentreath, who had great faith in me and was one of the people who inspired me a lot, and he said: *Yes, your son has been to speak to me. I think all his reasons of wanting to leave school ... I don't want him to leave school because I would like him to be a prefect of the school, and he would be the youngest prefect in the school, but he knows what he wants to do and I think we should let him do it*. He supported me and I told the family that I'd pay ... I was getting £4.3.4 a month, and that works out to £50 a year, 19/3 a week, and I said that I could afford to pay 7/6 rent to my family if they wanted it. They didn't want it but it was just a sense of independence, but I think the poor creatures they had to put up with me as a child, I think that was their problem. But they were wonderful!

OH: Rex, you talked about the principal or the Headmaster at St Peter's being an influence. Were there other adult influences in your life?

RL: Oh yes, yes, the second Master had been a Colonel in the first war, or at the end of the first war, John Hill, was one of the most inspiring people I ever remember here and if I could just be like him, he was brilliant. Later I was his adjutant and that was just sort of being almost like a cricketer who Don Bradman said he'd look after.

There was a lot of inspiration at St Peter's College to me, a number of people who came and spoke at the school. I can remember Menzies in 1934 came to the prep school, the preparatory school, and talked, and I had to present him with a book of the history of the school or something. He asked me what I wanted to do. I said that I wanted to go into Parliament, which I did, and he was very full of it ... and said that he would be interested, just he was a great inspiration. The Bishop of Riverina who later became Archbishop Halse up in Brisbane at St John's, who I met later in life.

There were some very inspiring aspects. I'm very much involved now in bringing to the school inspiring people, because I think inspiration is what young boys want more than anything else, and now I've set up a program out there of these people who inspire, coming to the school.

OH: I read about that and I thought that that's one of the areas that we'll cover later in the interview.

In your family, what were the kinds of influences that were important, say through your mother and your father as you were growing up?

RL: As far as that, look, in retrospect I would say they were both extremely industrious people. My mother who had left school at 13 was virtually a self-educated woman, and was a brilliant woman with a brilliant brain, and my father didn't have a brilliant brain, he had a beautiful pair of hands. He went through dental surgery, was ambidextrous, taught me to be ambidextrous in all things. I think it was very difficult for him because as a cricketer himself, his life was very much involved in my elder brother, and I was a big, clumsy pup around the place, and I think he found it difficult to come to terms with that. He was a very quiet person, dedicated to his patients. His patients adored him. He listened to them and everything was there, but I think the industriousness of my parents was the greatest example.

OH: Did they belong to, or have affiliations with, organisations like religious organisations or political organisations?

RL: We were brought up as Orthodox Jews, but that didn't ... they had an open thought about it, and they didn't stop me going to Chapel. It was rather funny, my father said: *If you win a prize each year I will take you for a holiday, while you're at school I will take you away for a holiday and if you don't, I won't.* Well, there were only two prizes at Saint's in those days, the Form prize and the Divinity prize, and to my young mind the Divinity prize was Bible Study and there were only a limited number of books in the Bible, and if I learnt enough books in the Bible and learnt that pretty well, if I couldn't win the Divinity prize I'd be useless, so each year I won the Divinity prize, and I knew more about Christianity than most priests did there - and I had my Christmas holiday.

- OH: And that was seen as being OK by your parents?
- RL: Oh yeah, that was a commitment. I think my father, although he didn't say it at the time, I think he thought: *Cunning little beggar* and there ... but, you know.
- OH: You've already mentioned about going to Goldsbrough Mort, the Stock and Station Agents on North Terrace, and you had a number of jobs there I read, from your autobiography. I'm wondering what do you remember about the City of Adelaide as you did your rounds.
- RL: I remember ... I knew every jolly building in the town pretty well, because you delivered around from there the ones going down, ... very little in Hindley Street because there was nothing there, and North Terrace. The main thing were the ... no, that was in Currie Street, Goldberg Brothers were hardware people like Scarfe's became, and you had to go down there, and country people who wanted hardware stuff from the Merchandise Department had to go down to Invoices, News Ltd, we had to go down to North Terrace, all the professional buildings there, but the amount ... we got there at 7.30am, sorted out our morning delivery, and went out by 7.45am, and we had to be back by 9.00am, and it was virtually impossible.
- OH: Were you on foot?
- RL: You were on foot going around. Delivery boys weren't allowed to use lifts and it wasn't a lift you press a button, they all had limbless soldiers, one arm or one leg, as the liftmen in them, and you weren't allowed ... you had to run up the stairs and down the stairs.
- However, I remember Bob Clampett, who was later Mayor of Adelaide, he worked with one of these, and then there was the Elder's boy, and he was there for a number of the ones from Elder's, and Bennett and Fisher, and Dalgety's, so there was a little place called the Devon Milk Bar in King William Street.
- OH: Whereabouts in King William Street?
- RL: It was in between Rundle Street as it was then. There's a little lane that used to go up into Faulding's Building into there from North Terrace, and just on the corner, only about six doors along from Lawrence's the tobacconist, were on that corner, along there towards Grenfell Street, and the Devon Milk Bar, and five of us used to meet there. And we divided the City up so we'd do two streets each and get our work done, and if we came back we got four reasonable glasses of milkshake for four pence, that was a penny each for that, and we got a drink there, and we got back to our offices on time instead of killing ourselves, everything was done, and we didn't lose the purpose of this, which was to learn the town. So we learnt a lot about the town.
- OH: I'm getting the idea that the Stock and Station Agents were very prominent in Adelaide at that time.
- RL: Oh, heavens yes, yes, oh, very much so, and socially too. Because we worked long hours, see later on you'd go to the abattoirs on Tuesdays for the cattle market.
- OH: And where were the abattoirs?

RL: The abattoirs were out on the Main North Road, Gepps Cross, and you'd go down there. Then you had to go down to 'the Minnipa', the ship that went over the West Coast, with all the mail for all the clients over there, and we were all friends, all very close friends there, and we used to have tennis, swimming ... everyone got in. No one was paid overtime, you got two shillings tea money, which was very generous, two shillings tea money, when you think we got 19/3 a week, and if you were made to work late, you could buy a great big baked potato for a penny, and put the other 1/11 in your pocket, and that was good money. No, they were very, very happy days.

Down in Light Square were the garages of those companies and also – this is in the north west corner of it – and that was the skin depot, where skins of animals were dealt down there, and I think Elder's had one down there too. Then they had wool stores and things at Port Adelaide, so you did your training going around the place in them, and then they had the banking people who wrote their cheques. They had a sort of banking department, and having been through this, and then you would go through all of the accounts of these companies because you went to the A-C first, and the D-F second, GHJ, L-M, N-R, S-Z, and you went and you'd spend three or four months at each of the places so you'd know the accounts of the people there, and it was a very good training.

OH: Was the hope that you would move up and become a more senior person?

RL: There were three levels of junior ... there was the junior Junior and ... his next job was to get the lunches and go around and do that, and I worked out, very much to my advantage, and really made a lot of money, doing the lunches. I can remember when I was earning £3 or £4 a week, which was what graduates were getting. I remember being called up to the secretary, who was the boss of the company, and told how well I had done and I was being promoted, and would get another £5 a year. The tears nearly rolled down my cheeks that here I had been such a smart arse that I'd talked myself out of a job. I wanted to keep doing that for quite a while. However ... I think it was good training.

And then somehow we had two nights a week soldiering. And then we'd come back and do the mail after the army parade, and I was trying to do a course at the university too.

OH: What course were you trying to do?

RL: I was doing a Commerce Course at night.

OH: It must have been very, very arduous, doing all those things, long days?

RL: It was, it was. I mean see most people worked five and a half or six days a week, and the big thing was they got it down to 48 hours a week, this was the aim, eight hours a day, to celebrate six days a week, eight hours a day, and if you wanted to get on you had to be able on an *extra-mural* basis, to do all your study and everything else. Now today when you work 35 hours a week, it's easy as pie, you can have two jobs today, anyone can have two jobs permanently if they've the energy to do it.

OH: And you must have had energy as a young man?

- RL: I think, you survived.
- OH: Rex, you've touched on the Citizen Military Forces, but the war came along, didn't it?
- RL: The war came along, yes, and see, first of all there was, ... I think in 1938, I don't know the history of it but I think it was in 1938, was Czechoslovakia, and then when they collapsed the deal they did, it was called the Munich [Agreement] ... came back. Chamberlain went over and said: *Peace in our time!* And they should have declared war then, but didn't, and things were hotting up and war was absolutely inevitable. The nearer it got the more time we were made to train ... and by law, they had to let you off to go and do your military training.
- OH: And so you served in the war for how many years?
- RL: Nearly six. I was full-time from the day after the war started until 1946. So we had three months in 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, was six years.
- OH: You saw some overseas service, didn't you?
- RL: Yes, yes, yes, yes. Then I had great mentors, brilliant people who I was just a sponge to - sucked up everything I could learn from, and I seemed to be gifted with the COs who I worked under, one after another, brilliant people.
- OH: The Commanding Officers?
- RL: Yes, yes. (In fact, my CO in 1938-1940 was WCD Veale, then A.C.C. City Engineer).
- OH: And so they provided that mentoring role?
- RL: Yes, they were. It was extraordinary, I was very lucky.
- OH: When you came back to Adelaide life must have changed a lot?
- RL: Oh, life did change a lot. I think it's there you could get almost a ball for ball description in *Luck's been a lady*, of how I got home. The nuns all prayed for me, and they prayed for me when they had that Novena, and I was coming back to do Law. It had been recommended by a Major General, he was Brigadier Windeyer, later a High Court Judge, who I came across several times during the war, and that's dealt with very fully in *Luck's been a lady*, and at the end of the war ... Blamey was most under-estimated in the war. You only have to read the eulogy that Monash wrote at the end of his book, that he could not have done any of the things that he did, without having Blamey as his Chief Staff Officer, Tom Blamey. He had a photographic memory for everything, Blamey did. He almost knew every officer worth knowing in the army. He knew more about them and it stayed in his brain.

I first met him up at the university in Brisbane, St Lucia, and before it was ready for the university, it was allied land head quarters. The university, before it was even finished didn't have partitions up, and they had the standing screens with little legs on them which they moved together, even for the Commander's office - Blamey's office. My CO at the time was an old Scot who'd been on Gallipoli and right through the first war with Blamey, and they were very close friends. We

were going in to see him this day, and I was his Adjutant, and he went in, around the corner, and I [clapping noise] tripped over one of these stands and sprawled right in front of the Chief of the General Staff, Blamey, and he turned around and said to the Colonel: *What is this pointer pup you've brought in - and helped me pick up all my things*, and he never forgot me, and always referred to me as the 'pointer pup' in front of anybody at all. *Oh, the pointer pup is here is he? You're coming on ...* He fashioned that bastion was invalidated out, suddenly I was told I would be sent to the Staff School, because they had a sort of pressure cooker Staff School – this would be 1943 – and when you found out Blamey had said so – you went!. And then when I came out of that, the next thing I hear a man called Brigadier Porter appears on the scene – he was later Police Commissioner in Victoria, a brilliant man ... Selwyn Havelock Whitlock something ... Porter – came into the unit and said: *Well I've got to have a talk to you, you're Captain Lipman. Oh, well I think I'm reforming the 24<sup>th</sup> Brigade in 9 Division and you're going to be the Staff Captain, you'd better pack your bags.* And that was then.

Then when it came to the end of the war I'd seen a lot of Windeyer because he was Brigadier of the 20<sup>th</sup> Brigade, and there was a Court of Inquiry in a couple of things, and he was allowed to pick a Staff Officer to do this at the end of the war. It's all written down in *Luck's been a lady*. And I was sent off with Windeyer to do these as his Staff Officer. Then we suddenly got the end of, you know, the thing that Blamey had had a meeting of all his Generals, and they each were allowed to pick 10 within their command, people who they'd get (i.e., arrange to send home quickly) down quickly to get them into university, and that is how I got sent home just in time, the beginning of January, to go to the university. Then the legal people ... the universities were a hot bed of pacifists, they were ... and they did not want this influx. They had children coming here, they didn't want 25-30-year old undergraduates, and because I hadn't done Latin.

In those days the public exams were Intermediate, Year 10; Leaving, Year 11; and Leaving Honours, there were three levels of public exams, and you need Leaving Latin to get into Law. And I was going to do Law, someone I was going to be articled to, Frank Villeneuve Smith and everyone dug their toes in and then the RSL wanted to make a test case out of it to fight the university, and there's an old military rule that you never, if you have to fight for the start line where you cross – start- if you have to fight to get the command of the thing, don't go to battle, and I thought this was fighting for the start line, and I suddenly said *I'm going to do Dental Surgery*. My father had been a Dental Surgeon, and a very good one, and my little fingers would do what I wanted them to. Even then I had to go back and do, because I hadn't done Physics and Chemistry, I had to go back and matriculate all over again.

OH: I think you matriculated at Woodville High School?

RL: Yes, yes.

OH: And what was that experience like, Rex?

- RL: That was, it was quite good. We used to go down on the train and sit in the back and get on with our work. We did our work, to us it wasn't a matter of being sent to school, we just had to pass an examination to get to the university, and accepted it as that.
- OH: How old were you at that time?
- RL: 24.
- OH: And why was it Woodville High School?
- RL: Well we were split around depending what subjects we had to do. We were split around. Some went to Unley High, some went to Norwood. I was very fortunate because both the Physics and the Chemistry Masters there were very good.
- OH: So the army sent you there?
- RL: No, the Repatriation or Department of Veteran's Affairs, they looked after us, and they paid us £3.5 a week, which you can imagine, to live on, ... and they did this, and they had this, ... it was a thing called the CRTS, Commonwealth Repatriation Training Scheme, and it was wonderful, it really was, as far as that, it was a great help.
- OH: So in 1947 you began studying Dentistry?
- RL: Yes.
- OH: I understand that in 1947 another very important event took place?
- RL: Yes, we got married. I remember on this Thursday we did an examination in the morning and I got married in the afternoon. It was a terminal examination, for the term, and I think I got 42%. I don't think I was concentrating.
- OH: You were probably in love. From reading *Luck's [been] a lady*, your autobiography, you refer to the fact that neither your parents nor Eve Fisher's parents were very keen initially for you to marry.
- RL: Eve's family weren't, the Fisher's weren't at all. First of all you must remember in those days Jewish people were seen as something quite different, although you know you work at the Town Hall, they'd had in my lifetime, well they had Sir Lewis Cohen, they had Isaacs, they had Ninio, Walter Bridgland. They had five Jewish Lord Mayors, and my great-grandfather in 1870, 1871, 1872, ... Judah Moss Solomon was Mayor. And if you look at the few Governors-General, Australians, who'd been, Sir Isaac Isaacs was Jewish, and Zelman Cowen. ...so there had never been politically anything but as very strict Anglicans, they didn't like ... and also this girl was going to marry a penniless returned soldier who didn't have two pennies to put together. Also he wasn't well, I was sick, and I still had dysentery because no one had a cure for bacillary or amoebic dysentery, and I still had remnants of the *osteomyelitis* and I was still getting attacks of malaria. So they had a penniless, Jewish, sick boy who she had nursed during the war and she wanted to nurse and look after, and they didn't think that was a good idea, and again you couldn't blame them.
- OH: So that's how you met Eve?



- RL: Yes, she nursed me, yes, yes, in 1942. Her first thing was in the hospital, she nursed me at 121AGH at Northfield, she was then. Again you see hardly had I returned to Australia and the Hayward's had a big party for all the guys were nominated for Oxford, because no one went over during the war, and these ones who went over were all going off to do ... so many people used to go and do courses in Oxford in those days, and she had this party and asked me to it, and I walked into the place and there was Eve, somebody who I came home to look for, and there she was dished up on a silver plate.
- OH: So you'd begun Dentistry and then you married in the same year that you began?
- RL: Yes.
- OH: What changed for you when you and Eve married?
- RL: It sounds stupid for a silly old man to say it, but we were obviously born for each other because we were the best of friends, we rode everywhere together because we both loved horses. We both wanted to live on a farm, and with a collectedly joint deferred pay (which was enough), we bought a little 10-acre farm out at Campbelltown, and planted trees out there, had a couple of horses, and lived together, and we raised our family. We agreed we differed on most things, but we both belonged to each other ever since, and now I look after her.
- OH: You were able to make an income in those years that you were studying because you had, how many years of Dentistry study?
- RL: It was six years, I had six years study, a year to matriculate and five years, and while the trees were growing in the orchard, we grew potatoes, we grew onions. I took food into the market.
- OH: That's the East End?
- RL: The East End Market, on my way to uni. In fact I was failed in one exam. In 1948 they started the CMF again, the old militia became the CMF, and they wanted to have a University Regiment, and they gave it to me to be the CO of it, and the Medical Corps and the Dental Corps used to come in under my command with it. So many of these were honoraries at the Dental Hospital and everything. In any case I got failed in one of my exams, I couldn't understand it because I knew the answers for this part of it, and I said: *Find out from the bastards what's going on when you are there and they came back and laughed like anything, Do you know what you were failed for, Colonel? You came in to a Viva that's an oral examination, smelling like cabbages.* I'd gone to the East End Market with my little white coat on the back, and I'd gone straight to the exam you see, and come from the market and obviously smelt of cabbages, and they said that that wasn't good enough and I had to learn a lesson somehow. I think it was, they didn't like the idea of an undergraduate being a Lieutenant Colonel, that was my main sin.
- Then if you look around there you see they had the gall, they'd given me the Distinguished Alumni Award for 2009 to Rex John Lipman.
- OH: This is the University of Adelaide?

- RL: Yes, the University of Adelaide, and I thought that was the one who smelt of cabbages, but still I got through, but we used to have money coming in for that. Once I got in and had passed Physiology at uni, I used to go and teach Physiology at Walford, at Wilderness, anywhere.
- OH: So you were earning money?
- RL: Yes, to keep alive.
- OH: I understand that you and Eve used to go to auctions?
- RL: Oh gosh, yes. We furnished the house on auctions, and you learnt such a lot. The last lots in any room of an auction, most of the people had gone to the next room you see, and you can pick up all sorts of things. Two-day auctions are good because if there were any ridiculous bargains, before you settled on anything, you could advertise them in *The Advertiser* and get the person to come and take them from the thing when you paid for them.
- OH: And that was a form of income for you?
- RL: It was the way we furnished our house, all the things we got.
- OH: To complete the family picture, can you tell me, Rex, about your children.
- RL: Yes. Judy was born nine months and three days after we got married, which is very unusual these days – they either don't get married at all or they're early birds – and Gerald was born in July the next year, and Susie was born in 1951, Wendy was born in 1953, and Skip in 1955, because we always wanted five children.
- OH: Why did you want five children?
- RL: I don't know. I always used to say that ... because the old Jewish, what do you call the thing, where they put all the arrows, there's a word, it's gone from me at the moment, and it held five arrows, and I always thought that was a good number.
- OH: We'll move on now, Rex, to your work as a dentist. So you qualified and began working in 1951? And where did you work first?
- RL: In Rundle Street, the same as my father did. There's a picture of it very early in the book of the place. We had the first floor in Kither's Building, which became Hooker Building there, and then went to Rundle Street, right above Balfour's shop.
- OH: So *Kither's* Building was King William Street, close to North Terrace?
- RL: Between North Terrace and Hindley Street, it was just down from Hindley Street.
- Rex is getting out his autobiography, and just going to show the photo*
- RL: That is the Hindley Street corner, and this is Kither's Building here, and that's the first floor of it, when my father had all of that floor. It was a very big surgery.
- OH: So you went in to work with him?
- RL: I went in to work with him, although he was not well and retired very, very soon thereafter, and then I also had a surgery out in Campbelltown, on Newton Road, next to where we lived.

OH: And in the city, who were the patients who you saw at that time?

RL: My father had a big practice - a lot of Greek people came to him, lots and lots. We had all the girls and boys who worked in Rundle Street, all around, we were the local dentist then, the ones who worked in Myer's and Birk's as it was called, John Martin's, the ones in the Adelaide Arcade, all of those people were patients. And then as I started to do more and more restoring teeth in gold and things, I got a lot of people who were learning that amalgam is not a wonderful thing to restore teeth with, and also as far as children are concerned, I've always loved children, and looked after children, and then when the children came and didn't scream, the parents followed them. I had a very, very big practice, and then when I went out to Campbelltown it was completely Italian in those days, and I had the whole Italian community, and that was gorgeous because they're lovely people.

OH: Was it more usual in, say the 50s, that dentists were seen as being city people rather than in the suburbs?

RL: No, no, there were quite a number of suburban dentists, quite a number of them, and although I tried to direct them for work there from Campbelltown. In the 50s a lot of people didn't repair their teeth, and the people got their teeth out and had false teeth at a very early age. I mean the cost of maintaining it, you could get for £10, a set of false teeth and have your teeth out, and that was all your problems over, and then rather than have that, but to teach preventative dentistry and to teach ...

I had one little girl who came into me, the daughter of a market gardener, and she came into me, and she was 14, her teeth were an absolute mess at the back, and the father wanted me to take the teeth out and give her a denture, this beautiful child. And I'd seen her in the waiting room knitting. I thought a little girl like that was very, very capable. I don't know whether the father went out to move his motor car or truck, or whatever he had, and I talked to her. I said: *Barbara, I can't take your teeth out, ... beautiful ... all we've got to do is repair them properly.* I knew they didn't have money. I said: *Look, I'll do a deal with you. You know what you're knitting there, on your 21<sup>st</sup> birthday that cable stitch, will you knit me a nice bottle green pullover, polo neck pullover. You do that for me and I will fix your teeth, you will never lose another tooth.* I said: *It's a lot of work and you'll come down ...* because she needed something like 12 gold inlays, which in those days would have been nearly £100. Today each one would be over \$1,000.

She came in to see me quite recently again. She comes in, I get a little Christmas card from her. Oh, on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday at 8 o'clock in the morning she appeared with the pullover, and I've looked after it ever since. She was a hairdresser too, and she used to always cut my hair. It was a love affair with Barbara. And then she had children. A very talented girl, and very shy but still ... and she told me when she came in that one of her teeth, she was furious, a bicuspid, they'd had to take it out, but she still now today has all bar one of those golden inlays in her mouth. She would be 14 in '56, so there you go, she would have been born in 1942, she'd be 70 now, Barbara would.

OH: It's a lovely story.

RL: So there was a lot of extraction and denture work that people wanted.

OH: And you must have employed quite a few people, Rex?

RL: Yes, I had a number of people. I tried having a younger dentist with me, but basically I suppose I was very passionate about dentistry, about the work.

I went from Rundle Street and built a place out on the corner of King William Street, Kent Town and Dequetteville Terrace, and had an operating theatre there, and I only ever had trained sisters as my dental nurses in those days, and the most beautiful set-up out there. And I still have people come to me. In fact, Rupert Murdoch, who was 24 years old, had *The News*, and he came to me, this was only a couple of years ago, and I asked did he still have his *teeth*. *Oh yeah, people remark about those*. I said: *Rupert, you've had those ... they were done in the 1950s, you've had them for 50 years, and you paid about five guineas each for them. Don't you think you could have a little bit more on them?*

OH: You must have been working very long hours?

RL: Yes, yes, I always worked long hours.

OH: I understand that you also had two days a month for some time during this period at Meningie?

RL: Yes, yes, that was a lovely place, but see then again, whereas I did kiddies down there with deciduous teeth and minor surgery, I got most of them so I could do proper work up in Adelaide, and I had a deal with the Meningie Hospital, and that was good.

OH: I understand at this time that you were becoming involved in your father's financial business. Can you tell me about that?

RL: I never meant to do that. My father had a great lifelong friend of his, a man called Don Mellish, who was very accomplished at sport in Adelaide, and a very nice guy, and he had a furniture shop, Don Mellish Furniture, down in Hindmarsh Square on the corner of Pirie Street and Hindmarsh Square there, and then they needed a finance company to do the hire purchase and financing of the business, and my father and some of the Michell family, G H Michell & Son, they had this finance company. And he (my father) took ill in 1960 and died.

OH: Your father?

RL: Yes, and about 1958 or something like that, it was getting a bit out of control, and they were ... and you'd see them have to write off stuff, and you'd see my father and Don Mellish, writing cheques for the company for bad debts that they believed they shouldn't have incurred. Directors don't do that these days, they did in those days. Then my father got really sick as time went on. I said: *This is ridiculous what we're doing. If we're going to be in this we might as well run a bank as run a hire purchase company.*

OH: At that time the company was called Devon Credits? Did it have a physical location, an office?

RL: Oh yes, down in that place where I talked about.

OH: On Pirie Street?

RL: No, on Hindmarsh Square. Their big slogan was *Make a beeline to Don Mellish Ltd.*

In any case, in the dental business I found I had a number of contractors, house builders, always with a cheque book and always looking for money, getting things and then hand to mouth existence, because a lot of it was spec building at that stage, where they'd buy a block of land and do this.

OH: Was that a new way of making money?

RL: Well, in order to do their trade, which was building houses, they had to be able to sell them, and they had to have the finance, the banking associated with it, and the whole point was these builders were spending more time running around the place getting finance than they were building. So I devised a formula where if they bought the block of land and they put the foundation on it as security, and it was a 12 square house, we would give them a total for everything of \$300 a square, that is 100 square feet, and so much would be paid on the footings; so much when the walls were topped; so much when the roof timbers were on; so much for the first fixings; so much for tiles and roofing, and then they had three months to get their finance, and they paid, I think, \$12 a square for that, which was very small. It worked beautifully, then they were doing one house, two houses, three houses at a time, and this was where we started to build from.

Then I started doing bigger buildings, with the finance of bigger buildings and things, and I attracted overseas banks, overseas insurance companies, to want to buy into it because it was a good little business, and it just grew. We had a Melbourne office, we had a Sydney office, we had a Perth office, we had a London office, and then the Royal Bank of Canada came, and the National Bank of Detroit, and said: *We want a window in Australia, will you run it for us?* And that's how it all developed.

OH: It's interesting the way that you tell it, it sounds very simple, but I'm sure that as you were managing the dental practice and the beginnings of this new way of operating finances ...

RL: Well it came to a business... I used to work from 7.30am-10.00am in the dental business, and from 4.00pm-6.30pm, and in the middle of that until the banking business won.

I was studying early on the perfection and use of gold to restore teeth, and I thought it was going to be a lifetime study to get better and better, but I went to Switzerland, I went to London, I went to New York and I went to California, learning everything of techniques and things. I started doing really good work in 1957, and by 1963 I was bored to tears with it, it became mechanical.

OH: So the opportunity to develop in a new area was the finance area?

RL: Yes, yes.

OH: How did you become knowledgeable about what steps to take?

- RL: I'd studied accounting, Commercial Law, at uni, and just read, listened, listened to people, read.
- OH: Because Devon Credits became something.
- RL: Became IMFC, which is the International Merchant and Finance Corporation.
- OH: And Rex, you told me that you were able to attract overseas investors. How did you do that?
- RL: In those days the banks all had big offices in London, ES&A Bank's Head Office was in London. They had senior managers in London, some of them came back to be the bosses of their banks, and they were called Chief General Manager – London. And I had an idea of ... Oh, at that stage Australia was the flavour of the month, people wanted to open, and they'd go to the Australian banks, so IMFC acted as a fostering-in *of* people, and we brought lots of people to Australia. When K-Mart came, the Kresge people, with K-Mart came here...
- OH: What kind of year are we talking about?
- RL: We're talking about late '60s, early '70s.
- OH: Thank you very much Rex for your contribution to our Oral History Project.

End of recording

**SECOND INTERVIEW WITH DR REX LIPMAN, AO  
RECORDED BY MADELEINE REGAN**

**in the City of Adelaide  
on Wednesday 21 March 2012**

**Transcript of second interview (21 March 2012)**

*This transcript has been edited by the interviewee. The original transcript is available in the Adelaide City Archives, with the audio recording.*

Oral Historian (OH): Thank you, Rex, for agreeing to the second interview.

At the end of the last interview you were explaining how the International Merchant and Finance Corporation became a significant influence in Adelaide as its first merchant bank.

Rex Lipman (RL): Yes it did.

OH: How was it received in Adelaide at that time?

RL: I would have said it was ignored until it was forced on them, to know it was there, and as far as a merchant bank is concerned, I think it shocked them when I put up the tallest building in Adelaide, on the corner of King William Street and Hindley Street, which was then the tallest building in Adelaide, with IMFC written on the top of it – it surprised people – but I never really thought much of what people thought because people talk about what's in the paper, and most of the things in the paper are wrong in any case, so that didn't worry me at all, but I was better known in London, Canada and America than I was in Australia.

OH: And that was because of your investment partners?

RL: It was because of that that I found my investment partners. Timing is more important than anything with any investment. A good investment badly timed will lose money. If you're clever it will lose less money, but a bad investment beautifully timed will make money, and at that stage, in the late-60s, beginning of the 70s, Australia was the flavour of the month and everybody wanted to be here, so I projected IMFC as being a bank that would foster people into Australia, set them up properly, meet the right people. At that stage we did have in IMFC a good investment division, and I had brought out of the London banking scene two people: Michael Butcher an Investment Director of Hill Samuel, and Sir Henry Wells, who was in property - one of the leaders of property in London. They became Directors on my staff, so that was really how we started.



OH: Was that at the time that you developed partnerships with the Royal Bank of Canada and the National Bank of Detroit?

RL: Yes. The National Bank of Detroit, the Royal Bank of Canada, both being conservative banks - and Detroit being virtually in Canada. (If you look at a map and you want to go to Detroit from Canada, you've got to go north because the Canadian border circles round to the south of Detroit.) Both banks liked the idea of having a place where their clients representation could be looked after in Australia.

OH: You looked after some pretty interesting clients?

RL: Oh, some very interesting people, lovely, delightful people.

OH: Can you give a few examples, Rex?

RL: Right, when he first came out, Bill Pollock, who owned Drake International, he came here, he needed a little help. Then from Canada came Robechaud, a French-Canadian, who was in the building business, and he wanted to build freezers and things. In fact, the Royal Bank of Canada sent him to me because he wanted to build a freezer in Iran, of all places. And they offered a good incentive for me to stop what I was doing and help him, and I had friends in London who were involved in Iran, and I went and sort of knocked on the door, and I found it a very interesting place.

They didn't want a freezer, they wanted houses, workmen's houses, and they wanted 1,000 of them. Looking at the size of the company I said it would be very smart to say we'd only like to do 500 first, and we did, and we got a contract, and we learnt the way to do business there. And I can remember when they said: *Yes, that's great, now add 10% on the quote and send it back to us and this is where the 10% goes.* And I immediately ran to the Australian Ambassador and said: *I don't like the idea.* He said: *You're dealing with the Government, I'm telling you if you don't do that you won't get a contract.* (This surprised me when we had the Wheat Board and all that nonsense, pillorying people, being hypocrites that gave evidence and all of that inquiry. Everybody knows that you won't do business in the Middle East. I mean it has lots of Port Tax, is one of the things they call it, but it's very much part of it, and if that was where they wanted to come, it wasn't as if we were going behind the government's back ...)

In any case we built the houses, they were very pleased, and said: *You've done the houses now you can build the freezer,* and they built the freezer up there, a very interesting one, because of the heat there all the walls and roofs were insulated with water, and water never gets hotter than 100 degrees, and the temperature there gets near 160 degrees. However, we learnt.

OH: And was your role as Manager of the operations?

RL: My role was the intermediary between them and the Minister.

OH: So you went to Iran?

RL: I went backwards and forwards to Iran for many months. I think I must have had at least half a dozen trips to Iran and each time I brought Persian rugs home; I

used to bring one home each time, roll it up and then lie it on the floor in front of me on the plane, and sleep coming home, so it was my magic carpet.

OH: What was the role with Drake International?

RL: Actually not a lot – they were very competent. Just helping them get to know people here, introducing them to people. Oh there were lots of different people who came out wanting to do things. An English building company ... Of course I was already involved with William Bobby, the Water Treatment Company, they came to Australia with the partnership with them. Then Al Jurgens, the oil magnate from Texas, he wanted to drill for oil, so I introduced him to the Government, got him a licence, looked after him, and we became managers of his business, even 10 years after IMFC ceased to exist.

OH: So there was a broad range of partnerships?

RL: Oh yes.

OH: You were involved with a development between Rundle Mall and North Terrace?

RL: That was the Queen Adelaide Club development, yes. That was one I introduced John Ritblatt. The Ritblatt's are well-known chartered surveyors in London, real estate people, and we were closely mixed up with when Ronald Collyer was here and all of those sort of people who came out, the property people, Hill Samuel, even for a short while with the Rothschild's when they wanted to open up, but my main role was fostering them when they first got here. I knew all the banks, if they wanted to see a bank, I'd ring up the Chief General Manager and say these people ... and obviously even in those days they talked in millions, well, then, we didn't talk a lot in millions.

The Bank of Adelaide went under because they were short of \$11 million. Today they mightn't go under if it was \$11 billion. I mean, I'm probably exaggerating but I'm saying nobody talked in billions. There was only one bank in the world dealing in billions and that was a composite bank called Orion, which was the Nat West ... I think the Bank of Italy, the Bank of Tokyo, Royal Bank of Canada, and I think it was the Chase Manhattan, they were combined. And they were the only group who could sort of talk in terms of a billion dollars, and coming out here, when the Orion guys came out here, I'd *introduce them* ... Banco Italiano was the Italian bank ... and these five were quite big until everybody else was dealing in billions, and then they sort of went back to their own individual thing.

OH: Rex, the developments that took place in terms of building in the City of Adelaide, how involved were you with the Adelaide City Council?

RL: I'm just trying to think. It was after my mother's time on the Council. I would introduce them and say: *We're thinking of putting up this building here*. Obviously Adelaide liked it, it only had when we started ... it didn't have many big buildings, 20-storey buildings, and then we started the big ones, with AMP leading the way. We did not work with AMP. They built three big buildings. The last two since the 1960s.

When I was doing developments I had nothing but help from the succession of Lord Mayors. Jane Lomax-Smith was wonderful, Roche was excellent. Henry Ninio was forward looking. I'm not saying others aren't. Rymill, Porter, all of those people were good, I brought lots of people here.

OH: So you had wide knowledge of the Council and Lord Mayors at the time. There was a relationship of the International Merchant and Finance Corporation with Harris Scarfe's. Can you talk about that?

RL: We had an Acquisitions Department of our bank, and we knew all the companies in South Australia, we knew what their assets were and what their earnings were, and what the shares were worth, irrespective of what they were quoted as, and Harris Scarfe was a company with lots of assets and low earnings.

At the end of 1968 the shares jumped a bit and I went to the Chairman and said that I'd noticed the shares had jumped, and that the company is very vulnerable and I would be very happy to sit down and talk with him and his Chief Manager on ways ... because it is vulnerable and to defend it, and he muttered something to me like: *If I had toothache I might come for your advice, but I will go to a bank if I need any, thank you. Boom!* And I said: *Before you hang up, look it's early-January, people are just back. I had something else to talk to you about but I'll give you a ring in three weeks.*

So I rang up the Royal Bank of Canada and said: *This is sitting here like a bloody stunned plover, it needs to be knocked off.* They said: *Have you done your homework?* I said *Yes, done the homework* very well. And he said: *The outlay would be \$6 million, and there's definitely \$1 million profit in it within 12 months, probably more. Go for your life, and if you want we'll tell the Bank of New South Wales – it was before it changed its name to Westpac - Westpac was a bank – We'll tell the Wales we'll provide whatever guarantees they want.*

So, we then put in a takeover bid for it and got around, and after about two and a half weeks we had 52% of the company, so I rang the guy and said: *I promised to give you a ring in three weeks when I spoke to you before, Bob. I'd rather like to see you because we now own 51% of the company and want to take over the Board.* And the voice was very, very different.

OH: What did that mean for IMFC?

RL: We sold off Harris Scarfe Steels. We sold off the [Harris Scarfe] Timber business, and we did a number of things. I don't know whether you remember at that time Harris Scarfe used to have big books of discounts, some people had 5% on this, and 7% on that. When you went to Harris Scarfe they spent more time looking at their discount books than they did selling anything.

So I looked at the margins on things, ... it was the first day I was there. I said: *I'd like all the discount books up on the Boardroom table by lunchtime today. ... What can we do? Well, mark everything down by 10%, mark it down, and then we can*

*have time to look after our staff.* The number 2 in management in Harris Scarfe was very good, a bloke called Frank Tesseiry, a very good merchandiser.

We made the Chief Manager, Manager, and we bought a thing called 'Harry's' down at the other side of the railway there where the station is now, Bunning's has got it now, and we gave the Managing Director that business to develop, and we made the other fellow, Tesseiry, Manager of the Harris Scarfe business up in town. And I think in five years, its annual profit was four times the profit that it made before - and we sold the company.

OH: Was Harris Scarfe just in South Australia at that time?

RL: A bit in Western Australia, really only in South Australia.

OH: So after five years it was doing very well?

RL: And we sold it.

OH: And Rex, I understand that you resigned from the bank in the 1970s?

RL: 1976.

OH: What led to that decision?

RL: A lot of things changed. In 1970, if you wanted to deposit money with me: *How much have you got? Righto, we'll give you so much interest*, and because we didn't have branches everywhere, we would say: *On 24 hours notice, you can draw off your money, this is the short-term money market*, and ... I used to send them a cheque for the amount, and when they were going to present it, they told me, so that there would be money to present it to the place, and they got quick answers, and we built up a very good short-term money market, and opened IMFC Discounts based in Sydney, and bought out one of the Senior Managers of Westpac, who was about to be pensioned off. We worked very closely with the Wales in those days. Then we used to get all the AFL money, this was very short term, it would all pour in on Monday mornings from all the football matches – it was the VFL in those days – and we got their money and that was very good. It was all big sums of money, small margins.

OH: Things changed which led you to ...?

RL: It changed in that people no longer dealt on word of mouth. A person did something, ... with the people, top people, no one went back on their word. The change came suddenly! People going back on their word. I remember once this happened – the guy replied: *Oh well, I didn't say I would do it, I said I'd be prepared to do it*. I wasn't particularly happy with some of the people in our team. They had a different work style than I had, and I thought that they were probably doing business on the side as well as with us. The whole system changed - the game changed.

OH: So for you it was a good decision to retire?

RL: Oh yes, yes, yes, yes. I started earning a lot less money when I resigned, but that didn't worry me, I still slept well and enjoyed my life.

- OH: I understand that you and Eve developed a very strong interest in thoroughbred horse racing?
- RL: We were always interested, we were always interested in horses. In my unit, the last command I had was the South Australian Mounted Rifles, and we've always been interested in horses personally, looking after horses, and we developed a partnership with Bart Cummings, preparing his horses for him.
- OH: That must have been an interesting project?
- RL: Oh very, yeah, very interesting, but they lived in our backyard and they didn't live in Bart's, that is for most of their lives, and we regarded them all as our own horses.
- OH: Because by that time you and Eve had moved?
- RL: We moved before then, yes, we moved in 1968.
- OH: And you moved up to?
- RL: Balhannah. Oh, my banking, the Directors, the National Bank of Detroit, they were very, very religious at Board level, we'd say very Methodist in their ways, and of course one of the biggest private shareholders was the Michell family, the scouring people, and they were very Methodist people, and I can remember one of the Michells on our Board brought a picture of me dealing with racing and talking about racing, and questioning the propriety of somebody in a so-called conservative bank being seen at racecourses and having his picture leading his horses in after a win, and he didn't like it at all, but the game went on.
- I can remember the look. We had a horse running at Victoria Park Racecourse, and I really wanted to see it. The Board Meeting was going on and I said: *Look, I would like, if I may, to have half an hour while people have a cup of tea in this time, to go down to Victoria Park because I have a horse running.* And one of the guys said: *Oh, such and such, yes. Would you put ten bucks on for me?* And then Don Mellish, a very conservative guy, also used to sing in Scots Church here, he wanted £10 on it, and the American Director said: *Well, if everyone else is investing then, I would be foolish not to, but I've never bet on a horse in my life.* And so I went down and the horse won, and everybody won \$15, because it was 6/4. It was favourite, and there was all this dealing with all this money and me coming around and eight Directors sitting there, each had to be given \$30, their own \$1 plus \$1, their own \$10 plus another \$15, and each of them had to get their \$25, and that was a big laugh.
- OH: A very successful Board Meeting.
- RL: Yes.
- OH: Rex, in 1976 you had another career change?
- RL: Well that was when I left banking. I was looking, I was going around saying goodbye to the National Bank of Detroit, and we were flying across the Atlantic and Eve said: *What are you doing to do?* And I had my passport out and I was looking at it, and I said: *Well I've just worked out, darling, I've been mving around in the last 10 years ... I've been around the world 23 times. And there*

*must be a lot of people going around the world 23 times. I think I'll run a travel business. And she said: As long as you don't get into too much of a rut, that will be alright. And I said I promise you, I might get into lots of things but I'd never thought of getting into a rut. It's always a joke in the family now, Rex is allowed to do something as long as he's not getting into too much of a rut.*

So that's how I joined the travel business, and I came down here and opened up, and I bought a business – I won't mention its name because the accounts were all shockingly drawn up – and I got in a position that I either buy the rest of them out or go to the police. So I bought the rest of them out.

OH: And this is the beginning of Angas Travel?

RL: That was Angas Travel.

OH: Why did you decide on this location at Hutt Street?

RL: Well when I came in here 40 years ago, it wasn't ... it was very much on the fringe. I looked upon it as where I would, if I was preparing an army for battle, and I asked Eve and Susie, one of my daughters, and I said: *Go around, all around that East End and see what you can find.* And they came back, running in and said: *There's this place on this corner,* and I've been here ever since.

OH: What was Hutt Street like at that time?

RL: Like Murray Bridge, it was nothing. A few people lived here but it was not a good business address - no one was down here at all.

OH: No shopping?

RL: When I say no shopping, there were a couple of little shops but it wasn't the restaurant area, or anything like that, and now - it's a beautiful street now. It had no trees in it.

OH: Rex, you would have had to gain qualifications to become a travel agent?

RL: Yes, I certainly did, and there were two levels, you had to study a number of things. The geography part wasn't very difficult because I think I knew my geography fairly well around the world, but the difficulty with all the rules about fares and ticketing. They didn't have special fares then, they were all fares in a book and things like that, and you had to concoct them, and there was IATA and all the bogey men around, minimum connecting times (MCT), you can't book a person ... there are certain MCTs, minimum connecting times, when you interline, when you have an online transfer that are different, and if you have to go out of a different airport, say in Milan where there are two airports, or Paris, where there were two airports, so that all of these things you've got to learn. And in the travel exams you've got to get 90% to pass.

OH: Where did you do your training for that?

RL: I did my first part here in Adelaide, and the second part in Sydney. And I suppose I was, in those days, how old was I? 1976, I was 52 then when I did those things.

OH: I imagine that you would have been one of the senior members of the class?

RL: They were all children.

OH: What did Angas Travel specialise in?

RL: Angas Travel started, rather than selling tickets, being somebody who got involved in what the people wanted to do, suggest things. We would call it today product knowledge. I've always been interested in education. I got the representation in Australia for the Cordon Bleu, for the Paris American Academy, the Euro Centre Language Foundation, and the Swiss Hotel Association School, and I would sell those products and do the travel for the person to get there. This was very good.

As I was Consul of France at the time, and French people came out, and the Swiss people came out, and they'd all go down and see Regency [Park]. And the smart ones said: *That's a better hotel school than the school in Lausanne*. Several people did. So in 1991 I went to John Bannon. I was making a lot of money out of people going to the Cordon Bleu, and more particularly to the Swiss Hotel Association School.

OH: So these were young people in Australia?

RL: Young people, and I went to John Bannon and I said: *I'm sending hundreds of thousands of dollars a year out of the country when we've got a better school down here*, and I said *If you could help me, we can bring them here instead and have the money coming in to South Australia*.

He had an Education Minister called Mike Rann, and Mike Rann and I did it, and we did a deal with the Swiss Hotel Association, where they would become involved in it, and the South Australian Government was involved in providing services, and everybody said: *Well, we want to be interested but we're not putting any money into it*, and I said *Well I'll put the money into it*? Which I did do, and before it turned the corner I think we had something more than \$750,000 involved, all the money I was worth. And then it commenced, and it's been a roaring success ever since, brought tens of millions of dollars in to South Australia.

OH: So that was a very significant kind of initiative to take?

RL: I tried, but we've never really done well with the travel for the students, they get cheaper fares overseas than we can give them.

OH: One of the initiatives that you took with Angas Travel was Language and Culture Tours.

RL: Language Tours, that was one of the things there. I had an arrangement with the Eurocentre Language Foundation in Switzerland, and they have schools in France, in Italy, in Germany and Spain, and we were agents for the Eurocentre Language Foundation, and this built AngasTravel. As I said, I've always been interested in education, and this was the lead in which gave me the idea of the number of people that wanted to be Hotel Managers. But in fact I went around to the Australian Hotels Association and said: *We must make Hotel Management a profession in the same way as Engineering is, or anything else is*. It's far more technical in some ways, and I got on very well with the Hotel Association, and we



were turning out better Hotel Managers here than ever before. Then I went back to the Government and said: *If we want it to be a profession and want to lead the world in this business, we must have a Degree in Hotel Management.* And they passed an Act of Parliament here for me to make it a degree, and it was the first real degree in Hotel Management, and of course now we have a Masters course too.

OH: Through the International College of Hotel Management?

RL: And all the universities then got involved in it.

OH: It's a very significant kind of achievement.

RL: Well, see ... the point is this, in this world you can either decide you want to make something and then decide you want to sell it, which is pretty nebulous. But it's far better to identify where there is a need and fulfil a need than let it sell itself. When we were forming ICHM, the South Australian government was trying to project the image of our State as the bread basket of the South West Pacific area and this was not only the rationale for a big international hotel school, but also the Wine Centre.

OH: You were involved as the Chief Executive with the College?

RL: Yes, with the College, yes.

OH: When did you resign from that role?

RL: My son was employed by the Royal Bank of Canada in 1998-9 and wanted to resign.

OH: Which son was that?

RL: That was Gerald, the elder son. The bank had in fact a basic philosophy of nepotism. They find that sons and daughters of people who work there, last longer than people who are not, and that all things being equal, getting somebody in the family was the right thing to do. ... *Not through me at all...* Gerald, when he heard the ... 'Is that somewhere I should be? No, it is not!' Gerald spoke to one of the Vice Presidents here, he was at that time doing chartered accountancy with Deloitte's here. ... *Oh you're fine ... Yes of course, when you're qualified ... you jump on a plane and come, yeah, yeah,* and he got married one day and went off the next to Canada, and he was with them for 24 years. He was getting very senior and his next job would take him back to Canada, where he didn't care to go, and I said that it's time I passed over the Hotel School.. He said he'd like to run it, and he's been running it ever since.

OH: What about your connection with Angus Travel now?

RL: First of all [the staff] they are all my children, they are all very, very close to me. I mean Jackie has been there for 18 years; Kate has been there for 20 years; and Margaret has been there for 22 years, and they are still there. And I still do work now.

*Rex shows a page for a French Tourist brochure*

RL: For instance I write to a friend, a journalist in France, and he's now publicising all the tourism that's going on between 2014 to 2018 for the centenary of WW1, because we are the main travel people in the Somme Battlefields area in France, and I am involved with that side of the business.

OH: You've had a very interesting involvement in terms of the cultural sharing with the battlefields in France.

RL: Yes, that is true, largely... I was always amazed and shocked that everyone is berserk on Gallipoli – Gallipoli, Gallipoli, Gallipoli – when there were ten times as many people – there were over 300,000 - Australian soldiers on the Somme Battlefields fighting for more than three years, and yet there was like 40,000 on Gallipoli for six months, and everybody wanted to know ... When I first went to the Somme battlefields on ANZAC Day there were a handful of people, so I talked to the Mayors and the Ambassador and we started building it up until now a lot more people go to the Somme than go to Gallipoli, which is right.

Now the service there is broadcast. They had 20 people from the ABC (TV) take a whole unit over there and it's broadcast live from there. In fact we had 84 on the stage there and they called for tenders to see who would put the thing on, and we've got the task for five years, for finding the music. *Oh, but you'll never get kids or people to spend \$7,000-\$8,000 on music for one concert.* So to get the best music in Australia we want concerts, if it's in England in Westminster Abbey, at the Arc de Triomphe, at the Cathedral of St Louis des Invalides, up in the Amiens Cathedral and at Villers-Bretonneux, so that by offering the possibility and opening the door for them to perform in some of the finest venues in the world, it's an enormous musical experience for them.

OH: So you've been managing the process of getting Australian school choirs?

RL: Yes, choirs, bands, orchestras.

OH: Over what period of time have you done that?

RL: Ten years or more.

OH: So every year for ten years? And that hasn't just been Adelaide schools, or South Australian schools?

RL: No, no, no, no, far from it, far from it. There are a lot more Western Australian, Victorian schools. Some go every four years. Wesley take about 80-100. Perth Modern School took 160 last time. And Churchlands from Western Australia, is going to this one, I think they've got 140 or 150.

OH: And it's organised through Angas Travel?

RL: Yes, Angas Travel do it, and Professional Conferences International does all the non-travel part of it ... you know, negotiating with the Mayors there, where the local people meet them - and all sorts of businesses we do. For instance, our people organise a service up at the Arc de Triomphe and that's quite a big thing. Then there is the service at Menin Gate.

OH: A wonderful experience for those young people.

- RL: Oh yes, they love it.
- OH: Talking about your connections to France, I'd like to ask you about your role as French Consul in South Australia. I think it was from 1975?
- RL: I think it was probably 1973-1990.
- OH: And how did you come to take this role?
- RL: I was asked to take it. People knew I was interested in France, and during the French Atomic Tests somebody threw a rock over the fence where the French Consul lived, and he didn't like the heat so he got out of the kitchen. And they came to me and said would I do it, *We'd better tell you about this*, and I said: *That's their problem if they throw a rock over the fence*. Most people do things to get attention rather than anything else. I took it over and within four years – although we've got a third of the population of Victoria and yet, on a pro rata basis, we were getting twice as many people going to France as they were from Victoria, and we used to have tours to France and things, and that worked out very well.
- OH: Where was the office of the Consul located?
- RL: Here, hence the little French sign on the corner.
- OH: What sort of time was involved in that role?
- RL: It depended. A lot of French people came here, and because we looked after them well, a lot more came, and a lot more came back. You got things, there were Trade Missions used to come out, which we'd look after. Then a Frenchman died out here. He had a vineyard up near Clare, and he died, and the family wanted the body to take home to France. Well if you want to export a dead body it's not very easy. The Consul has got to watch it being packed in there, and he's got to get special stuff to place over the box that it's in, and where every bit of *cord crosses* you've got to put the seal, you've got to seal it properly (*inaudible*), a two or three day job getting things sorted.

There was a Beekeeper's Conference in Adelaide, and I got rung up by the police, that a French delegate to the World Beekeepers' Association had gone berserk, could I do this, that and the other? He started pulling out the light things out of the walls of the hotel he was in, and this policeman started getting stropky and officious as if it was my responsibility. It was late at night, and he repeated what I had said twice before: *Well, I'm just writing my report because I want to get it right, Constable. As far as my obligations I can't see in any of my manuals here about this. There's nothing about a Frenchman getting a bee in his bonnet* And then the poor French Beekeeper came down here. However, he was a really nice man, I found someone who looked after him, went and saw him in the Adelaide Hospital and became life long friends with him.

Then you get things like a Frenchman had up on some underage sex something or other. And you get in touch with the Ambassador and say: *Look, we've got trouble over here with something, can I get authority to shift him back to France. They'll let him go, I'm sure*. I mean I knew what it would cost to keep someone here, six

months of trial, and goodness knows what not. Then I went into Court and said: *I speak on behalf of the Ambassador, and if this pleases the Court, the man will be removed within 24 hours of you saying. The French will provide and get him back to France.* And they were very pleased with that.

Then you get – you won't believe this one – a guy some 30 years ago was over in France and he had a heart attack in Paris, he died, we had to get his body back to Australia then. Last year the son was over in Paris and he had a heart attack and died too. So you get all sorts of things.

And when the French were doing tests in the Pacific I used to get people outside here throwing things. One man had a bop at me with a rifle shot through the window. My office was over there. I had nearly six years of my life people having a shot at me, but you take the good with the bad.

OH: And did you require police protection at that time?

RL: Star Force is International law specialists, because the States are sovereign. Here Star Force's responsibility is to look after the members of the Diplomatic Corp and the Consular Corp, and there was a Star Force car outside here for six weeks, and that used to follow me home, and I gather stay somewhere down the road, and come back. But they gave me more than enough protection.

OH: Rex, as a tribute to the kind of role that you'd taken on, you received two prestigious awards from the French Government?

RL: Yes well ... Firstly we made money for them with the Cordon Bleu. We sent a lot more people to France than anyone was sending. During the bad nuclear time we didn't close the Embassy. I just got out and made a thing about something and said: *Look, in 1802 when Britain was at war with France, Baudin and Flinders met and exchanged wine out here in South Australian waters ...* the French, we fought beside them in two wars, and we're on the same side, and although everyone doesn't do what the other person wants, it doesn't mean that the countries aren't *at war*. I think a French ship came in and the Union didn't want to unload it, or something. I went down and talked to the guys on the wharf, and said to them: *If any of your family went over to France and had a heart attack, how is someone getting ... who's going to look after you, let them know? What about if they get sick over there? That's what these are about. We're not --? to everything we do or they do, but we've all got to look after each other.* I didn't have more trouble with them.

OH: And what were the two awards that you were given?

RL: Those are for all that work in that difficult time when everyone, you know, were making a statement by resigning, they made me an Officer of the National Order of Merit.

*Rex indicates 'The top one on the side nearest there'*

RL: That is the National Order of Merit, which would be like, I suppose, an OBE [*Order of the British Empire*], that level. No, it would be better than that because there's a Knight of the Legion Honour, and I'm an Officer of that, and then I think

as much as anything for the activation of tourism on the battlefields, which is quite big now, it's a very big business for them all, I think, ... and also I've pursued with teaching French in the schools and things like that, act as an outpost of France and they were very pleased and they made me Knight of the *Légion d'honneur* and it was very nice of them.

OH: And very appropriate. Rex, you also received two Australian awards?

RL: Yes. In the early-1980s ... oh, the government recognised the amount of business I brought to South Australia, and also what I'd done in South Australia for the horseracing industry, they gave me an AM – Member of the Order of Australia (1989) – for that, and then in Education in the Hospitality industry, professionalising the Hospitality industry, they gave me an AO – Officer of the Order of Australia in 2008.

OH: There's a couple of other things that I'd just like to ask you about, and one is about being an author and a self-publisher. How has that come about?

RL: Well when, I write - I publish what I write. Now if you're not prepared to do it yourself you can get Angus and Robertson or whoever it is, Borders have gone broke, to do this but they take 40% of the price of the book – 40% is theirs – then the person who distributes it to all people, he wants 10%, and 8% is your share for all the work you've, so what I do is to actively try and sell my books until I've paid for them, and then I give them to a Charity to sell.

OH: And you've published a number of books?

RL: Yes, yes, and it works out very well.

OH: Like your autobiography, and you have a trilogy.

RL: Yes, and then there's this one. Actually I'm having this bound, this is the last one you had, this one. There's a guy, a Jewish fellow, who's been a partner of mine for 45 years, and his son is being bar-mitzvah-ed, and so I've had that book bound nicely for him, *The Human Machine Operator's Manual*.

OH: A lovely gift. Rex, can you tell me just a little about the Rex J Lipman Fellows Program at St Peter's College?

RL: We had a number of people who came to St Peter's College in my time, who were as dull as dishwater. But we had a few who were really inspiring and made us all think, and made me think. And I thought that instead of giving scholarships or buildings to a school, the way you say *thank you* to a school is do something for it, so I've set up a trust and in the course of doing... so that there will be inspiring people coming to the school, mainly for the boys and for the teachers, to have them not get satisfied with life, but to be inspired - so that's what it's all about.

OH: Last year was the inaugural year, and the program was called 'Being and Becoming'.

RL: Yes, look all of that, how they do it is up to them, that's not me. My idea is that the school should have people who have been a great success themselves, and who could inspire young boys to be better than they otherwise would. And if they talk to 400 boys and they inspire 40 of them, well then it's worth it, that's all it is.

OH: I understand the program is continuing?

RL: Oh yes.

OH: Finally, Rex, what about your links to the Adelaide City Council? I understand that there's been a few generations?

RL: Until the present one, I've got on very well with the Adelaide City Council, and of course it was very much my mother's [Esther Jacobs/ Lipman] life for 35 years of her life. My grandfather wasn't, he was in Parliament, and then my great-grandfather was Mayor. But I think that I have done a little for the City of Adelaide. On Friday 27 April there are two busts, one of mother and one of VL (Vaiben) Solomon, will be unveiled down in the Esther Lipman Garden down by the Torrens Training Depot there.

OH: That's a lovely tribute to your mother and to your grandfather, who was quite a guy.

OH: I do want to ask you about your use of technology.

*Rex shows copies of photos of his mother and grandfather.*

RL: Actually they are the two pictures of mother which the bust is being made of. I said: *I don't want a 90-year-old lady*. When she was doing everything, she was a beautiful young woman.

OH: They are beautiful photos you're showing me.

RL: And this is my grandfather, and they're the pictures that they based them on.

OH: And the artist who has done them?

RL: Ken Martin, who is very, very good.

OH: That will be a lovely occasion. One other thing about your connection to the Adelaide City Council was the Town Hall Concerts for ANZAC Day, and I understand last year you had one?

RL: Yes, that's the picture of it, that's the finale.

*Rex shows a photo of the concert in 2011.*

RL: Now that was a great success.

OH: And you organised that, didn't you?

RL: Yes, not much thanks to the Adelaide City Council though.

OH: And you had a band?

RL: I arranged with the previous Lord Mayor for the Adelaide City Council to be involved however, with the change in Lord Mayors the concept with the new incumbent was that they insisted that I would be the hirer of the Town Hall and would have to pay them to stage the concert. At this stage I had already financed the Amiens Band as apparently their sponsor had evaporated. As it finished up, the Town hall got all the money from ticket sales and another \$2,500 from me.

OH: And I heard that it was a great success?

- RL: It was a great success – for everyone but me. Angas Travel and I sponsored the Amiens Band to the extent of more than \$10,000. I had to do all the work and pay them \$2,500 as well.
- OH: Can I ask you about your use of technology? As I sit here I see you have a computer, you've done a PowerPoint. How have you learned all these technological skills?
- RL: I think I asked somebody ... *the thing is* this. If you're selling and there is only a newspaper, you've got to learn about newspaper ads and what draws people. Whatever the way people learn things, one has got to use the medium of communication. I'm interested in communication. It's nothing more than that, but I'm very bad at computers. For instance I have an ordinary old-fashioned mobile phone, I don't have an iPhone, I've never thought of taking a picture with my *phone*. I have a telephone for calling people and a camera to take pictures!
- OH: And what about an iPad?
- RL: Oh, I've got my iPad, it's very useful. It's a hell of a lot more useful to have an iPad when you're overseas, and to be able to pick up your email is terribly useful. I've carried a laptop on my shoulders for a decade or more, taking it around for when I want it, and having to get back to Australia ... but now I don't need anything at all other than the Ipad.
- OH: And the iPad does it beautifully?
- RL: Yes.
- OH: To kind of close off the interview, Rex.
- RL: That's wonderful, I've got exactly five minutes.
- OH: You have a saying which is: *success is the capacity to survive failure*.
- RL: It is, it is, it's just a plain fact. You hang in there, you win, and as long as you hang in you eventually win. But ...it's basic.
- OH: If you had some messages to give to the young generation of people, what would they be?
- RL: Well if you saw the Ten Commandments in there, I'd tell them to remember that they did have Twenty Commandments, and the ten that I've put down there are better than the other ones.
- OH: And they are the ones that are in *The Human Machine Operator's Manual*?
- RL: Yes, and there are a lot of people who now believe it. In actual fact the Salvation Army have sold 300 of those books to people, they sell them for \$30 each, and they are using it to build a little children's playground or something out in Unley.
- OH: So it's a great way to support them?
- RL: Yes, but the message of that, when they spruik, I don't think they are as blasphemous as I am, but they are strong supporters of that book.
- OH: That's great. Thank you very much, Rex, for your contribution to our Oral History Project.

RL: I don't know, I think it will get more dust than readers.  
OH: Well it's been very enjoyable talking to you. Thank you very much.  
RL: Good! I hope you've got all you want, and I haven't rambled on too long.  
OH: No, you have not, thank you.

End of recording



**Dr Rex Lipman AO**

**Timed summary - first interview, 15 March 2012**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Key words</b>
00.00.00	Introduction. Background. Full name. Date of birth (25 April 1922). Father's name. Mother's name. Backgrounds of parents' family. Two siblings.	Rex John Lipman. Hyam John Lipman. Esther Lipman nee Solomon. Veiban Louis Solomon.
00.06.18	Early family life. Impact of the sudden death of older brother in 1928. Left school at 15 years. Interest in military history. Joined the Army in 1938. Influence of teachers at St Peters College. Importance of inspiration. Intelligence and industriousness of both parents. Father, a dentist. Religious affiliation.	St Peters. St Peters College. Goldsborough Mort. CMF [Citizens Military Force]. 10 <sup>th</sup> Battalion. Menzies. Orthodox Jews.
00.18.35	Working life as young man. Knowledge of the City. Working day as a delivery boy. Importance of Stock and Station Agents in Adelaide. Soldiering two nights a week. Studying Commerce at night. Working five and a half days a week.	Goldsborough Mort Stock and Station Agents. North Terrace. Hindley Street. Goldberg Brothers. News Limited. Bob Clampett. Elders. Bennett and Fisher. Dalgety's. Devon Milk Bar. King William Street. Fauldings Building. Lawrence's Tobacconists. Abattoirs. <i>The Minnipa</i> . Light Square. Port Adelaide.
00.26.32	War service for nearly six years. Overseas service in the Army. Benefits of good mentors. Meeting with Blamey.	Czechoslovakia. <i>Luck's been a lady</i> [Autobiography]. Blamey. Queensland. Staff School.
00.32.39	End of the War. Matriculation at Woodville High School at age 24 years. Study of Dental Surgery. Marriage in 1947. Some hesitation from both sets of parents. Jewish people regarded differently. Jewish Lord Mayors.	Leaving Honours. RSL [Returned Soldiers League]. Department of Veterans' Affairs. CRTS [Commonwealth Repatriation Training Scheme]. Eve Fisher. Lewis Cohen. Ninio. Walter Bridgland. Judah Moss Solomon. Sir Isaac Isaacs. Zelman Cowen. Northfield. Haywards.
00.40.242	Early married life. Mutual love of horses. Ten acre farm. Five years study of Dentistry. Sold vegetables at	Campbelltown. East End market. CMF. University Regiment.

	market. Commanding Officer of University Registry. Five children born between 1948 and 1955.	
00.46.33	Began practising as a Dentist in 1951. Worked with his father. Mix of patients. Surgery also established in Campbelltown. Preventive dentistry. Developed practice and moved to bigger premises.	Kithers Building. Hooker Buildings. Rundle Street. Balfours. King William Street. Hindley Street. Greek people. Italians. Kent Town. Rupert Murdoch. Meningie.
00.55.30	Involvement in father's financial business. Father died in 1958. Development of banking institution. Provided finance for builders. Interstate offices. Attracted overseas banks.	Don Mellish Furniture. Hindmarsh Square. GH Michell & Son. Devon Credit. Royal Bank of Canada National. Bank of Detroit. International Merchant and Finance Corporation [IMFC]. Kmart. Kresge.
1.03.53	Session ends.	

**Dr Rex Lipman AO****Timed summary - second interview, 21 March 2012**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Key words</b>
00.00.00	Introduction. First merchant bank in Adelaide in late 1960s, early 1970s. Role of IMFC in fostering people in Australia. London bankers became Directors. Examples of clients. Role as intermediary – client and government.	International Merchant and Finance Corporation [IMFC]. Michael Butcher. Hills Samuel. Sir Henry Wells. Royal Bank of Canada. The National Bank of Detroit. Drake International. Iran. Water Treatment Company. Al Jurgens.
00.09.39	Developments in the City. Overseas investors.	Queen Adelaide Club. Rundle Mall. North Terrace. John Riplach. Collyer. Hills Samuel. Rothschilds. Bank of Adelaide. Orion Bank.
00.12.30	Relationship with the Council. Commenced initiatives to build large buildings. Lord Mayors. Acquisitions Department. Bank bought over 50% of Harris Scarfes. Changes made to retail and sales. Made significant profit and sold it after five years. Resignation from IMFC in 1976. Changes in banking industry.	Adelaide City Council. AMP. Jane Lomax-Smith. Roche. Henry Ninio. Rymill. Porter. Harris Scarfes. Royal Bank of Canada. Bank of New South Wales. Harrys. Bunnings. IMFC Discounts. Westpac. AFL.
00.22.43	Strong interest with Eve in thoroughbred horse racing. Partnership with trainer preparing horses for racing. Disapproval of racing by Board members of IMFC.	Bart Cummings. Michell family. Victoria Park Race Course. Don Mellish.
00.26.46	1976, decision to become a travel agent. Location of travel agency in eastern part of the City. Gained qualifications at 52 years. Requirements of international travel. Represented several European study centres. French Consul. Advocated to establish hotel management course in SA.	National Bank of Detroit. Angas Travel. Hutt Street. <i>IATA</i> [ <i>International Air Transport Association</i> ]. Cordon Bleu. Paris American Academy. The Euro Centre Language Foundation. Swiss Hotel Association School. Regency Park. John Bannon. South Australian Government. Mike Rann.
00.35.13	Agents for language tours. Interest in education. First Australian degree in	The Euro Centre Language Foundation, Switzerland. Australian

	Hotel Management. First Chief Executive of the College. Son took on Chief Executive role. Long serving staff at the Agency. Still works at Angas Travel.	Hotels Association. Gerald Lipman. Hotel School.
00.39.58	Cultural tours to battlefields of France. Ten years of managing Australian school choirs, bands and orchestras to perform concerts in overseas venues related to World War I.	Gallipoli. Somme battlefields. Anzac Day. ABC. Westminster Abbey. The Arc de Triomphe. Cathedral of St Louis des Invalides. The Amiens Cathedral at Villers-Bretonneux. Professional Conferences International. Menin Gate.
00.45.37	Role as French Consul in South Australia 1973 - 1990. Protection at the time of Pacific Tests. Two awards received from the French Government. Significance of the Cordon Bleu school. Tourism on French battlefields. Recognition in 1989 of contribution to tourism and horse racing industry. In 2008, recognition of education in the hospitality industry.	French Consul. Atomic Tests. Trade Missions. Star Force. Diplomatic Corps. Consular Corps. <i>Cordon Bleu</i> . <i>National Order of Merit</i> . <i>Légion d'honneur</i> . AM – Member of the Order of Australia. AO – Officer of the Order of Australia.
00.58.05	Author and self-publisher. Process of self-publishing and donation of copies to charity organisations. In 2011, set up Trust at St Peters College.	Autobiography. Trilogy. <i>The Human Machine Operator's Manual</i> . Rex J Lipman Fellows Program, St Peter's College.
1.01.33	Links to the City Council. Mother had been on Council for 35 years. Civic roles of grandfather and Great grandfather. Presentation of sculptures of mother and grandfather in 2012. Anzac Day Concert. Interest in communication and ability to use technology. Message to younger generation.	Adelaide City Council. Esther Lipman (Jacobs). Vaiben Solomon. Esther Lipman Garden. Plumridge. Salvation Army.
1.08.17	Session ends.	