City of Adelaide

Oral History (Extension) Project 2011/2012

OH 110

Interview with

Mr Paul Noonan

Long-time resident of North Adelaide

Conducted by Madeleine Regan

3 February 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 150th birthday celebrations in 1990.

The Oral History Project concluded in 2000, but was revived in 2011 at the time of the State's 175th 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.

Biographical note

Paul Noonan was born in Adelaide on 24th November 1934. At the time his parents were managing hotels in South Australia. In 1939 when his parents were managing a hotel in Clare, Paul contracted polio and was hospitalised for about 18 months during which time he also contracted diphtheria. When he left hospital he wore a calliper. His mother suffered a serious stroke and Paul was involved in providing some of her care during his teenage years. He was educated at Rostrevor College and completed Intermediate. His father was keen for Paul to have a secure career because of physical limitations of wearing a calliper and arranged for him to do a four year apprenticeship as a tailor for an Italian tailor, Hugh Pozza in Gawler Place. Paul was not interested in remaining in the tailoring profession and became a Life Insurance salesman with the T & G Mutual Life Assurance Society. He worked for 40 years selling insurance and superannuation.

In 1950 Paul's parents bought an old house in Molesworth Street, North Adelaide which has been added to the Commonwealth Heritage List. Paul has lived there continuously, first with his parents who took in boarders to supplement the family income. Paul married Marie in 1964, two years after his mother died and they shared the house with his father. Paul and Marie have three children and several grandchildren. Paul has had Parkinsons Disease for some years, and lives at home with the support of Marie and carers.

In this interview, Paul provides details of his family life and his parents' roles in managing a number of hotels in South Australia. He speaks about the experience of contracting polio at six years of age, and growing up as a young man in North Adelaide. He speaks about the responsibilities of caring for his mother; being a tailor's apprentice; membership of the Young Christian Workers movement and social life. He describes the family home in Molesworth Street and the neighbourhood in North Adelaide in the 1950s and '60s. It was not possible for Paul to record another interview, and as an alternative, he provided some reflections on North Adelaide, some well-known residents and connections to the Adelaide City Council from 1950.

Photographs

Paul, c1935

Paul, Tasmania, 2004

Paul, at home, North Adelaide 2012

FIRST INTERVIEW WITH PAUL NOONAN
RECORDED BY MADELEINE REGAN
in Paul's home, North Adelaide
on Friday 3 February 2012

Transcript of interview (3 February 2012)

Oral Historian (OH): Thank you, Paul, for agreeing to this interview, and also for agreeing to the copyright conditions. I'd like to start the interview by asking you questions about your background. Could you please tell me your full name?

Paul Noonan (PN): Paul Noonan.

OH: And your date of birth, Paul?

PN: 24 November 1934.

OH: Where were you born?

PN: At Toorak, South Australia.

OH: Who gave you your name? Did it have any significance in your family?

PN: No. The name was chosen by my parents.

OH: What were your parents' names?

PN: Cornelius Noonan, Agnes Noonan (nee Dwyer).

OH: And where had they come from?

PN: Both were born in South Australia. My father was born in Gulnare and my mother was born in Magill.

OH: In Adelaide?

PN: Yes.

OH: Do you remember your grandparents?

PN: No, they had both died before I was born.

OH: But I understand you had a very large extended family**?**

PN: Yes, I had 31 first cousins and I had six uncles and aunts, that was on my father's side**.** On my mother's side there were five sisters and two brothers.

OH: So a large extended family?

PN: Yes.

OH: Did you have any siblings?

PN: No, no.

OH: So you were a precious only child? What were your first memories?

PN: Yes, my first memory was getting into the Glenelg tram and my father put me on the train, one end of the tram, and I used to run through the tram, and he would come to the other end of the tram and pick me up, and that was a real happy memory that I've got of that time. Now I think I was about four or five when that episode took place.

OH: A delightful memory to have. What were your parents doing around the time that you were born?

PN: My father was a Hotel Manager, he worked for a South Australian company who had a large number of hotels, and he was a manager for them. They would put him in a hotel for, say, 12 months, with the idea of building the trade up, and when he reached an optimum level they would move him from that hotel to another one, and he was keen to do well at his job for two reasons, (1) his mother was a redoubtable lady – this is what I'm told – and she was really cross with him that he was leaving the farm which she thought was for the benefit of all the children, and he had no desire to stay on the land, work the farm. The result was that he left home when he was in his early 20s, and came to the City, and after that he worked for a number of firms before he decided to make a career of working in the hotel industry.

My mother was some 14 years younger than dad. She worked as a housemaid in hotels, and she worked her way up to be a supervisor for the particular hotel where she worked, and they, my father and my mother, met up as it were in the hotel, and something clicked and they got married and I was one of the results of that. They were married in 1927 and I was born in 1934.

OH: And Paul, did you grow up in a lot of different places?

PN: Not a lot of different places, no, mainly the metropolitan area, Glenelg, South Terrace, Adelaide, was another one, and then to Clare in 1939.

OH: The first year of the war.

PN: Yes, yes.

OH: As a child do you have memories of the war years?

PN: Yes, very much so because the prevailing atmosphere at the time in Clare was that country districts in South Australia were going to be vulnerable to attacks by the Japanese fighters that were coming to Australia after being based in South East Asia. An example of that would be that my parents lived in the hotel where they were managers, and the people who stayed at the hotel, by and large, were fairly pragmatic in their views, but a number of the elderly ladies who lived in the hotel were besides themselves with fear, I suppose because they'd never had an experience like this before, and there was a concern on their part that the people living in the hotel could be vulnerable. My father said that he had to placate their fears, and did his best to maintain a sense of normality. My mother was also acutely aware that the people who stayed in the hotel as guests were women who, if they were single ladies, they had this fear that the Japanese would be, in effect, hunting them down.

Now that sounds absurd I know, but dad and mum said that they realised

that the ladies concerned were probably typical of a cross-section of the community. Now, that of course, was all repeated to me by my parents, it wasn't that I had any firsthand experience at all of it but they gave me to understand that the experiences that the people in the hotel were something that would stay with them for the short and medium-term future.

OH: So your parents were very mindful of that feeling that they had?

PN: Yes, indeed.

OH: When you were in Clare as a child, I understand you contracted polio?

PN: Yes.

OH: How old were you?

PN: 1940, I was six, yes, that's right.

OH: Do you remember that experience?

PN: Yes. There were little things which I suppose would seem to be trite to most people but were very real to me and the children that I went to school with. An example was that once a year the town would put on some event, such as a picnic or a party or whatever, for the children in the district. A certain memory I've got of that era was that one year the Adelaide Highland Pipe Band came to Clare. Now this was something of a Red Letter Day. The kids of my age had never seen a drummer pipe band. They had also some curiosity about what the Scottish wear under their kilts, and it made for a very entertaining day. And I think we learned a lot just from the experience of seeing the Drum Major of the band twirling his batons, and to a five or six year-old, this was something pretty unique. So it's one of the good memories that I've got of Clare.

OH: When you were diagnosed with polio, what happened?

PN: The two doctors who serviced the town both came to the viewpoint that they thought I must have had polio because the symptoms were apparent, and I can remember that it was a very hot time, the time was around December in 1940 when I contracted the polio. I was in the Clare Hospital for a relatively short time, and then was brought to Adelaide by ambulance. And just by way of introduction... the ambulance that brought me to Adelaide, it was called an old buckboard, which meant that you had a mattress on the floor of the buckboard, and my mother told me that she sat on the floor of the buckboard, even though I was pretty distraught, as a six year-old would be, and there was no canopy over the head of the buckboard. So she, from what I can recall her telling me, she made it her business to put a sort of scarf or something over my face to counteract the effects of the sun.

When I got to Adelaide they took me straight to the Children's Hospital, and I was there for, I think she said it was 15 months, and the treatment then was the patient, in this case me, was put under a frame, bandaged up into a frame, and you stayed like that for quite some hours in the day. Again I'm just repeating what my mother told me.

Evidently I was not an ideal patient, and I suppose, as a six year-old, you know, you wouldn't expect to much, so they put me into the Children's, and one of the other strange things which people would laugh at today, and that was that the nursing staff, and particularly the hospital doctors, held this view that the best treatment was that you had your arms strapped up with bandages, is the best description, and they allowed visitors two days a week, and my mother, I can vividly remember this, because she said: *You'll never know what you put us through.* No, she didn't use the words '*put us through' ... You'll never know what difficulty it was,* because I wasn't able to see her, she would only come to the City about once, I think, every couple of months. They didn't have a car themselves, and they relied on some very understanding relatives to come and see me in the Children's [Hospital] every month, so that was one of the highlights of being in the Children's Hospital.

I went from there … they shifted me to Northfield Infectious Diseases Hospital, because that was the place where the polio people went, and the memory that I've got about it, a very hazy memory and reinforced by my mother. The treatment at Northfield was that the exterior of the hospital had long pathways, which were set up in such a way that parents or whoever could come and see the child, children, and maintain some contact with normality. My father had great accepting the fact that he couldn't get any closer to me than some several feet.

I contracted diphtheria and I was in an iron lung for some weeks, and there's an old saying which you've probably heard, it's not in such common use now, but nonetheless it's still known by a lot of people, and that is they would say: *That's Paul Noonan* or *that's 'topsy two shoes', they've been in the iron lung so they won't be much good for work.* And my mother thought this was an hilarious statement to make. But anyway I was very lucky because the survival rate for diphtheria in those days was very poor, very limited indeed, so I'm one of the lucky ones.

OH: So you had diphtheria as well as polio?

PN: Yeah.

OH: Wow! When you were in hospital for those 15 or so months, did you have any schooling?

PN: Yes, the Education Department ran a good correspondence school, and mum always said to me that she thought they'd done an excellent job, so I feel I was very lucky really to have sustained the polio at that time because there just happened to be a group of teachers who were not only capable in their profession, but from all accounts both mum and dad were people to see that they were the ones who kept me on track. It sounds terrible, I suppose in the context of the atmosphere at the time. Mum and dad were prepared for the worst for me. I think they were so distraught, if you like, but it did take me a while to recover.

My parents engaged two nurses to look after me, and one stayed a short time, the other nurse stayed several years, and they had quite an influence on me because it was a busy hotel and mum was flat out

supervising the staff, so the role that the nurse played was quite significant.

OH: This was in Clare?

PN: In Clare, yes.

OH: Were you wearing a calliper at that time?

PN: Yes, a full length calliper, which I used to hate.

OH: When did you come back to Adelaide?

PN: Approximately early …1949.

OH: Where were you living at that time?

PN: We came to Adelaide and we went to Magill because my cousin lived there, and my mother had quite a bit to do with their upbringing, and she was very fond of my mother, and her mother had died, so the family thought that it was a good opportunity for mum and dad and myself to have a roof over our heads, and it was also to be a significant advantage to my cousin, so from that point of view it was a very convenient arrangement.

OH: Where did you go to school at that time?

PN: Rostrevor College.

OH: Were you in primary school or secondary school?

PN: Secondary at Rostrevor.

OH: Were your parents still looking after hotels at that time?

PN: No, my mother had a stroke and it was quite a devastating effect on her, so she couldn't work. My father went managing hotels for a hotel chain and he stayed there working for various hotels until he was 65.

OH: Then we come to a new chapter about North Adelaide. Can you tell me how your family came to live in North Adelaide?

PN: Yes. Well my father, as I mentioned earlier, had a liking for the hotel business, and he was of a view that North Adelaide was quite a nice place. He did his best to find a suitable house, and eventually he and mum found a house which suited them, and it's this house that we're in today, 41 Molesworth Street, North Adelaide.

OH: What year did you move here?

PN: 1950 we moved here, and we got the Title Deeds of the house here, so it's been a good long period from 1950 until 2012.

OH: You would have been 16 at the time?

PN: Mm.

OH: What do you remember about North Adelaide at that time, 1950?

PN: I can remember the fact that the tram used to run from the City up past St Peter's Cathedral into North Adelaide, and then down into the western suburbs, and I went to school and came home each day on that tramline. The tram service also ran from the City up through O'Connell Street and out into the western suburbs, and a bus service – no, I made a mistake

there, the bus didn't operate – so we'll have to rub that out. Yeah, so there were two tram services. There was access to what was called the City Baths, which were really virtually the swimming centre, and I used to like to go to the City Baths and swim with my mates who were around the suburb here.

OH: You had mates around North Adelaide?

PN: Yes.

OH: Did you go to school with them, or how did you meet them?

PN: A couple of them were going to Rostrevor at the same time, and so we knew each other getting on the tram each day, and didn't really see much of the lads or girls who were going to other schools, but as I got older I mixed more with students from other schools who lived in the area.

OH: Where did people do their shopping in North Adelaide at the time?

PN: Well that was very decidedly in O'Connell Street. We had a great mixture of people using the Central Market and the same with families who were, what we would have called ordinary working class people, if that's a term of phrase. They were coming from the area where there was close settlement in the North Adelaide area, and there was a pretty strong sign of home ownership at that time, and to their great credit the Council has encouraged that.

OH: For North Adelaide?

PN: Mm.

OH: Would there have been a mix of home-owners and people who were renting?

PN: Again I'm just repeating what my parents told me. There was a desire for home ownership but I don't know that it manifested itself to new people, the encouragement that was needed to buy a house, because housing in those days was, in relative terms, almost as expensive as today. That's a very broad statement but for example a two-storey house here, this is a house built in 1884, and the families who live in them, or who have lived in them, when we came here, all had young children. Now that's changed very much because although there are a number of young families coming back into the area, they are not so numerous because the cost of housing is very high.

OH: You've mentioned the fact that this is a two-storey house built in 1884. Can you describe the house maybe when you first came, like how many rooms and what it looks like?

PN: Well, two-storey, four bedrooms, a kitchen, a lounge which we're in now, an external toilet in the yard, commonly known in those days as the *outside dunny,* so that was also part of the atmosphere of the day that if you were lucky enough to have two dunnies, as it were, it was quite something.

OH: Your house is attached.

PN: Yes.

OH: Is it the same layout on the other side?

PN: Yes, broadly speaking yes, it's the same. Most of the block of two-storey houses, they've renovated them substantially, spent large amounts of money. For example, we share the party wall with the next-door neighbour. Now that's meant that the scope has been available to people to renovate inside housing, the scope has been very great**,** and they've had good results with the work that's been done to preserve both the external appearance and internal similarly.

OH: You've got very high ceilings here, how high are they?

PN: I should remember, I can't. No, I'd have to go and look it up.

OH: 14ft maybe?

PN: Yes, yes.

OH: When you moved in here what was the garden like?

PN: It wasn't good at all, it had been let go to wrack and ruin because the three previous owners were two widows and one other lady, and they weren't interested in the yard, and consequently had no time for it, or weren't prepared to spend money on it, and my mother couldn't do anything because she'd had a stroke and was partly paralysed, and dad was not a keen gardener at all, so the garden was in poor condition.

Two things which may be of interest … One is that my mother was able to do a bit of gardening and she planted a lemon tree and an orange tree. Both of those trees today are still very good bearers, and when we married, Marie said to me: *I'm going to fix the garden.* And I said: *Good luck, I'll cheer from the sidelines but I won't be participating in the garden.* But as I say, the fruit trees are Marie's pride and joy. She has spent a lot of time in the garden.

OH: You and Marie married in the 60s, and we'll talk about that in a moment, but I remember that you told me that there were some interesting houses in Molesworth Street, interesting in terms of what took place inside those houses.

PN: Yes, oh yes, well you know it's no secret, it was common knowledge that in this street of ill-fame, I think you could describe it that way, and in the other street in North Adelaide I'd say at a guess there would perhaps have been five.

OH: Five brothels?

PN: Yes.

OH: What street was that?

PN: Well there were two in Childers Street and one in Jeffcott Street.

OH: So all quite close?

PN: Relatively, yes.

OH: Why were they in North Adelaide?

PN: I think close to the City and hotels. There were roughly five hotels in the area **…***well you might say, I don't mean to* be rude, but you would know that if hotels are around you get fellows who see their way clear to go on the grog, and that certainly existed when we came here. Of course I can't

talk from any personal experience. I was very conscious that I could take someone to particular places today and say: *Did you know that back in the 1950s or 1960s or 1970s, that the house you are living in was a brothel?*

OH: How would you have known? Did you know the owners, the ones in Molesworth Street?

PN: No, no, I didn't because number 1, the knowledge of how the brothels functioned or anything like that. I mean I was only a teenage kid, you know, and if you'd asked me something about the Western Speedway, well I would have been right in it.

OH: Where was the Western Speedway?

PN: Down on Torrens Road.

OH: Rowley Park?

PN: Yes.

OH: Would you walk there?

PN: No, I went in the tram because that was the way that you got around.

OH: So that was another part of a social life of a young boy?

PN: That's right.

OH: When you left school, what did you do?

PN: Well Madeleine! I went to work as a tailor, a clothing tailor. My father had a concern that if I took on a job where there was much walking, my leg would be affected. He did that in good faith, he thought, well both he and mum thought that they were doing the right thing. As it turned out, although did complete the apprenticeship for four years, I wasn't cut out to be a tailor.

OH: Can we talk a bit about the tailor? How did you get the job as the apprentice?

PN: What would be loosely called the 'old boy's network'. Dad knew a tailor who had lived in the City for a number of years, worked in the City too, and the network operated where dad said to him: *Look, my son I think would do well at tailoring, would you take him on?* Newell was the name of the tailor, he said to dad: *Look, I can take him on but I know a fellow in the trade who would probably take him on.* So dad took me to another tailor named Pozza [spells out P-o-z-z-a] and I started my apprenticeship with him, the apprenticeship for the four years.

OH: His name was Hughie Pozza?

PN: Yes, Hughie Pozza.

OH: Was he an Italian?

PN: Italian birth, yes, but he'd lived in Australia for many years.

OH: So his English was very good?

PN: It was reasonable.

OH: Who were his clients?

PN: I'd say his clients in the main were upper middleclass by economic definition. They simply operated on a word-to-mouth basis. He didn't offer any paid advertising at all, he just relied on, as I say, trade from existing clients, because he had been in business in Adelaide for quite some years prior to my starting there.

OH: Where was his shop?

PN: In Gawler Place, 52 Gawler Place, Adelaide, between Grenfell and Rundle Mall.

OH: How many people worked for him?

PN: Fulltime workers he would have had on average perhaps 10.

OH: A big business?

PN: Yes, it was in those days. He was a good tailor, a good tradesman, and he certainly knew how to put people at ease, and as I say ran a successful business. He also had two brothers working for him, and they were good at their jobs as well.

OH: What was it like being an apprentice in that situation?

PN: It wasn't something that I relished at all because I knew that I wasn't cut out for the job. I encountered something when I was 21 that was quite out of the blue, and that was I had an elderly uncle who had Parkinson's Disease ... *like I've got* ... and I suppose you could say took pity on me or whatever word, and he left me some money. And it was sufficient to buy a car, a small car.

OH: What did you buy?

PN: A Morris Minor. I suddenly became a popular fellow around, because there weren't that many fellows who had motor cars. This is back in the 1950s.

OH: So how old would you have been?

PN: I was 21 when the money came through from the estate, so that was 1955.

OH: Had you finished your apprenticeship by then?

PN: Yes, I had.

OH: I wanted to ask you of the 10 other employees, and yourself as an apprentice, how many Italians would there have been there?

PN: There would have been I suppose three-quarters.

OH: Italian?

PN: Yes, male and female.

OH: Was Italian the spoken language in the shop?

PN: Oh yes, very, very much so.

OH: Did you learn?

PN: A few words plus a few swear words, enough to get me into the dances which were held at some hall down in Grenfell Street. I forget the name of it, but it was a haunting place for the young teenage lads.

OH: Italian boys and girls went there?

PN: Yes, yes they did, yes.

OH: So you completed the four years of the apprenticeship, and during that time I think that you told me you joined a movement for young people?

PN: Yes, the YCW as it was known, the Young Christian Workers Movement. It filled a place in the community in that there weren't a lot of places that teenage guys could go to, so it served as a good entertainment centre, but as well an educational centre, because it was common in those days to finish secondary school in Year 9, and it also became apparent to a lot of lads and girls that they needed to do some study of some sort, but that took a bit of time to gain momentum, and it wasn't highly regarded in the first few years, but it eventually gained some momentum and I learnt to, as it were, think on my feet. I'd had a bit of experience at Rostrevor where I won the Junior Oratory Prize. It was lads who had got to the old Grade 7 standard, and I was lucky enough to pick up the cup for that particular year for Junior Oratory.

OH: You were known for somebody who could get up and speak?

PN: Yes.

OH: In the YCW you became an important leader?

PN: Yes, well I suppose, you know, you could say that. I didn't regard myself as an important leader, mainly because there were other lads who had external interests such as they played football and other sports, and I couldn't participate in those sorts of recreations. Yes, I think that's it.

OH: And just one other thing about the YCW, the dance that was held, I think you told me in North Adelaide?

PN: Oh yes, yes, an interesting time there because there was a dance held by the YCW every fortnight in the North Adelaide Community Centre.

OH: In Tynte Street?

PN: That's right, just next to the North Adelaide Post Office. We had these dances and they were popular because we just charged a basic amount of money to cover the costs, and the interest by fellows in particular, was that the YCW arranged for the entertainment. It was a bit limited, and dances were popular for that reason.

One of the interesting side issues was that the hotel, called the North Adelaide Hotel, was then situated in Tynte Street. The owners of the hotel were aware that the licensing laws at that time said that you couldn't have a hotel within 300 yards of a house environment, so the upshot was that the lads used to wait until there was a bit of a lull in the music, and they would race out to the back of the hall, and someone previously would have been able to get some booze, and they would race around and put it in the fireplace of the hall, and it was regarded as a bit of bravado.

The other thing which would probably interest some people, and that is that the Piccadilly Theatre, which is up in O'Connell Street, was a popular place, and they used to have a policy that you could book seats

for a Saturday night. So if you had a girlfriend and you wanted to make a big impression, you could book your seat or seats in the Piccadilly, and from memory. And I can remember more of this because I was older, the memory was that there were six seats in a block, and you somehow fitted three lots of two, or whatever it was, to get the six in.

The other thing which is a vivid memory also, was that in the foyer of the theatre … you've been to the Piccadilly? In the foyer of the Piccadilly people would stand around and they would smoke. And if you came in the doorway of the theatre you would encounter this great pool of smoke which, now that we think back 50 years or whatever, I mean … say to me: *You must have been out of your mind?* And I say: *No, it was the done thing then.* Girls smoked, although not as much, but that was a common pastime.

OH: Going to the pictures and smoking?

PN: That's right.

OH: Paul, that might be a good place for us to stop today. Thank you very much for that view of North Adelaide in your early days, and we'll pick it up again in the next interview. Thank you.

End of recording – counter 59:38

Reflections on life in North Adelaide: an addition to the Oral History interview recorded on 3 February 2012

The changing face of North Adelaide 1950 – 2012

One of the most significant changes I recall in the early 1950s was the composition of the suburban tram fleet. The rolling stock which existed until the mid 1950s was two trams hitched together and rows of seating arranged which gave the passenger access to both sides of the tram. The early model trams were known as 'Bib' and 'Bub'.

The built form in 1951 consisted of numerous small cottages in North Adelaide particularly on the eastern side of O'Connell Street.

1960s – 1980s

Significant changes occurred in the Upper North Adelaide area from the 1960s to the 1980s. The development of units began to appear in the 1960s. A small number of families were moving back into some areas of North Adelaide.

These included structural changes for domestic houses. There had been a relaxation of some rules related to the building of housing flats and residential unit development. There were differences of opinion between commercial developers and single unit housing and also a gap that developed between some areas where the Council and State Government appeared to be at odds with one another. This resulted in significant gaps of service facilities, provision of roadways and community facilities. There had also been some development related to high rise buildings. Fortunately these were not numerous.

Some high rise buildings both residential and commercial came into the market in the 1960s. This was primarily a mixture of two and three bedroom houses and units. Around this time, a small number of developers thought there was an opening for a small number of hotels near the main shopping precinct

MATS Plan

With the Metropolitan Adelaide Transport Study (MATS) Plan published in 1968, the State Government proposed to widen both sides of Margaret Street in North Adelaide City Council. This was not well received by land owners. There was an obvious

difference between the views of local traders and the settled views of long-term residents. The MATS Plan was subsequently dropped.

Traders in O'Connell Street

A good number of shops traded in O'Connell Street – grocers. The shopping precinct continued until it reached the Huntsman Hotel on the corner of Archer and O'Connell Streets. Mr Lance Le Cornu carried on business as a general store keeper on O'Connell Street, and was also a funeral director. Le Cornus occupied a large part of the next block facing O'Connell Street.

Another business identity was Bob Rattley from Hales Four Square Store. Bob lived in the area for over 70 years.

My involvement with the City of Adelaide City Council

I have had an involvement with the Adelaide City Council dating back to the 1960s. It was quite general at first. I usually attended Council meetings twice a year and learned a lot about the functions of the three levels of government; local, state and federal. I had personal knowledge of councillors and administrative staff.

North Adelaide Society

The North Adelaide Society seemed to me, to make an attempt to provide some role for close contact to be made with the Adelaide City Council. I felt that a community-based society would attract people and press government bodies to broaden their contact. Members gave the appearance of being a community group who would be likely to act as a spokesperson for North Adelaide residents.

Lord Mayors of Adelaide City Council

A number of talented people had joined the Council from the 1960s and became Lord Mayors. Prominent among these people were Councillors Bridgland (1966 – 1968), Bill Hayes (1971 – 1973) John Watson (1981 – 1983).

George Joseph (1977 – 1979) built a rapport with many residents who would not normally have been invited to Town Hall functions.

Jim Bowen (1979 – 1981) built extensive contacts with elderly citizens' groups.

Wendy Chapman (1983 – 1985) was the first female Lord Mayor. She was an excellent pioneer for women.

Jim Jarvis (1985 – 1987) was a popular Mayoral figure and brought innovation to Council meetings and community development. He brought many youth to the town hall for the first time.

Steve Condous (1987 – 1993) was born in Australia. He had a confectionery distribution business in Adelaide. Steve was a Councillor for some years before he was

elected Lord Mayor. Steve was in contact with a wide range of people and he invited them to functions. For example he invited shop assistants, delicatessen owners; nurses; business people; migrants and aged residents of the City. I remember a young deli worker who was very excited because she had been invited to a Reception attended by Lady Diana. Steve's wife, Angela, was a great worker for charity.

Henry Ninio (1993 – 1997) brought a large number people of ethnic backgrounds to the Town Hall.

Recalling North Adelaide identities

Every community, large or small, usually has some characters who bring life to the area. In North Adelaide there was a diverse group of people who helped make up the community. Residents enjoyed living in North Adelaide. I had the good fortune to meet some memorable people in North Adelaide.

Perhaps some of the best known social welfare advocates in the 1960s and 1970s were Padre Arthur Strange from the Uniting Church who managed a well-known boarding facility for males who could not afford to live in commercial houses. Rev Alan and Mrs Cameron from Christ Church were also well-known. Other North Adelaide identities who were involved in social welfare were Frank and Molly Hart who worked with the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Mr John Gregory was a North Adelaide postman for 45 years. Mr Pat Barry was the Postmaster at the North Adelaide Post Office in the 1960s. Pat was known from time to time to stand on the steps and greet people as they entered the Post Office

From anecdotal information, Mr Jim Day was a well-known shop assistant who lived in Gover Street for over 52 years. He worked in David Jones for over 48 years. He was a keen social welfare volunteer who collected perishable foodstuffs from the O'Connell Street traders.

Among the long-term residents in Barton Terrace East were the Hargreave and Noblet families, keen cricket supporters.

Nora Kelly was one of the last two remaining residents of North Adelaide who were permitted by the Adelaide City Council to have a horse stable in the residential area. The other horse owner and resident was Douglas MacKay who lived in Buxton Street.

Miss Irene Burns lived in the family home in Tynte Street continuously for 94 years. She maintained keen interest in community affairs until her death in 2011.

Nora Helpman was a popular dance teacher.

The Dominican Sisters maintained two schools within their property on Molesworth Street. The schools of St Dominic's Priory came into existence in the 19th Century.

Paul Noonan, June/July 2012

Timed summary – interview recorded 3 February 2012

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

Time	Subject	Keywords
00.00.00	Introduction. Full name. Date of birth (24 November 1931). Family background. Father's name. Mother's name. First memory. Parents managed hotels in South Australia.	Paul Noonan. Cornelius Noonan, born at Gulnare, SA. Agnes Noonan nee Dwyer born at Magill. Glenelg tram.
00.07.22	Grew up in South Australia. Family moved to the country in 1939. Awareness of fear of Japanese during the War.	Glenelg. South Terrace, Adelaide. Clare. Adelaide Highland Pipe Band.
00.11.56	Contracted polio at aged six in 1940. Hospitalised for over 15 months. Parents only able to visit once a month. Also contracted diphtheria and was in an iron lung for some time. Education through Correspondence School. Returned to Clare and two nurses looked after him.	Polio. Children's Hospital. Northfield Infectious Disease Hospital. Diphtheria.
00.24.35	Family moved to Adelaide in 1949. Mother severely disabled by stroke. Father managed hotels until 65 years old. Attended school.	Magill. Rostrevor College.
00.27.00	Move to North Adelaide, 41 Molesworth Street in 1950. Parent bought the house. Memories of North Adelaide. Shopping. Mix of residents.	North Adelaide. Molesworth Street. St Peters Cathedral. O'Connell Street. City Baths. Central Market.
00.34.40	Description of house built in 1884. Garden. Previous owners.	
00.39.39	Paul married Marie and she moved into the house in Molesworth Street. Description of the neighbourhood. Brothels. Hotels. Growing up in the locality and social life in the 1950s.	Childers Street. Jeffcott Street. Western Speedway. Torrens Road. Rowley Park.
00.43.30	First job. Completed four year apprenticeship as a tailor. Range of clients. Recipient of a legacy from an Uncle. Bought a car. Tailor had ten employed – about 75% were Italian.	Newell. Hughie Pozza. Italian. Gawler Place. Grenfell Street. Mall. Parkinsons Disease. Morris Minor.
00.50.27	Recalls other aspects of young adult life in North Adelaide. Experience in public speaking at school. Junior Oratory Prize. Dance held every fortnight in hall next to Post Office in North Adelaide. Smoking in the pictures.	Grenfell Street. YCW [Young Christian Workers]. Rostrevor. Tynte Street. North Adelaide Community Centre. North Adelaide Hotel. Piccadilly Cinema. O'Connell Street.
00.59.38	Session ends	