

CITY OF ADELAIDE

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW WITH

PETER GRIFFIN

FORMER TRAFFIC & HEALTH INSPECTOR

Conducted by KAREN WALTER

27 May 1994

Volume 1 of 2

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THE CITY OF ADELAIDE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

As part of its concern to preserve evidence of Adelaide's past in celebrating the Jubilee 150 in South Australia in 1986, the national Bicentennial in 1988, and its own 150th Anniversary in 1990, the Adelaide City Council established an Oral History Project. The Project continues to provide a record of the past which complements the written records relating to the history of both the Council and the City generally.

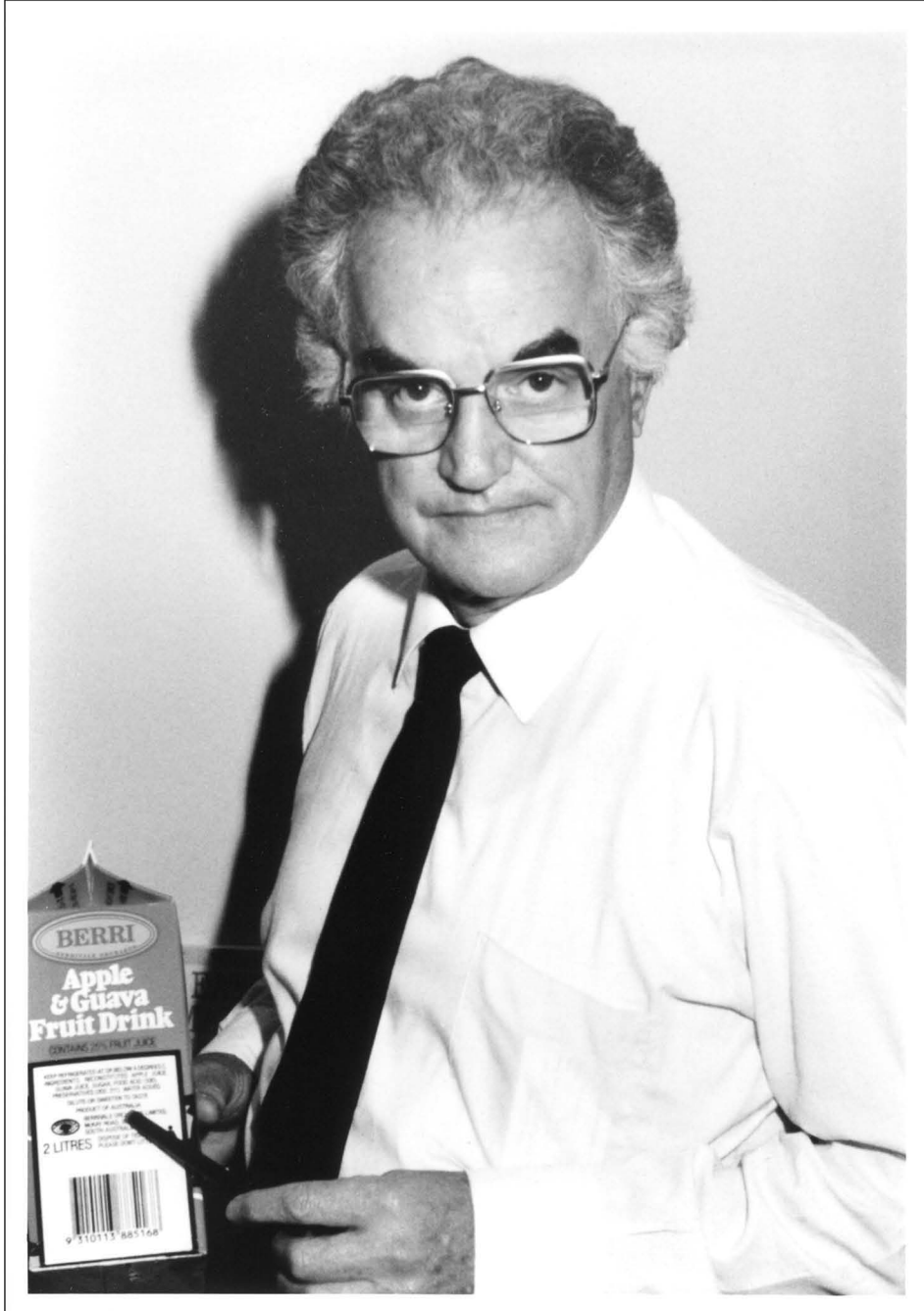
Recognising the loss of many people who had personal experience of important events in Adelaide's past and the increasing use of oral history as a legitimate source of historical information, the Council sought in 1984 to establish an Oral History Project on a firm basis, and engaged an Oral Historian to carry out interviews with notable former Members and staff, and other citizens. This interview forms part of the Project.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

PETER TILLOTSON GRIFFIN was born on 18 March 1925 at Strathalbyn. He attended Strathalbyn Primary School and High School before his family moved to Ashford in Adelaide when Peter was aged fourteen. He finished his schooling at Adelaide High School. In 1942 Peter enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy serving as a coder, in New Guinea and in the Pacific area. After his discharge Peter held various labouring positions before taking a job as Traffic Inspector with the Adelaide City Council in September 1950. He was one of the first Inspector's to use a motorcyle. In 1957 Peter took on the additional role of Inspector of Weights and Measures. During his employment as Traffic Inspector Peter studied part-time at the School of Mines to gain qualifications in Health Inspection. In 1957 he left the Adelaide City Council to take on the position of Health Inspector with the Unley Council. In June 1958 he returned to work with the Adelaide City Council as Health Inspector. He was initially assigned to work in Grey Ward, then Young Ward and finally in the City Wards. In 1974 Peter was appointed Inspector of Restuarants. In 1985 he was promoted to the position of Principal Health Surveyor, retiring in 1990 after 38 years of service with the Council.

The interview deals with Peter's childhood, growing up and war service. It then focuses on his experiences as Traffic and then Health Inspector. In his many years on the streets of Adelaide Peter witnessed great changes. He discusses in detail the many and varied aspects of his work as a Health Inspector. As Principal Health Surveyor Peter was responsible for establishing control programmes for pigeons and European wasps. He also established a fully equipped Health Services Laboratory.



Peter Griffin as Health Inspector, 1980s.



Peter Griffin among the pigeons, 1988.

FIRST INTERVIEW WITH FORMER TRAFFIC & HEALTH INSPECTOR, MR. PETER GRIFFIN  
RECORDED BY KAREN WALTER AT MR. GRIFFIN'S HOME IN BARROW CRESCENT, LOCKLEYS  
ON 27 MAY 1994.

O.H.: On behalf of the Council, I would first like to thank you for agreeing to be involved in this project and for agreeing to our conditions with regard to copyright and access.

P.G.: Oh, thank you.

O.H.: So we'll start by having your full name.

P.G.: Peter Tillotson Griffin.

O.H.: And when were you born?

P.G.: I was born on the 18th of March, 1925.

O.H.: And where?

P.G.: At Strathalbyn, South Australia.

O.H.: And your parents had been living there for a while?

P.G.: Yes, my father had been living in Strathalbyn all of his life, my mother came from Castlemaine in Victoria, and for a short period of time my father went to Broken Hill and worked on the mines and he met my mother at Broken Hill. She was a barmaid in the Southern Cross Hotel at Broken Hill and they married soon after they met and they had their first child in Broken Hill and following that my father came back to South Australia and took up farming from his father at Strathalbyn.

O.H.: What were your parents' names?

P.G.: Charles Thomas Griffin and Ethel Esther Tillotson.

O.H.: And where were you placed in amongst the boys?

P.G.: I was number four.

O.H.: There were five boys, weren't there?

P.G.: Five boys yes. There was, Ken was the eldest, Charles, Colin, myself and then Donald.

O.H.: So what kind of farm did your father have then?

P.G.: We had a poverty stricken farm (laughs). We had lots of food but very little cash flow. It was about two hundred and seventy acres at Strathalbyn and about half of that was only good for sheep and the rest our father used to grow wheat there but sometimes peas, oats and with late rains he'd often have failures with the wheat crop.

O.H.: Was he affected much during the Depression?

P.G.: Yes, I remember my father holding up a cheque for forty dollars, five shillings - forty pound, five shillings, I'll correct that - and that was from the local flour mill and he waited six months for that and that was the only cash flow we had for that year.

O.H.: How did you manage?

P.G.: Well, we had lots of food, mother had turkeys and fowls and father used to kill a sheep occasionally and there was vegetables grown on the farm. We never went without food, mother was an excellent cook and the five of us are still alive and we're all pretty healthy.

O.H.: Did your mother work during that time when you were a boy?

P.G.: No, no such thing as work, no, housework, farmwork, washing in an old copper with troughs and hand wringers, I think the hand wringer was a luxury, and when the road came through from Macclesfield, they tarred it, my father recovered some of the tar drums and beat them out and built a bathroom and that bathroom is still in existence on the farm at Strathalbyn, because of course the metal was heavily coated with tar and it's still there to this day.

O.H.: So that was down the back was it?

P.G.: Yes, that was in the back verandah.

O.H.: What are your memories of growing up on a farm as a boy?

P.G.: Well, I remember getting attacked by the rooster and I remember Jerry the bull getting loose in the farmyard and Darkie the horse charging across the paddocks and killing himself by falling into this twenty foot high creek. I remember walking to the Strathalbyn Primary School. I remember my brothers in particular catching possums, that would have been during the Depression, selling the skins. I remember my mother in what we called the dairy, a dug out dairy, with newspapers tied around her legs to stop these biting flies that were very prevalent, and I remember when my brother Charlie cut one of his fingers off climbing a tree.  
(laughs)

O.H.: How did he do that?

P.G.: Oh, Charlie was climbing a tree and for some reason he was swinging a tomahawk at the same time, probably trying to cut a branch off and I remember Charlie with his pony, and to this day although he's eighty years old, he loves horses and he's actually bought a racehorse recently (laughs) so he expects to live a lot longer.

O.H.: Did you have chores that you had to do as a boy?

P.G.: Yes, one of my chores was picking up the eggs and the fowls roamed free and they laid most of their eggs in the geranium hedges about the place, and I would collect the eggs and so many fowls so many eggs, I'd get half way around the geraniums and I'd have enough and when the fowls weren't laying so well, I'd go the extra distance and bring back mostly rotten eggs (laughs). Mother would roll them around on the table and sort out the good ones. I remember being bathed in front of the wood stove with, in the big tubs that we used in the laundry. Oh laundry says I, on



the back verandah, and that happened about once a week. I remember cooking mushrooms on the wood stove under a little pat of butter and I remember the sparrows which used to get into the thatched farm outbuildings. We did have a sheep shearing shed and I remember my brothers in there having a great potato fight with me cowering down and the potatoes whizzing through wire netting and (laughs) being made into potato chips at the same time.

O.H.: How did you get on with your brothers?

P.G.: Excellent, yes. I was my father's favourite and I got on very well with the brothers. There were certain strains in the marriage, much the same as the strains which are in the rural marriages nowadays, and I remember my mother, if she was contemplating going back to Victoria, it changed her mind when she found out she was pregnant with me. My father used to tell the story of how I saved the marriage (laughs) so I tended to be my father's favourite.

O.H.: Did you get on better with your father than your mother?

P.G.: Yes I would say, yes I would say that. Yes I got on very well with my father but reasonably well with my mother, but I think mother had to do perhaps disciplinary things that perhaps father avoided doing.

O.H.: What was discipline like?

P.G.: Oh, very reasonable, I don't think I ever got - I don't think I ever received physical punishment. I know Mum used to chastise me up to a point but I don't think - no I can never remember my father hitting me. He used to - the elder brothers he they used to get a whack with the broom bush, we'd go on a car ride say to Victor Harbor and father had an old Oakland and when the three elder ones were playing up in the back he'd sometimes stop the car and get out his pocket knife and select a nice bit of broom bush and come back and sweep backward and forwards through the three of them in the back seat (laughs). Tune them up a bit.

O.H.: Oh yes. (laughs) So what were your interests when you were a boy, sort of primary school age?

P.G.: Cricket, cricket and I suppose I could say cricket again. One of the things we did do to get pocket money, we used to go to the abandoned farmhouses around Strathalbyn and up towards Macclesfield on our push-bikes and almost all the abandoned farmhouses had fruit trees, mediterranean type fruit trees, there'd be figs, quinces, almonds and we would collect these and sell them with Crompton down in Strathalbyn and spend the few pence on like I bought an air gun and I'm not very proud of this but we used to shoot some of, most of the native birds. That was the way we paid for our, say our push-bike expenses and I used to make two shillings a Saturday by caddying at the Lodge Golf Links. They were owned by Sir Lancelot Stirling, a rather famous name in South Australia, the Stirlings I think were associated with the Burra copper mines and Sir Lancelot himself was the President of the Upper House in the South Australian Parliament.

O.H.: What about school, what were you like at school - a good scholar?

P.G.: Oh yes, I, I had the seven years at the Strathalbyn Primary

School and I remember the pepper trees and the lunch-shed and the vegetable garden which we had and I remember the cane. I remember the cane, I don't remember what I got it for but there was no shortage of caning. And we had, I remember one of our boys who used to say "bloody" a bit and "bugger" a bit and this was almost a part of his language and he'd get caned every time and that poor lad he, he was caned almost every day of the week. Looking back on it I recognise that one of the headmasters was a sadist. He, I think he almost wore himself out caning boys at that time.

O.H.: What size school was it then, student numbers?

P.G.: Well in Grade six - I've got a school photograph - in Grade six there would have been oh about thirty students. I would have thought at the primary school perhaps a hundred and eighty to two hundred. After primary school I went to the Strathalbyn High School and I was in the intermediate class at the time when the World War Two was declared, and I remember the Headmaster coming in, Mr. Burfield, and announcing it. And in grade - in the first year of high school we had a Mr. Thomas, Frank Thomas, who was a veteran of the First World War and he used to tell a story of being wounded in France and being given rum, and he said that's not the best idea he said because the rum so stimulated his blood flow that he almost bled to death (laughs). Again at Strathalbyn High School it was mostly cricket, football and we played a little bit of golf even in those early days.

O.H.: What was your usual thing after school, what would you do?

P.G.: Bread and jam (laughs).

O.H.: So you'd come straight home?

P.G.: Oh yes, yeah, playing down perhaps at the Angas, Angas River. I had to make my way along a long avenue of pines which I remember the magpies swooping upon us and occasionally there'd be the Afghan traders with, on the side of the road in the wide verges of the road with their covered caravans and the Afghans would sharpen scissors and knives and sell cotton and needles and camphor and perhaps some proprietary medicine. Looking back on it I think they were probably camel drivers, cameleers who had been displaced by the motor vehicles and trains and they took up this caravan existence.

O.H.: Did you spend time with them when you were a kid?

P.G.: Yes, yes, they were fairly friendly men of course, I never saw any Afghan women, they were men living in their caravans camping on the side of the roads and mostly trading with farmers.

O.H.: What was your parents view of education?

P.G.: Good healthy view. The - my youngest brother is an Associate Professor. They had a good view and encouraged education. The five of us finished up with good educations. Some of us had to do it as adults but no our parents were very supportive in that respect.

O.H.: So you were encouraged to do your homework?

P.G.: Oh yes, yeah.

O.H.: What do you think you gained from growing up in the country like that?

P.G.: Lot of memories and a freedom from being tempted to be vandals because the country area that I lived in was like an adventure playground. There were old farmhouses, old fruit trees, sporting facilities, mushrooming, shooting birds with an air gun, all those things, a creek, tadpoles, frogs, fish and we, as a result of that we didn't get into mischief. I feel sorry for the city kids. I feel sorry for them, if you're adventurous and active what's there to do in Adelaide apart from graffiti for a bit of excitement.

O.H.: So you'd spend a lot of time as a boy, moving about the place?

P.G.: Yes, yeah.

O.H.: Who would you spend your time with, your brothers or friends?

P.G.: Well, mother spaced them out at about four or five year spaces and the short answer is no, not with my brothers, young Don the youngest one, I was closer to him than to Colin who's seven years older than me. So it was my contemporaries at school.

O.H.: Anyone in particular you remember?

P.G.: Yes, a boy called Hopgood and there was Brookes. The Brookes family and then the Muggs of all things, Brideson boys and a man I met on the bus the other day a Stone, Cyril Stone, we called him Squib Stone, but I didn't call him that the other day (laughs).

O.H.: Was it all boys, were there girls?

P.G.: Mostly boys, the girls didn't count, not up to the time I left Strathalbyn.

O.H.: So you were still in Strathalbyn when the War broke out?

P.G.: Yes.

O.H.: How did you feel that day the Headmaster came in and told you about it?

P.G.: Well, I don't remember any particular feeling. We had been conditioned to be Empire boys. At our school assemblies we put our right hand across our heart and recited the National Anthem and sung the "Song of Australia", Karl Linger's, we all sung that and Carolyn Carlton I think wrote the words for it, the "Song of Australia", and that still stays with me today. I go up to the Karl Linger Memorial Service at West Terrace each Australia Day and more's the pity that that was not our National Anthem. And there was the drum and fifes at school, kettle drums and marching off to our classes. That assembly at primary school took place every day. I don't recall any such assembly at high school, we would have had assemblies but not the daily assembly with the ceremony.

O.H.: When did you leave Strathalbyn to come to Adelaide?

P.G.: At the age of fourteen.

O.H.: What made your family decide to do that?

P.G.: Well we'd lost the farm, my grandfather owned the farm and the lawyers in Strathalbyn had some control over the farm. My father paid two pound a week for the farm and somebody offered two pound five shillings and he sat down and did a few sums and said "well I'm not making anything now and I don't intend staying here and losing money" and there was work in Adelaide at the time, there was the stimulus that they had built munition factories and there was plenty of work, so we left Strathalbyn and came down here to Adelaide. I went to Adelaide Boys' High School in Grote Street for a year.

O.H.: What were your feelings about leaving the country and coming to the City?

P.G.: Well, those feelings developed not long after I'd left Strathalbyn and it was not a good feeling. Looking back on it though, had we - we couldn't have remained in Strathalbyn, none of the boys remained there. So it was a beneficial move and my father got work and then he joined the Army and my mother worked at T.J. Richards on Anzac Highway and she welded aeroplane parts.

O.H.: Where did you live when you came to town?

P.G.: At No. 11 Alexandra Avenue, Ashford.

O.H.: What was the house like there in comparison to your home in Strathalbyn?

P.G.: Cramped (laughs) confined and there was no golf, no adventure playground, and cricket at high school, but not near the freedom and fun of living in the country.

O.H.: Did you find any difficulty adjusting?

P.G.: No. I did quite well at school, no difficulty. My brother went to the Richmond Primary School on South Road, and I think to this day his name is on the Honour Board there of having, at that time, gained the highest marks in the qualifying certificate for that school that had ever been obtained.

O.H.: How did you get in to Adelaide High?

P.G.: Rode a bike (laughs) from Ashford, not far.

O.H.: So how would you come in, up the Anzac Highway I suppose?

P.G.: Yes.

O.H.: What was the traffic like then?

P.G.: I don't - I think bike riding was very comfortable then, comfortable and it's war time and there was petrol rationing, the roads would have been quite safe.

O.H.: Do you remember anything of Adelaide at war before you left yourself?

P.G.: In Adelaide?

O.H.: Mmn.

P.G.: Well Adelaide High School was very cramped. I remember the teachers, there was Mr. Richards and Mr. Sawley and Mr. West was the Headmaster and a Mr. Bone was the drawing teacher. Cramped school. I remember the stone wall between the girls and the boys, so we'd all line up and look across the stone wall. The asphalt the heat of the place, I've mentioned the cramped nature, so different from being at a country high school.

O.H.: In what ways?

P.G.: Oh, confined and nothing to do after the school was finished apart from going home, nothing to do.

O.H.: Did you go into Adelaide much as boy, for entertainment?

P.G.: I went in and had a tooth pulled out for out for a shilling one day - Mr. Dungey up in Victoria Square. We were not encouraged to hang around the streets. That was not on.

O.H.: Why?

P.G.: Well, society then there seemed to be a closer hold on where you were and what you were doing. I remember Mr. Tunney the Tobacconist, he's still there, and Cappel's the fish is still there in Grote Street not far from the school. We did go to the Market, but within the schoolyard we were confined, not permitted to go outside.

O.H.: Did you come into Adelaide with your family at all?

P.G.: I don't remember that.

O.H.: So the Market, was that you on your own or would the family come in?

P.G.: Oh, that would be after school hours, we'd go to the Market. No, I don't remember any family visits to the city for any reason.

O.H.: What was the Market like then, what memories do you have?

P.G.: I haven't got a clear recollection, I would think that the fruit and vegetable would be much the same. It was an unroofed Market, I remember better from when I worked for the Council, there was an arcade, quite an attractive arcade that led into the Central Market and as I say the market was unroofed, I think there were rows of galvanised timber framed roofing in the Market at that time. This is I'm talking about 1950, and it wouldn't have changed from 1942.

O.H.: So your real memory of Adelaide as a boy before you left for the War is really just the school?

P.G.: Yes.

O.H.: What made you decide - you finished your Leaving and then you enlisted, what made you decide to do that?

P.G.: Well, I was a fairly lazy scholar at the time and I suppose that joining the Navy was not unlike going back to the country - I'm guessing at that, but I couldn't wait, I couldn't wait, couldn't go quickly enough.

O.H.: How did that come about, what happened?

P.G.: I just joined up when I turned seventeen.

O.H.: Do you remember that day?

P.G.: Yes, I do. I certainly remember the day we left, we left from the Adelaide Railway Station on the 6th of October, 1942, and I remember the ladies at the Adelaide Railway Station with all their knitted things, kits, balaklavas, jumpers, leggings in a navy blue heavy wool knit and all these lovely South Australian mothers down there must have knitted all this gear and giving it to the sailors and I never had occasion to use any of it. My entire service was spent in the tropics (laughs). It was almost as if we were going to the South Pole which was the wrong direction, but it's lovely, I remembered that.

O.H.: How did your parents feel about you joining up?

P.G.: Well I already had two of the brothers had gone, one in the Army and one in the Air Force, one was in England. I seem to remember that they were certainly not unhappy about it. I would say they would have been quite supportive, there was no great emotion about it. I had to get permission from the my parents to join, I was so young. Three shillings a day and we joined as boys, fine old tradition from the British Navy, until you're eighteen you're called boys and one of the traditions, it didn't apply to the Australian Navy, but one of the traditions if you were going into action the boys were all herded together in the safest part of the ship, but the Aussies didn't do that (laughs).

O.H.: Where did you go to enlist?

P.G.: I enlisted at Port Adelaide, and left from the Adelaide Railway Station, and trained at HMAS Cerberus, which is on the - I think the Mornington Peninsular in Victoria, it's a god forsaken place, it's swampy, it's bitterly cold, which begs the question of why I didn't use all that navy blue gear, but I think I think I'd parted company with that at the time. The Navy had funny ideas about clothing that was not a part of regular issue. We went by troop train and we got off the electric train at Frankstone and then went by steam train into the Naval Depot and for the first few days of that service nobody other than the Officers and Petty Officers were allowed to come near you, none of the old sailors were allowed near you, you were quarantined. And I trained as a coder which is a part of the Navy not in existence now, but the idea was you put plain language into four figure groups and you transposed that off of a code book which was issued from time to time and weighted with lead. The idea was if you were in trouble you'd throw that over the side and the idea of changing

the books, the coding books, was to prevent against the enemy knowing the codes, so that if a ship was sunk and they were not sure of the security of those code books, they would change the codes, generally called manual coding.

O.H.: Did you choose to move into that or were you sort of assigned to that as a field?

P.G.: Well, I didn't want to be a stoker for sure, and I didn't want to be seaman and signalling - that is morse code etc., was somewhat time consuming and the coding was a very short course (laughs). I would have chosen and I would have known that I was going to be a coder when I joined up.

O.H.: So where did you serve during the War?

P.G.: Well after about, would you believe it after about eight weeks in Flinders on December the 12th, 1942, I arrived in Port Moresby in a landbase and we were housed in one of the residences of the civilians who had been evacuated from Port Moresby. We worked out of the old AWA wireless station at six mile.

O.H.: We're about to be cut off. I'll just swap the tape over to the other side.

#### TAPE 1 SIDE B

O.H.: Okay, so you'd just arrived in New Guinea.

P.G.: Yes, we worked out of the old AWA wireless station about six miles out of Port Moresby and that was at the end of Wards Drome, one of the major airfields, and the Jackson's Field and Jackson Field was at seven mile. Jackson Field was named after a leader of the 77th Squadron of Kittyhawks, he lost his life over the thin red line in the early days of the Japanese attempt to take Port Moresby.

O.H.: What do you remember of those first days over there?

P.G.: A big adventure playground (laughs). There was Simpson Harbour, we had access to sail boats and launches and we used to go out on this magnificent harbour. We used to go to the movies with the Americans, the American Negroes and their big trucks and they were open air movies all the latest American films and entertainers were visiting us. I remember going across to Wards Drome in January of 1943 and getting onto a Dakota, a DC3, and going up to Wau and helping them to unload twenty five pounders for the Australian troops because the Wau aerodrome was under attack by the Japanese. Looking back on it I'd think twice about crossing the road but you're young, it's good fun. So over we'd go and hitch a ride and we'd go up and help them unload. We'd be in white (laughs), all the soldiers and the airmen were in khaki greens etc. We - I remember the very bad food and having bully beef that had been canned during World War I and meat and veg in cans and baked beans and bread which fell apart because the flour at the bakery in Port Moresby itself was so infested with weevils. And we had Papuan house boys Ken and Epi, they used to do our washing and bury our wastes and I've had what's called dobies ever since, that's a skin rash you pick up from washing that's not rinsed properly (laughs). We had visits from the Japanese, from the Japanese aircraft. I remember the mosquitos,

malaria and being in hospital with bronchial pneumonia and the dust of the place and the noise and also the great amount of civilian leftovers, like lounge suites, lounge chairs, tables, chairs and documents, lawyers documents. The sailors, I wasn't the first sailor there by any means, but they'd gathered together all this stuff and they used to sit back in lounge chairs and read these confidential documents (laughs) on divorces and what else happened in Port Moresby. And I remember ANGAU that's the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit and we got quite a blast once because we allowed the house boys to sit down and play cards with us and the white men of ANGAU was appalled at that he said "We'll never control the natives after the War if you allow them that type of status within the place". Port Moresby itself was a very arid place, with stunted gum, like mallee scrub and about thirty miles inland was the start of the tracks across the Owen Stanley Ranges, just beyond Rona Falls, we used to go up there, hitch our way up on our days off and bathe in the rivers there. I remember almost being drowned in one river at in the river called the Laloki, which was just out of Port Moresby, saved by one of these one of these life-saver types from Sydney it's like being dragged along by a speedboat actually (laughs) when he picked me up, I can remember that.

O.H.: Did you spend your whole war there?

P.G.: No, I had nine months there and adventure got me again, you never volunteer for anything but I did volunteer for this, I went on what's called a beach master's party to a place called Goodenough Island. Now beach masters, there was twelve of us, and the idea was you secure and set up some sort of a base on an island or an area which has been recently taken from the enemy. So over we went to Goodenough Island via Milne Bay and we went from Milne Bay to Goodenough in a Fairmile, that's a motor launch, loaded up with our gear, and we finished up in a mission hut, an old mission hut that had been shot up by the Japanese and so we set up our radio and our battery charger and secured our stores and looked for where the Americans were, because the Americans had great food, beautiful food, they had cigarettes, candy and Hershey bars. They had nice clothing, they had everything that we didn't have, although their fresh food was coming from Australia, the food we got was canned, inferior, been laying out in the sun. The Americans had bacon and ham and turkeys and beautiful fresh fruit and fresh vegetables. So we went looking for the Americans and they fed us, they were very generous. And so we used to report shipping movements and occasional raids mainly on the airbase, but I do remember a ship being driven onto the reef that existed in the narrow passage between Goodenough Island and Ferguson Island. There were Japanese on Ferguson, but they were stragglers mainly and every time there was an air-raid the lights and the fires would start on Ferguson. They were the Japanese sort of guiding things in. And of interest, on Ferguson I think President Kennedy was in the what they called the PT base on Ferguson and Goodenough was the first area used by MacArthur in his push back to New Britain first of all, and I recall quite clearly the exercises of bombarding these coral atolls and launching the personnel barges and exercise in storming this atoll and that was the early training for the Americans that used this technique right back to the shores of Japan.

O.H.: How long did you stay there?

P.G.: Nine months in all and I had had several bouts of malaria and I'd been in the hospital on Goodenough Island with with an ulcer, tropical ulcers on the lower legs and I was almost invalided out back to Moreton,



that's at Brisbane, had some leave at home, brought home a kitbag full of American cigarettes, spent nine months at Morton, and then from Moreton I got what I'd actually joined the Navy for, that is a draft to a sea-going ship, and I went across to Fremantle and joined the crew of a corvette called the Launceston.

O.H.: Is that where you spent the rest of the War?

P.G.: No, the Launceston had served at Trincomalee and in the Persian Gulf, that's where Saddam Hussein etc. - Kuwait and all the rest of it, and she was being refitted at Fremantle and for working up trials we exercised British submarines, that is we'd go out off Rottnest Island and they would fire a torpedo at us, without a warhead hopefully, and set at a depth so it would pass under us. If they could surprise us all well and good and if we could surprise them well they'd have to try harder, and as the torpedo passed on we would - the submarine they'd go back to Fremantle and have a good time and we'd take off after this torpedo (laughs) and when it run out of fuel it was adjusted to float to the surface and we'd recover the torpedo, and by the time we got back to Fremantle, the submarine would be ready to go out for another exercise (laughs). No, I'm making it sound a bit grim. We had a good time at Fremantle and then we joined the 22nd Mine Sweeping Flotilla, that was about eight corvettes. We left Fremantle for Sydney, Australian Bight, and then we joined the British Pacific Fleet and went off to war again (laughs). From there we went up to Manus Island and we swept for mines and unfortunately I took ill again, I had a relapse of the malaria and came back to Brisbane, for another nine months and by that time the war had finished. VP Day, I celebrated that in Brisbane and not long after that I don't know why, but the Navy sent me to Thursday Island of all places, and I had about six months up there.

O.H.: How did you feel at the end of the war?

P.G.: Well I went back to - I went labouring, I went back to work fairly quickly. I don't know that I had any - there was no trauma or anything like that, the big adventure had come to an end. I don't know that I was all that anxious to leave the Navy, I had thought of rejoining it. Whilst waiting demobilisation I was at Torrens, at Birkenhead and I had the job of mowing the lawn, well I used to mow it every day, bottle tops and all, shaved it down to the dirt and kept on shaving (laughs) and that was a pretty boring five or six weeks, so I was probably ready to leave the Navy. I had dental treatment and I remember that I passed that up I went to a private dentist it was so horrible. I had a medical discharge examination and if you don't mention all that's wrong with you at those they hold it against you for ever after if you ever apply to Repatriation or Veteran Affairs and I had a, what would we call it, it was a sort of an intelligence test and they assessed you for further studies and I came up pretty good on that, but looking back on it I think I was a bit lazy at that stage, I didn't feel like going to school. I got permission to do an oenology course at Roseworthy and I went out to Roseworthy and that was regimented at the time and Doctor Callaghan was running it and I thought that's enough for me, I'd had enough of that, so I went -

O.H.: Of the regimentation you mean?

P.G.: Oh yes, I'd really had enough of that and do this and do that, that was enough. So I tended to drift about a bit and I took on

labouring work, I laboured at the brewery for a while, no regrets about that, but by 1950 I think we'd had a couple of children and I saw this job advertised with the City Council, as a Traffic Inspector.

O.H.: Was that in the paper?

P.G.: Yes, yes, very exalted term wasn't it, Traffic Inspector, the only other inspectors were Police Inspectors, that I knew of, and I went up for an interview and I took along my service discharge because the policy of the Council at that time was to employ only returned men, and I was interviewed by Mr. Robert Hughes, who was the City Inspector, and following that interview he took me before Mr. W.C.D. Veale, who was the Town Clerk, and he carried out a fairly searching interview.

O.H.: In what way?

P.G.: Oh, Mr. Veale was a very competent person and he'd had a career in the Army. He'd had a lot of experience with men and I think he knew how to produce an atmosphere that sort of brought the best out in you and if the best wasn't good enough you didn't get the job.

O.H.: Can you explain that further, what you mean?

P.G.: Well he was a fairly forbidding man and a stern man and he would occasionally make what he thought was a joke, I'm not so sure the rest of us thought it was that. You stood in his company and you behaved yourself, you spoke when you're spoken to.

O.H.: So what was the interview like with him?

P.G.: Well it was good enough for me to get the job, and I started soon after as a Traffic Inspector, with a piece of chalk and a little book of stickers, and a day's training. It comes naturally to you I think traffic inspection, (laughs) handing out stickers, no great intellectual task.

O.H.: Do you remember your first day?

P.G.: No, I remember that I was handed a cap and a khaki dustcoat, brown coloured dustcoat, and I think one of the old Inspectors, there were seven others I think or six others when I joined it, fairly hard bitten cynical sort of guys, all ex-servicemen, Army mostly Army. No, no great remembrance of - I don't think there were any traumas that day.

O.H.: What was Mr. Hughes like, what was your first impression?

P.G.: Mr. Hughes was a World War One veteran, fiery man, I think probably very close to his Welsh ancestry. Yes, fiery would be the word to describe Mr. Hughes, the City Inspector, a Senior Officer of the Council. I always found him very fair, I only ever had one reprimand from him, that I remember.

O.H.: What for?

P.G.: I booked Justice Abbott. He was on the Supreme Court and he came sailing up Stephens Place attempting to drive into Rundle Street and he was against the traffic and I stopped him and explained and he insisted

that he was going to go out thataway and he pointed to Rundle Street, and I said, I remember it clearly, I said "I'll help you to go back out North Terrace, I'll get you to reverse into Charles Birk's driveway to their basement, their underground area". He said "I'm going that way" and I said "Well I'll have to report you". He said "You obviously don't know who I am, I'm Justice Abbott", so anyway he sails off into Rundle Street, and almost collides with a trolley bus, but I was called up the next day and I was reprimanded and told that I should have more common sense, that the Council depends on these judges to pass their By-Laws and Mr. Hughes said "It's a toss up whether I sack you or not". And somehow or other I escaped. I've always remembered that and I thought it was a fairly good example of wheels within wheels. I don't accept that Mr. Hughes was right and I certainly don't accept that Justice Abbott was right in reporting me for doing a duty.

O.H.: Did that occur at all any other times?

P.G.: No, that's the only time that there was what I thought to be improper influence in the work. I did work at Unley for a year, later after I'd finished the traffic job and become a Health Inspector. Unley was riddled with that type of thing. If you went out reporting people for having sand and gravel on the footpath you had to be very careful who you reported and who you didn't, there was friends of Councillors and friends of Mr. Dunnage the Member of Parliament, and woe betide you if you didn't have this sixth sense of knowing who not to offend.

O.H.: Taking you back to your Traffic Inspector days, what kind of training were you given in this day's training?

P.G.: Very little, very little.

O.H.: What did they show you?

P.G.: I think it was about a day and it was a five shilling offence and you actually stuck a little three inches by two inches ticket on the car, very little training. I never ever saw the By-Law which we were always talking about and there was several things. They're not allowed to be in a prohibited area more than fifteen minutes, and they're really supposed to be loading and there were limits, hour limits, and you chalked them and you came back.

O.H.: On the tyres like they do these days?

P.G.: Oh yes, on the tyres, and on a wet day you'd know if they'd shifted the car. There was all sorts of tricks and the motorist was trying to fool you and you were trying to be sneaky with the motorist (laughs).

O.H.: What was it like when you started with the smaller number of Traffic Inspectors, what was the workload like?

P.G.: Oh, it was easy, that is we used to regularly book a hundred a day, particularly in Franklin and Flinders Streets. The men were sort of hard bitten guys if I remember that, cynical sort of, nice guys, good blokes, but somewhat cynical and hard bitten.

O.H.: Had they been there for a time already?

P.G.: Yes, I - there were two what they called Patrol Inspectors there and there was the Lord Mayor's Driver, Mr. Quinn. The Traffic Inspectors, I wouldn't know when the Council first set up the idea of Traffic Inspectors, I rather suspect that the traffic inspecting was done by the Patrol Inspectors, I don't know, if I had a guess I'd say it probably started about two years before I went there.

O.H.: So was there any sort of sense of camaraderie in that you were all ex-servicemen?

P.G.: Oh yes, yes.

O.H.: In what ways?

P.G.: Well there was a certain amount of mischief amongst us all and there was never any thought of that mischief being made known to anybody in authority.

O.H.: Tell me about some of the mischief.

P.G.: Mischief, oh, well I never got into any mischief (laughs). But, oh I think they used to have a drink whenever they felt like it on the job. I think once they got thirty or forty a day they'd perhaps relax for the rest of the day. There were temptations, there was the public library for us more intellectual ones (laughs). Oh I suppose going home early, I don't - oh maybe they had their own cars tucked away in the wrong places and maybe they conspired not to post stickers on them, fairly harmless things. Oh, the Royal Visit, we were on duty at the Royal Visit, and I know that we were forbidden to have a drink but that didn't stop us.

O.H.: You mentioned something about getting hold of the alcohol that was for the Royal Ball.

P.G.: Oh, yes, yes, well the guests had had enough and we didn't want to see any disgrace in front of the Queen and the entourage so we confiscated all the liquor (laughs).

O.H.: This was during the Ball itself?

P.G.: This was yes, this is in the early hours of the morning.

O.H.: So how did you manage that?

P.G.: Oh, there's been lots of alterations and demolitions but the bar was set up - how can I describe it, alongside of the Town Hall additions and the back of the bar led to our change-rooms, our locker-rooms, and of course it was very easy. Mr. Sidler, Mace, the Mace, Mr. Sidler, Jack Sidler, he was in charge of it and he realised that he'd run out of liquor and he stormed around to the Traffic Inspectors' rooms, there was hell to play, but no, they managed to get it all.

O.H.: You mentioned something about sneaking into the Prince Alfred Hotel as well.

P.G.: Oh yes, the Prince Alfred, if I had to have a wild guess at this I would say it would have lasted until 1952, yes there was a back tortured sort of cubby hole approach to the Prince Alfred from within the

Town Hall offices.

O.H.: Right, where was that, how did that work?

P.G.: Oh, this is hard to describe, it was sort of down narrow squeaky stairs and through doors and finally you got into this little back cubby hole of a bar. Yes the Prince Alfred was still going when I joined the Council.

O.H.: So how did you find out about that little cubby hole way?

P.G.: I would have been led astray by some of the older men (laughs).

O.H.: This would have been when you'd just started basically?

P.G.: Yes, yes.

O.H.: How often did that occur?

P.G.: Oh, seemed to be every afternoon I think. I think the Engineers were the ones who led us astray, blame them.

O.H.: Who do you remember from the Engineers Department?

P.G.: Oh, there used to be an old guy there who played the bagpipes and the Engineers would rig up these things with pulleys and levers and all to put a lump of sugar in a cup of tea (laughs). Yes, fairly relaxed place the Town Hall, until Mr. Veale pressed his buzzers and then people were running in all directions.

O.H.: What was your impression of the sort of atmosphere of the City Inspector's office then, when you first started?

P.G.: City Inspector's? Oh, a fair amount of stress. Largely coming, I think largely generated by the taxi licensing at the time. Council licensed, I think they were green plates to operate in the City and red plates to come in and drop people in the City and lots of pirate activity, that is red plates occupying stands and picking up and a taxi industry, entrepreneurial I think and the activity of the pirates brought a lot of stress in. The - associated with booking cars and handing out stickers, yes that would have added to it, stressful times.

O.H.: You mentioned Mr. Bailey being the -

P.G.: Oh, Mr. Bailey, yes Mr. Bailey was the Inspector of Weights and Measures, Mr. Hughes' right-hand man, and also the Licensing Officer for the taxis.

O.H.: You said he was - you called him a hitman in a way?

P.G.: Well, he used to organise the dismantling of the pirates (laughs) put it that way.

O.H.: What did he do?

P.G.: Oh, he'd take us out of a night and we'd encourage or induce

the pirates to take us for a ride somewhere, a prearranged place, and he'd be waiting there and he would interview them and report them for this heinous crime of picking up in the City.

O.H.: What was he like?

P.G.: Jim Bailey? Well you didn't need to cross him, you had to stay on side with Jim and that and you may be called upon to do things that hurt your conscience a little.

O.H.: Like what?

P.G.: Well, pick up pirates, (laughs) catch pirates.

O.H.: Anything else?

P.G.: I worked as Weights and Measures with him, no that, that the - it was an unpleasant duty. In a way he was, he had pressure on him from the organised industry, they paid the licence fee and they expected the Council to protect the licence. The pirates themselves were cagey and shrewd and persistent and in that situation, if your going to practise entrapment sometimes you'll help them to be entrapped, if you know what I mean.

#### TAPE 2 SIDE A

O.H.: When you just started as a Traffic Inspector can you sort of describe how a day would take place, what you'd do?

P.G.: Well off you'd go reporting motorists in a pre-determined area and you'd come back and write the reports up and submit them to the typist.

O.H.: So you'd come back once a day or a number of times?

P.G.: Oh yes, sometimes it'd be in the afternoon and sometimes in the morning that you'd make your reports.

O.H.: What were your hours then when you first started, because that was before shift work?

P.G.: Well there was no flexi-time and the daily work would have been something like an eight hours day, a little bit of Saturday morning if I remember and overtime was manning the car parks in the Park Lands, either parking cars or collecting the shillings for each car that was parked and issuing tickets.

O.H.: You'd come in about what time?

P.G.: In the afternoon, four o'clock, half past three, four o'clock.

O.H.: And you'd start in the morning?

P.G.: My recollection, about half past eight.

O.H.: And would you be given a defined area each day?

P.G.: Yes, yes, each day, I can't remember that.

O.H.: Did you get to know the Adelaide streets pretty well in those days?

P.G.: Very well. Some of them have disappeared. I think David Street has gone, Elder Street has gone. There was a street near the Stock Exchange that's gone, I think that was called Anster Street. There were streets near Brookman's Building in Grenfell Street which have gone.

O.H.: So were you given a specific area that you would do each day you came in or were you sort of shunted around the whole of the City?

P.G.: Yes, I covered all of the City that was under hourly limits.

O.H.: How did you get around?

P.G.: Walked, other than East End Market when we did have access to push-bikes. East End Market was mainly done by the Patrol Inspectors because they had power to apply the By-Law on failure to clean up the debris from Market activities.

O.H.: And how much supervision would there be while you were on duty?

P.G.: Well there was - Mr. Hughes had supervision and Mr. Bailey a de facto supervision in the early days, but later on a Mr. Cyril Storr became a Senior Inspector.

O.H.: What was his task?

P.G.: Keep us in line, make us work, prevent us from smiling, and reporting misdemeanours.

O.H.: What was he like?

P.G.: Cyril was a World War One veteran, impeccable honesty. Faultless.

O.H.: How did he keep you in line, did he move about the City checking up on you?

P.G.: I seem to remember he only had to look at you.

O.H.: From what you're saying he was a fairly tough guy?

P.G.: He was a disciplinarian. Maybe not before he got the job but certainly after he became the Senior. You see with - in the Council it was noticeable in all the years I worked for them that the moment, the moment a Supervisor or a Departmental Head found his task becoming almost too much, the Council would appoint intervening Officers to isolate themselves from this hurley-burly of the day's activity and this was very noticeable and it grew and it grew and it grew up until say six months when the, when the re-organisation was mooted and has since taken place.

O.H.: Because the number of Traffic Inspectors was gradually

growing, wasn't it over that time?

P.G.: Yes, yes, I wouldn't know the exact figure but it at least doubled in the six years and eight months that I was a Traffic Inspector, at least doubled, if not trebled.

O.H.: Were you able to know everybody that was a Traffic Inspector?

P.G.: Yes, yes.

O.H.: Was there much turnover in people leaving?

P.G.: A trickle, a trickle. We had military medal winners, Air Force, Navy, mostly Army. I may have been the only Navy man, I know it was hard to have conversations with Army and Air Force guys.

O.H.: So was that inter-service rivalry there, was it?

P.G.: Oh a bit yes well, I was always telling them the Navy was the senior service, if you call that rivalry (laughs).

O.H.: What was the public attitude towards Traffic Inspectors then, of course these days you know - ?

P.G.: I thought it'd be very similar. We - I remember a Basil Harford, I think he was a prominent lawyer and he never took kindly to getting a sticker. At the time I was on it the Judges and Supreme Court officials had areas around the Supreme Court where they could stay all day without getting booked. The Trades Hall in Grote Street, they had a similar privilege, the Councillors had similar privileges and the doctors on North Terrace and they were fairly thick on the ground in those days, they had a similar privilege. We would book them, but somewhere in our organisation those reports would be cancelled. So there was fine balance between, well we've mentioned three authorities and one quasi-authority, there was this fine balance, hopefully that's all been done away with. So there were people who got lots of stickers and you used to wonder why, but I don't think they ever paid any. I had one only - well Justice Abbott, well that was an unpleasant experience - I had another man, I was standing leaning on a fire hydrant and he drove his car straight at me and collided with the fire hydrant in King William Street and set the water flowing. He was driving a Vanguard station sedan. We had one of our men, he was a very good boxer, he was a Navy man, Frank Howard, and he had, he was challenged to a fight by a motorist and he said "Well you have your first hit", so the motorist hit him and then Frank cleaned him up and ripped his shirt off his back, somewhat disorderly behaviour. He was taken before Mr. Veale and the conversation goes that, something like this, that Frank was asked to explain and he made his explanation, Mr. Veale said "Well you would have made a fine soldier my boy, unfortunately you're not suited to be a Traffic Inspector". So Frank I think lost his job. We had another man I, we named cars, Cameron Door cars after this man. These were the days when most of the cars were English cars and in turn most of them had their doors, their front doors pivoting on the centre stanchion of the car, and somehow or other with the door opening like that the ladies would have difficulty getting out and Frank used to rush forward and in the flurry of skirts and legs and arms and all the rest of it (laughs) he'd help them out of the car and I'll leave it to your imagination why he did that, but we called them Cameron Door cars and to this day when I meet some of the old blokes we say



"You don't see many Cameron Door cars around nowadays".

O.H.: Taking you back to that incident where the car came at you was that you personally or just because you were a Traffic Inspector?

P.G.: Well, I never booked him and I would think he saw a stationery target and he couldn't resist it, but what he didn't know of course was that I was leaning on this fire hydrant. That happened outside the old Majestic Theatre in King William Street, which has been long since demolished.

O.H.: Did you ever have incidents of you know complaints and rudeness in dealing with the public?

P.G.: Against me?

O.H.: Yes.

P.G.: Oh, never, never.

O.H.: No, as a Traffic Inspector?

P.G.: (Laughs) Never, squeaky clean.

O.H.: I meant from the public you know when you booked them?

P.G.: No, no, they were overjoyed when I gave them a sticker (laughs).

O.H.: Let's have some honesty shall we (laughs)?

P.G.: Yes, modesty stops me from saying anything more than that.

O.H.: Was it a difficult thing to cope with that kind of thing?

P.G.: Not when you've got four kids and you're struggling, it's manna from heaven.

O.H.: So was it a stressful job, you know, knowing that you needed the job and the things you had to put up with?

P.G.: Well it didn't hurt me then but if I was doing it now, the strain would show.

O.H.: What about other Officers, were there problems, people just not being able to cope with it?

P.G.: No, they I think they coped with it, the older men by that cynicism that I mentioned. They had a job to do and they were a pretty hard bitten lot, most of them had been in particularly the Army, they'd been in very stressful situations. Booking cars would have been nothing to them.

O.H.: Now a couple of the other names you mentioned was a Mr. Gore, who was he?

P.G.: Horrie Gore, yes, Horrie was a Patrol Inspector, he was a

World War One man, and Tiger Moore was another Patrol Inspector he was an Army man. And Johnny Quinn and I think Johnny's still alive, he drove for the Lord Mayors. Johnny had the distinction of being the second highest paid man in the Council, he had so much overtime. Johnny was a good bloke.

O.H.: What were they like, Mr. Gore and Mr. Moore?

P.G.: Oh, nice, nice people, really nice. Mr. Gore was a gentle, elderly man.

O.H.: Were there any characters in the City Inspectors Department then, people that stand out in your mind?

P.G.: I've got an idea we were all - well old Frank the Cameron Door car man, he was a real character, we called him Chiefy Pie. He responded to flattery beautifully, and he thought he was a handsome man, Frank did.

O.H.: Was he?

P.G.: Oh, in a rustic sort of way I suppose. Characters, yes I think we had plenty of characters. We had a man who had worked on the Burma Railway for the Japanese. As I say we had a military medal winner, and when he worked at the receptions in his uniform and we did wear our ribbons, our medal ribbons, he was he was the centre of attention from even the most prominent citizens of Adelaide would speak to him. His name, I just forget his name at present.

O.H.: So you wore your ribbons on your uniform?

P.G.: Yes, yes.

O.H.: That's interesting.

P.G.: It helped a bit (laughs). That helped a bit didn't it, don't you think? Person who got a sticker - we had discretion in those days and I don't see anything wrong with it. We would work on North Terrace and a lady would come struggling with a baby - lots of doctors on North Terrace - and she'd be five minutes over and we were able to say, "oh look forget it" and help her into the car, help her with the baby and the pusher and I don't see anything wrong with that, I think the iron clad discipline that emerged in later years led to a lot of problems with morale. It's a difficult job and it's nice to have the discretion, even if you had to write the reasons of why you exercised that discretion. The cynics might say well that's open to corruption, maybe it is, but if the guys were corrupt they would be found out eventually. I believe the Council wants to put a new face on things and talking a lot about their clients and their customers, that wouldn't be an outlandish reform at least it could be considered, but that did make our job easier at that time.

O.H.: Was that accepted by Mr. Hughes, was he happy with it?

P.G.: I think he initiated that, oh yes, we wouldn't have been exercising that discretion unless it was approved of by Mr. Hughes.

O.H.: There was - I came across a case of some Inspectors getting into trouble for accepting money in return for not putting a sticker on.

P.G.: That did happen, yes, that did happen. That happened down in I think it was Roper Street or one of the streets off of Flinders Street, yes that's correct.

O.H.: Did that happen much? That you were aware of?

P.G.: Well, that was a case that was found out, I think the Inspector was dismissed and I think that was one of the reasons why the discretion was removed from the Traffic Inspectors.

O.H.: They also had an enquiry into overtime when they introduced shift work, did you find you were doing a lot of overtime when you first started?

P.G.: Yes, the overtime as I remember it was to do with apprehending pirate taxis and with working in the Park Lands at functions, sporting functions, races, cricket, football.

O.H.: What were you doing, working with the parking?

P.G.: Parking cars and collecting the shillings. And during the 1952 Davis Cup, I was working at Memorial Drive and Frank Sedgeman came in and he insisted on paying the shilling and I said "You're putting the show on today Mr. Sedgeman". He said "I'm an amateur, I must pay everywhere I go". "Oh", I said "that sounds a bit rude", he said "No, no, here's the shilling". Just like the professionals nowadays (laughs).

O.H.: Do any incidents stand out strongly from those first days as a Traffic Inspector?

P.G.: Oh, incidents, I think I may have mentioned most of them. I remember the horse troughs around the streets of Adelaide, there were two that I recall, one was outside the Harbours Department building in Victoria Square, the facade of that building still stands. It was moved to make way for the SGIC building, it was moved on steel rollers with hydraulic rams. The other horse trough was under Morphett Street Bridge. The one outside the Harbours Board is now on the corner of East Terrace and North Terrace at the, one of the memorials down there. I remember the streets which were paved with jarrah blocks and as they were removed they were burnt in the tar trolleys that used to be about the City and they were also sold to the staff to burn in their open fires at home.

O.H.: Did you buy any?

P.G.: Yes, yes, well I bought plenty of them. In fact I think they gummed up my chimney (laughs). I do remember the burning off of the Park Lands each, towards the end of summer each year they would set fire to the Park Lands and the leaves down in the Government Reserve at the, near the Zoo.

O.H.: What were the Park Lands like then, in those early days?

P.G.: I think under-developed, open paddocks, forbidden to put the plough to them or any cultivation. I was always told that that was the law that they were not allowed to plough the Park Lands. I've since read a book on the Park Lands called "Decisions and Disasters", but there's.

nothing in that book that talks about cultivation. They were open land. They were muddy and green in winter and dried off, cracked in summer.

O.H.: Where were you living then, when you first started in 1950?

P.G.: Here at 2 Barrow Crescent, Lockleys, we've been here forty three years now.

O.H.: How did you get into work?

P.G.: Motor car, I had a motor car.

O.H.: Where did you park?

P.G.: Probably in the wrong place.

O.H.: Did you have parking privileges somewhere?

P.G.: No, no, privilege was not a word that we knew. I was the first man to ride a motorcycle for the City Council on the traffic work, a BSA 250cc side valve.

O.H.: How did you get chosen to do that?

P.G.: I've got an idea I was one of the youngest ones there. That was probably the reason. Looking at the old blokes, the old Army blokes, some of them had been through a good amount of trauma during the War, I couldn't imagine them riding bikes, but I was young, comparatively young and active. Being a Navy man of course I suppose I had first choice (laughs).

O.H.: How did that change your job, once you had the motorbike?

P.G.: Oh, I had a better uniform and wet weather gear, it gave me mobility I suppose, more interest about the City. When I studied to be a Health Inspector and Meat Inspector I was able to ride the bike, put stickers on cars and study at the same time.

O.H.: Yes, you mentioned having your clipboard.

P.G.: Yes, I had a clipboard, they gave me a clipboard, and I used to be able to put my meat inspection notes up on the clipboard and it was no high speed thing, fairly leisurely pace around town. It gave more interest, more variety in the job.

O.H.: In what way?

P.G.: Well, walking and chalking and putting on stickers is - you're anchored a bit aren't you? Like on a motorbike I suppose you can always get away from the scene of the crime (laughs).

O.H.: You felt safer did you?

P.G.: Certain safety in it.

O.H.: So did that extend the area that you had to survey?

P.G.: Yes, yes, there was extension. There were no traffic meters in those days, no parking meters. I do remember the attempts to locate the Foundation Stone of the Adelaide Town Hall using metal detectors. I think metal detectors, there were lots laying around after the war and the Foundation Stone has been a mystery, it was put down in 1862 and referred to by Governor Daly in 1864, but nobody's ever been able to find it ever since. There was a metal capsule put down with the Stone.

O.H.: When was that, in your early days?

P.G.: That was in the early 1950's they were looking for it.

O.H.: What was the Town Hall like as a place to work in those early days, what was the atmosphere of the place?

P.G.: Disciplined, hierarchal and things had been done that way for a hundred odd years and everybody was determined that they'd be done that way in the future. Sealing wax, red tape around things, very disciplined.

O.H.: Was there much sort of clerical procedure you had to go through with your work?

P.G.: No, we transposed from our books onto forms which in turn went to the typists. Occasionally we'd have to go to Court, occasionally we'd be asked to check our the details of our report. The Council didn't accept their Inspectors' - and neither they should - they didn't accept their Inspectors' reports without question at times, nothing wrong with that. Probably sparked by the motorist writing in and putting up a some sort of a case.

O.H.: Did that happen often?

P.G.: Yes, I think there was a fair amount of correspondence, I'd imagine there'd be correspondence nowadays. I'm just thinking whether if you kept refusing whether that correspondence would drop off. We had a parrot-like response to people who become aggressive on the matter, we would say "You may write a letter to the Town Clerk".

O.H.: That's what you'd say if you were - ?

P.G.: Yes, yes, unless we used discretion. Now you could, you could use discretion in the case of the mother with the baby struggling with a pusher and that, but if somebody come up and said "I haven't been here half an hour, I haven't been here an hour, what's your name? etcetera, etcetera, you gonna let me go?" or something like that, you'd - that was an approach that got everybody's back up, you'd adopt a very courteous manner and say, "Look you may write to the Town Clerk if you wish", and you'd write that down on the bottom of your report that you'd told them that.

O.H.: What was the report, like a verbatim description of what occurred?

P.G.: I know the sticker was a fairly miserable little thing and I think the report was put free-handed into a notebook, an ordinary notebook, but it was transposed onto a, probably an A4 report and signed and sent to the typist.

O.H.: Who were the typists then, did you have much to do with them?

P.G.: I remember a Lorna Tillet was a typist.

O.H.: What was she like?

P.G.: Oh, a nice girl Lorna, yes, nice.

O.H.: Did you spend time in the office itself much?

P.G.: Mr. Bailey occasionally, no to the latter part. No I don't think I did any clerical work, I think I worked with Mr. Bailey a bit on his pirate reports.

O.H.: So most of your time was spent out on the street?

P.G.: Oh, yes, yeah, that suited me I didn't like office work, I didn't like being inside.

O.H.: Was that a result of war service?

P.G.: Strathalbyn (laughs) Strathalbyn and the Navy. Of course we had a tramway system then and we had steam trains in those days.

O.H.: You mentioned about the earthquake in 1954 as well.

P.G.: Yes, yes, I remember walking out onto Pirie Street after that earthquake and seeing the the statues which used to adorn the insurance buildings in Pirie Street - if I remember rightly Pirie Street was very popular with the insurance companies - and these statues arms, legs and heads and corbelling off the parapets, was in Pirie Street.

O.H.: Was there much other damage?

P.G.: Yes, I think generally, I think the insurance companies faced an enormous bill. There was no damage in this house this is brick veneer, but I think the solid brick houses were damaged and commercial buildings were damaged. There were no, I don't remember any collapsed buildings. I remember the Police saying their building was very badly affected, that the concrete ceiling in the multi-level building was waving around like a flag in the breeze and we all said, "Fancy having a cop like that reporting on you". We couldn't believe that this could happen to a solid cement slab.

O.H.: Speaking of the Police, as a Traffic Inspector, did you have much liaison with them?

P.G.: Oh, a little bit yes. I think the Police lobbied very hard to get our uniforms more distinctly different to the Police uniforms. I don't know that the Police were all that comfortable with the, at that time with the Council's policy of having Traffic Inspectors. I know they didn't like the name very much because the Police had Traffic Inspectors, but they were Senior Police Officers.

O.H.: Were you aware of that then?

P.G.: Oh yes.

O.H.: That same year as the earthquake was the Queen's visit and we talked about stealing the alcohol.

P.G.: Yes, yes.

O.H.: Did you have any other special duties as a Traffic Inspector during that period?

P.G.: Yes, we had - I remember the procession and the kids and the general population up the trees and enormous banked seating and I'll just digress for a moment, there was never a higher bank of seating than that which they erected for the Davis Cup, that was enormous, that went out over War Memorial Drive. And I think the kiddies, the school kids, the tens of thousands of people that lined the route, if I remember rightly it was a very hot day that the Queen traversed the streets of Adelaide.

O.H.: Were you working that day?

P.G.: Yes, I worked in Light Square, doing what says you? I'm not sure what we were doing, watching on I suppose, perhaps keeping people back behind the imaginary blue line.

O.H.: Yes, I read that every employee was given an album or something of that visit, do you remember getting that?

P.G.: I couldn't have been an employee, an album?

O.H.: Yes the great, Glorious Royal Album.

P.G.: I don't remember that, I feel aggrieved, (laughs) I was left out.

O.H.: Okay, we're coming to the end again.

#### TAPE 2 SIDE B

O.H.: You mentioned a story the other day about parading in your rain gear.

P.G.: Yes, yes, that was that coincided with when I was selected to ride the motorbike for the first time and I was paraded before Mr. Veale in wet weather gear for the riding motor cycles of, and Mr. Elms, the City Treasurer, was present and he was sort of wringing his hands and he was saying "Oh, but the expense, the expense", and normally the Town Clerk would say the expense, the expense, but Mr. Veale seemed to take a contrary stance often and he said "It's not a matter of expense Elms, it's a matter of efficiency".

O.H.: So you got the gear?

P.G.: Yes, I got the gear. There was a photograph appeared in "The Advertiser", I did have a copy but I can't find it, of me in wet weather gear on the motorbike in Rundle Street.

O.H.: Oh, we'll have to look for that.

P.G.: Oh, I wish I could find it. Those were the days of the

annual visits of Lord Mayors of London, there's another photograph of me in the Town Hall sitting down with three other Traffic Inspectors, sort of a guard before the Lord Mayor of London.

O.H.: What do you remember about that?

P.G.: That you could hardly understand what they were saying.

O.H.: Why?

P.G.: Oh, very plummy gentlemen the Lord Mayors of London, not like us Australians.

O.H.: So what was your job?

P.G.: I suppose at the foot of the stairs that led up to the platform at the Town Hall, I would imagine I was there to stop assassins. I'm being a bit facetious, I'm not sure but it looked good in the photograph.

O.H.: Were you often pulled in for other jobs like that which didn't relate to traffic, as an Inspector?

P.G.: Yes, yes.

O.H.: What kinds of things?

P.G.: Receptions, I remember working at receptions as barman and carrying around what are we going to call them, canapes, canapes, oh those little delightful little sweetmeats that the ladies at the Town Hall put up. I remember parking cars at Springfield at a function to raise money for one of the Catholic colleges. Peter Josephs employed us out there, I remember that very well, Springfield, one of the colleges in the fifties, and I remember they had these chocolate wheels there and spun the chocolate wheel and racehorses on the choc, on this wheel and around the stopper stops on the thinnest segment on the wheel, a hundred to one, Peeping Tom, and one of the ladies there said "Oh, who had Peeping Tom at a hundred to one?" and a priest said "I did me dear". "Oh" she said, "Father whatever made you back Peeping Tom?" he said "I'm just living up to me name me darlin'". (laughs) True story that one. What's one of the girls' colleges, would you know any of them? It was a girls' college anyway I may remember it later on.

O.H.: So these functions would be during worktime?

P.G.: Yes, night-time mostly, sometimes during the daytime.

O.H.: I was going to ask, did you have much to do with, or know much of the Lord Mayor and the Councillors in those days?

P.G.: Lord Mayor's were normally always looking for threepences, or for birds in the sky. They were detached from us, they never spoke to us.

O.H.: They wouldn't know you by name?

P.G.: No, no they were days of class distinction, no back slapping, no first names, no familiarities. At the same time they never interfered



with you. They never approached you other than through the proper authorities.

O.H.: What about the Councillors and the Aldermen?

P.G.: Well, I remember Councillor Edwards, he was very active in those days, highly critical of a lot of things and I would say that he used to annoy Mr. Veale a bit, Councillor Bert Edwards, always drove Studebaker motor cars. Incidentally, Mr. Veale drove a Chevrolet, with the number plate of 237009, woe betide you if you booked that, I remember that.

[Interruption]

O.H.: Brookman Buildings?

P.G.: Yes, Brookman Buildings was in Grenfell Street, Brookman Building, the Brookmans themselves were early pioneering wealthy family, graziers etc. and they used to have the wool sales in there, and Bowmans Arcade where the Taxation Building which they've just vacated, Bowmans Arcade was sort of a nineteenth century arcade. There was plenty of those around, they were demolished and removed, some of them quite colourful. There used to be a Police Orderly at the Town Hall, and that goes, that was traditional, that goes back to the early days of South Australia but the Police Orderly was subsequently stationed elsewhere.

O.H.: Did you know him, was it a specific person?

P.G.: No, I don't remember any of the Police Orderlies, but there was one that was there for many years. There'd be contemporaries of mine who could remember the name, if you ever interview a Mr. Quinn, Johnny Quinn, he'd know his name.

O.H.: Getting back to the Mayors and the Aldermen, did that worry you that feeling of sort of being below them?

P.G.: No, no, I rather liked, I rather liked that.

O.H.: In what way?

P.G.: Oh, I don't particularly like familiarity in the likes of local government, I think it leads to problems. I'd rather the detached hierarchal structure.

O.H.: What was the relationship of the Traffic Inspectors to the Head of Department, to Mr. Hughes, that sort of level?

P.G.: Well, I would find it a bit difficult to gauge a relationship. In the thirty eight years I was at the Town Hall I felt that all the Departments were detached from each other. Not, not working closely, not good communication. It's true to say the left hand hardly knew what the right hand was doing, and bureaucratic. City Inspector's Department was eventually demolished and I thought that was a pity. The traditional fabric of local government was increasingly removed in later years.

O.H.: Where was the City Inspector's Office when you first started?

P.G.: His office was in the area which is now occupied by the Colonel Light Committee Room, or is it the Queen Adelaide Room, what do they call that where the Committees used to be?

O.H.: The Colonel Light Room.

P.G.: The Colonel Light Room, yes the Queen Adelaide's the reception room, that was where the City Inspector was, and we used to meander around through what we called Light Court, that was an unroofed area, alongside of the Town Hall additions, to reach our offices, in Queens Chambers.

O.H.: I heard something about bike races in the Town Hall did you see anything of those?

P.G.: That's old Boorman used to have the bike races and the cricket matches, no I was squeaky clean compared to that (laughs).

O.H.: Was there much social interaction between the Traffic Inspectors, outside of work?

P.G.: No, there was a Social Club. The short answer would be no. I'm not saying we were outcasts but, we were a little bit close to it. I remember a Mr. Edgar Humphries being a bit rude one day and he said "Well don't forget we get stickers as well". So, maybe we got most people's backs up. It was a bit of a provo-military police job I think, that never worried me.

O.H.: Were you involved in the Social Club when you started?

P.G.: Yes, I joined the Social Club very early and eventually was privileged to have a couple of years as the President of it.

O.H.: How did you hear about it?

P.G.: The Social Club?

O.H.: Mmmn.

P.G.: I think it's one of the first things you know when you come to the Town Hall. It was almost policy to inform any new employee that there was a Social Club and you were welcome to join it, it was sixpence a week or something like that.

O.H.: Did you do much with them in the very early days?

P.G.: Oh yes, I enjoyed the Social Club.

O.H.: What kind of things did they get up to?

P.G.: Oh, working on the committee and attending the functions, and generally labouring and work and cleaning up after functions.

O.H.: What were the functions like?

P.G.: Some of them excellent, some of them. It fell away a bit when the music changed in about, I would say about late sixties, early

seventies, the Beatle music was reasonable but then it got really hairy, there were all sorts of bands about. We had a succession of very poor bands and most of us wanted to do these old foot-tapping rhythm sort of dances and it tended - and the noise was another thing, the Town Hall was very sensitive acoustics and once you bought the noisy bands in there were a lot of people clapping there hands over their ears.

O.H.: What was it like in the early days, in the fifties?

P.G.: Very good. Dick Whittington was one of the early Presidents and Dick was very innovative, very creative, excellent. Peter Webb was another President, yes they were great functions, hay-rides and train rides up the hills and moonlight walks and hay-rides down around the what's the circus site area now. There was a house down there, the Park Lands Ranger had a house down in those area of the Park Lands, that's where they have the Skyshow. No they were 1930's type entertainment, quite good.

O.H.: And you became involved in the union you said earlier?

P.G.: Yes, I served on the Municipal Officers Association, that was Mr. Balnaves was the Secretary and Mr. Donnar from Melbourne was the Federal Secretary, Mr. Dick Gray and Dick Whittington served on it.

O.H.: When did you get involved?

P.G.: Oh, very early on, I was on it as a Traffic Inspector and I'm pretty sure I was on it as a Health Surveyor, Health Inspector.

O.H.: As an Inspector how did you get involved, Traffic Inspector?

P.G.: Oh, probably looking for better conditions and better money. It would be as almost as simple as that.

O.H.: What were the conditions and the money like then when you started?

P.G.: Well it was very welcome, very welcome. It was better than labouring work. The conditions were, I thought they were quite reasonable for the times, hours reasonable. We had a uniform couple of uniforms a year or one full uniform and a pair of pants something like that. The Council was very careful with its money and I think there was only one Council Officer had a, maybe two had cars provided, one was Mr. Veale and one other, I think the Council would have a lot more than two cars nowadays. I think it was reasonable for the time.

O.H.: What were your main concerns on the union then when you were a Traffic Inspector?

P.G.: Well, I would sum it up this way, that it was to better the Traffic Inspectors' lot, simple as that.

O.H.: How receptive was Council to the union then?

P.G.: I don't think they were very receptive. I don't think Mr. Veale was at all receptive and in a way they were custodians of ratepayers' money, it was a fairly tightly budgeted operation.

O.H.: Do you remember any particular victories in that time?

P.G.: No, nothing that stood out. The biggest victory I had was changing from Traffic to Health Inspector and that was about a fifty percent betterment in salary and wages, and I would say that in 1972 everything changed (laughs), yes that really, money really took off then.

O.H.: So you continued as a Traffic Inspector and in 1957 you became the Inspector of Weights and Measures, how did that happen?

P.G.: Oh, I think to help out Mr. Bailey, we we had a full set of weights, measures, volume volumetric things. They were - I think they were based on Imperial measurement, it was a beautiful set of stuff, I think they were sold for scrap and more's the pity because I remember it as brass and copper and they could measure bushels and pecks and this type of thing and they had a yard measure there that was based upon this yard that's somewhere in London in a glass case (laughs) or something like that. It was all Imperial measurements, and we would load them up in the Dog Catcher's van, and hundredweights and pounds and bushels and off we'd go and we would test people's equipment and stamps, stamp them in a little lead insert that was usually on the base of the scales. Sometimes Mr. Bailey would fail the scales and he'd tell them where they could go to get fixed up. I remember the hide and skin stores in Light Square, pretty smelly places.

O.H.: You went there for the weights and measures?

P.G.: Yes, I think we went there for some reason, I think some scales, there were weighbridges here and there massive, massive scales that could weigh almost anything. The Council had a big weighbridge. It's almost gone out of fashion now all those things. We'd measure petrol for gallons and milk for gallons and pints.

O.H.: How did your job change from being a Traffic Inspector to doing that?

P.G.: Well I didn't do all that much weights and measures, it looking - what I could recollect it took away - Traffic Inspectors was a loner's job, once you joined into something like weights and measures, to me it wasn't near so much fun, I rather liked loner's jobs.

O.H.: So it was only part of your job.

P.G.: Oh, it's only a part yes, yes.

O.H.: There was a Mr. Victory who also came on at the same time?

P.G.: Did he? Yes Noel Victory worked in the Town Clerk's office, he died recently, single man, I think I don't think he ever married, Noel Victory. Yes I don't know how, why he became one.

O.H.: Do you remember Mr. Rutherford who was in the Traffic Inspector's Office?

P.G.: Yes, Murray Rutherford, he was a very ill man Murray, I think a wartime problem, I think he was an Air Force man Murray, Murray Rutherford, yes. I think he finished up being invalided out of the

Council.

O.H.: And he was the Clerk? What did he do then?

P.G.: Yes he was the - oh it's as simple as that. Murray worked in the City Inspector's office and he was a Clerical Officer. There was a Mr. Rogers who worked in the Town Clerk's office, who used to assist Mr. Hughes and do the work for him when Mr. Hughes was away.

O.H.: He took over when Mr. Hughes died?

P.G.: Yes, he took over, and then a Mr. Cox took over from him. Yes Mr. Rogers, he didn't like Health Inspectors.

O.H.: Why?

P.G.: I don't know, I put it down to jealousy but I'm only guessing. Particularly if you'd been a Traffic Inspector and you'd bettered yourself.

O.H.: So what kind of reaction was there when Mr. Hughes died, in the office?

P.G.: Who died, Mr. Rutherford?

O.H.: Mr. Hughes, when he passed away. .

P.G.: Mr. Hughes, what year did he die?

O.H.: About '56 I think.

P.G.: Mr. Rogers took over from him. Where did he die at home did he?

O.H.: I think so. He was ill and he took - I just wondered, I mean it's interesting that you haven't got much recollection.

P.G.: No, no, I'm a little bit out of that, I wonder why I am, but I know Mr. Hughes was fiery, excitable and that but he was a World War One man and I think he had a bad time. Him and he and Mr. Storr were friends during the War and I think they both had a very traumatic time in World War One. I've lost the memory of when Mr. Hughes died, but I know Mr. Rogers was the City Inspector towards the end of my service there.

O.H.: What was he like?

P.G.: Mr. Rogers, Hughie Quentin Rogers, well if I can't say nice things about people I'm not going to go the other way (laughs).

O.H.: Did it change the sort of tenor of the City Inspector's office?

P.G.: I would have thought it would have, yes, it would have.

O.H.: In what ways?

P.G.: But that'll mean I've got to tell you about Mr. Rogers

(laughs), doesn't it?

O.H.: You can say it in a nice way. Was he fairly, was he more disciplined than Mr. Hughes?

P.G.: No, no I'm not, we'll talk about other things (laughs).

O.H.: Okay, right.

P.G.: I remember Councillor Edwards - some of the hard bitten Traffic Inspectors, because he'd been attacking them in Council they let his tyres down one night on his Studebaker. It was parked behind Mr. Veale's car, jamming Mr. Veale in, so they somehow they manipulated the valves so that two tyres went down so Mr. Edwards raced back to get the Police and all the rest of it, and when he come back the other two had gone down (laughs). They must have sort of unseated the valves, so that slowly the whole lot went down.

O.H.: Were there any other pranks that Traffic Inspectors got up to?

P.G.: (Laughs) Oh, are we going to have a second interview? Yes, I'll, yes I'll do a sub-list pranks, headed pranks and I'll try to think of some of them.

O.H.: What made you decide that you wanted to take up study when you were - ?

P.G.: Kids, a shortage of money and not doing what I wanted to achieve in terms of home life and education for the children, housing and food and clothing.

O.H.: What made you choose health inspection as a field to go into?

P.G.: Well the Secretary was in the Town Hall - Mr. Webb was the Secretary of the Royal Society of Health, and I anticipated vacancies because the health surveying force had, were ageing, imminent retirement, and local government the way it was then you simply waited for people to retire, lifetime jobs, very little mobility in the workforce, and that was the basis I selected, and I liked it, it was based on chemistry and on science and on building, local government, and I made the right choice, I took to it naturally and I liked it very much.

O.H.: Where were you studying then?

P.G.: On the motorbike (laughs). No, the lectures were at the old School of Mines on North Terrace, on the corner of Frome Road and North Terrace, and we went down there for a weekly lesson. We studied there for Health Surveying and Meat Inspection under a - Meat Inspection was under a Mr. Collins, he wrote a book, Frank Collins, "Meat Inspection Australia", brilliant, brilliant man. And the Meat and other Foods that was self study, there was no formal lectures in the time in that, so you did that at home and hung around butcher's shops and looked at groceries and studied bread in the house and all that sort of thing.

O.H.: Was there any difficulty in balancing study and work at the same time?

P.G.: None whatsoever. No, the traffic job didn't - that was no burden on your intellect, none at all you could, you could do all sorts of things, dream all day long and still do that job.

O.H.: What was the course like?

P.G.: Very interesting, very good, excellent, excellent course. I doubled the size of this house on what I learnt from the building side of health surveying, laid the bricks, determined the materials, the material sizes.

O.H.: How long did you study for part-time?

P.G.: Well the Health Surveying, I was fortunate I got through that in a breeze, one year there, two years for the Meat Inspection which was pretty tough going and a year for the Meat and other Foods. That would have been four in all and then later on I did a noxious weed course and a green keeper's course, but apart from around the home and that they were not of any use to me in the work I was doing.

O.H.: What made you decide to leave the Town Hall and go to the Unley Council?

P.G.: Well, vacancies were coming up in Adelaide and it was only fair to Adelaide, being the premier Local Government body, it was only fair to come there with some experience. So I went out to Unley for one year and then re-applied for Adelaide when the vacancy came up and got it, and it meant that when I came to Adelaide I wasn't new to the work, I understood the work.

O.H.: Did you have the Unley job when you resigned, you went straight to it?

P.G.: Yes, yes, I had the Unley job, yes I resigned on the - I left on the Tuesday or something like that Tuesday or Wednesday and I had to fix up my motor car because Unley wanted me to supply a car and I started out there on the Monday, there was a break of service of two days.

O.H.: It was in June, I've got the 6th of June, 1957, that you resigned.

P.G.: Yeh, yes there was a break of service of two days and that dogged me for ten years because the Council refused to make my service continuous under the Local Government Act, because I'd broken for two days. It was a very mean thing to do.

O.H.: So the length of service included Unley Council as well as the Town Hall?

P.G.: Yes, yes under the Local Government Act the rules were if you didn't break service you got continuity of service for the purpose of long service leave, but our Personnel Department at the Town Hall ruled that I'd broke service for two days. If you had to have mean things done to you, you would have had to work for the Adelaide City Council. That was one of them, and that clock up there with that badge, they gave me that clock.

O.H.: That's the one for continuity of service.

P.G.: Yes something like that, there's a photograph of me getting it. But they insisted that it have a Council coat of arms and engraving on it, and that didn't worry me at all, but what did worry me they made me pay for it. Phillip Satchell had a show on the other day of the meanest things that were ever done to you in your life and I couldn't get to a phone quick enough, I was driving up to Strathalbyn at the time (laughs).

O.H.: And did you get through?

P.G.: No, he'll, I'll wait next year for the session he has then and I'll tell him all about it.

O.H.: What was working for Unley Council like?

P.G.: Oh, very political. You could hardly work out there without treading on the toes of somebody. It was what I call situation ethics. It was not what you were doing wrong it was who you were sort of business, and you're constantly coming back to the Town Hall and having your work negated because you'd booked the secretary of Colin Dunnage, he was a Member of Parliament at the time, or something like that. I wasn't comfortable at all out there, I liked the, I like, in that respect the City Council were almost above question. There was never Councillors asking you to do favours for the ones who voted for them or anything like that, never, not then.

O.H.: What was your job then, was it a door to door inspection?

P.G.: Yes, general health inspection and general inspection.

O.H.: So what would a day be like there at Unley?

P.G.: At Unley. We had as I say we had a motor car so there was mobility, it was a very big area about thirteen square miles, about thirty nine thousand houses I think, or thirty nine thousand people, I forget which. Off you'd go, you'd look for, in general inspection you'd look for trees and shrubs overgrowing and obstructing footpaths, you'd look for sand and gravel on footpaths. In health work you would inspect houses, particularly rented houses, you may inspect backyards, you'd respond to complaints, you'd respond to odour complaints, smoke complaints, and condemn an odd house or two unfit for human habitation, general health surveying work plus general work.

O.H.: So you would be out in the car most of the day?

P.G.: Most of the day.

O.H.: How many houses would you sort of get through in a day?

P.G.: Well I was programmed out there, there was not a matter of going out and creating the work, it was handed to you what was wanted to be done, and who to go easy on and who to be tough on, that part of the programme.

O.H.: What were conditions like in Unley in those days, that would have been what, the late fifties?



P.G.: Unley, we were in the Town Hall in the original Town Hall. They were reasonable I suppose, reasonable, the money was of course it was a lot better than being traffic money and the car allowance was very nice because you had to drive to work in any case and they were reasonable.

O.H.: What about conditions in terms of the houses that you were visiting?

P.G.: Lots of, Unley contains a lot of houses, old houses that had been shattered by the quality of the building soil out there, particularly North Unley, a lot held together with railway lines and bolts, massive bolts through them. They looked good and they were largely caring people living in Unley and up around Myrtle Bank and that but, oh I think a lot of those houses were only fit for demolition.

SECOND INTERVIEW WITH PETER GRIFFIN RECORDED BY KAREN WALTER ON  
3 JUNE 1994, AT MR. GRIFFIN'S HOME IN LOCKLEYS.

O.H.: I have just a couple questions following up from the interview we did last week. I wondered whether you'd learnt anything from your War service that helped you in your service with the Council?

P.G.: In my work service?

O.H. War service.

P.G. Oh, War service. Oh, what did I learn? Well I learnt to take orders and to be an obedient person and to use "Sir" quite a lot and that stayed with me right up until the end. I was always respectful towards Councillors and Aldermen and senior Council Officers, even though I was older than some of them, but then again I was raised in that atmosphere, it was drilled into us at school and in the general community of the country town that I lived in.

O.H.: Do you think that helped you in your work with the Council?

P.G.: Well it - I suppose it helped in terms of discipline, but I don't know that it helped in terms of innovation and creation, because a somewhat subservient attitude towards people, I don't think that would encourage them to ask you on matters of creation and development of new ideas or new things.

O.H.: Okay. Just a few questions about your traffic inspection days. You mentioned chalking the tyres and you said something about being able to tell when someone had moved in the rain and I wondered what you meant by that.

P.G.: Well, if a car drove in on a showery morning and the day become fine and the road dried out, the tyres were unmistakably washed when you saw them and you'd see these tyres at three or four o'clock in the afternoon and you'd know the car hadn't been shifted since the early morning. Oh, you learnt to be a bit sneaky.

O.H.: Did you have any other tricks of the trade that you learned in that kind of way?

P.G.: No, when I had the motor bike I could always book cars and put stickers on without actually stopping altogether (laughs) particularly the stickers (laughs). It got to be a bit of a game.

O.H.: So you kept the motor bike moving?

P.G.: Yes, yes, it got to be a bit of a game. I don't know whether they play games now, but we're all a bit human, if you go out and you've got twenty or thirty cars that haven't shifted for six or seven hours, it seems it always seemed reasonable to me that the Council are entitled to their parking fees, but of course if you entered one of these streets and you booked one or two cars and you were slow about it, the other twenty eight blokes would come out and shift their cars, so they were not really playing the game, so you had to devise some strategy to make sure they all paid their parking fees. It was only five shillings.

O.H.: So your strategy was to do it pretty fast.

P.G.: Oh, yes, yes, you learnt to do it pretty quickly.

O.H.: What about the chalking on the tyres, I've heard things about where the chalk was put and different things like that to, to indicate different things, did you have?

P.G.: No, it was a simple mark.

O.H.: Right. When parking meters came in, in about the mid fifties, you were still a Traffic Inspector then, do you remember that whether they changed the way you did things?

P.G.: I'm surprised that I was still on the job when the meters came in.

O.H.: Just the very, very early ones, I think the first lot came in in 1955/56 and then another lot right at the end of your time.

P.G.: Yes, I'm still a bit surprised to know that the meters were in operation while I was a Traffic Inspector.

O.H.: So you don't recall them?

P.G.: No I don't.

O.H.: I think they were very, very early, so they may not have affected you.

P.G.: Oh, there may have been, there may have been some of them perhaps a hundred meters with maybe a Patrol Inspector assigned to look after them.

O.H.: The other thing was, you mentioned Councillor Edwards was in Council attacking and talking about Traffic Inspectors, did you know about that at the time and what he was upset about?

P.G.: Councillor Edwards, as I remember, was a very active Councillor, and very conscientious in his work, but he did attack administration quite a lot and he was determined that the taxis would be removed from the Adelaide City Council's control, and Councillor Edwards, as I recall it, lobbied Parliament to have to have a, the taxis taken away from the Council and put in the hands of a statutory authority, and Parliament moved fairly quickly on that. He seemed to attack Mr. Veale quite a lot and he certainly didn't like Mr. Hughes and Mr. Bailey as I remember.

O.H.: Were you aware of that yourself, at that time?

P.G.: I had a good, reasonable relationship with Councillor Edwards. I don't think I ever, certainly not as a Traffic Inspector, I was never attacked by any Councillors, I was never disciplined on a Councillor's complaint.

O.H.: Do you remember the animosity between Veale and Hughes did

that ever come into the City Inspector's office at all?

P.G.: I don't recall animosity between Mr. Veale you said and Mr. Hughes?

O.H.: Yes.

P.G.: No, I don't recall that. I, if I was allowed to speculate on it, I would think that there'd be two personalities there of somewhat similar nature.

O.H.: Okay. We very briefly dealt with your time as an Inspector of Weights and Measures, I wondered whether you had any memories of that time, any incidents that occurred while you were doing that particular job?

P.G.: No, I think it was incident free what I can remember, it was a fairly humdrum sort of job and very much Local Government, seals and stamps and examining the lead inserts on the weights and on the scales to see the date they'd been previously inspected, previously tested. Weights and measures was, I don't recall any controversy or any problem with that. I would say that from a heritage point of view the Council Administration should never be forgiven for disposing of the weights and measures and the volumetric devices that they had there.

O.H.: Do you recall when they disappeared?

P.G.: Yes, they disappeared while I was still with the Council, I would say the mid fifties when the Government took that over. Administration of weights and measures was very patchy throughout the metropolitan area. Without a doubt the Adelaide City would have been the only body doing it properly, with an appointed person and with all the equipment to do it.

O.H.: The only other was you said when you confiscated the liquor at the Royal Ball there was hell to pay, I wondered what happened after that, whether you were reprimanded?

P.G.: No, no, there was a certain amount of shambles during the course of that Ball. I think, I think Sir Arthur Rymill was the Lord Mayor at the time and I think that he asked that the matter, the overall matter - it wasn't only the liquor that was confiscated, there were fights, fist fights, associated with the Ball between staff members and guests at the Ball. Because you see at three or four o'clock in the morning with the drunks around the place, the whole thing tends to fall apart, and I seem to remember that Sir Arthur simply said leave the matter rest.

O.H.: Do you know what the fights were about?

P.G.: Oh, no I, no I wouldn't know what the fights were about. I think one of our barmen became very offensive towards a guest.

O.H.: We finished up last week where you'd just gone to the Unley Council and you worked there for a year. What did you learn - you said you went there to sort of you know background yourself so you could come to the Council with a knowledge - what did you learn during that year?

P.G.: Mr. George Payne was the Senior Inspector, or the Chief

Inspector. I learnt the elementary work which a Health Surveyor does. I learnt how to make out the orders on houses and from the theoretical carrying out of inspections, I did the practical carrying out. I learnt to speak to people, to speak to operators and owners of premises and businesses, it was what you'd call experience.

O.H.: What do you mean, you learnt to speak to people?

P.G.: Well, if you're going to give somebody a notice for a house that's dilapidated and there's a few thousand pound involved then, or even if you're going to knock the house down, you can't very well send them off a piece of paper and hope for the best, so you have to explain to them and if they become upset about it, you've got to learn not to lose control of the situation.

O.H.: Was that a difficult thing to learn or did you find it easy?

P.G.: No, I don't remember it as being difficult. There was a transition over those years of telling people what to do, to convincing them that it need be done. In that respect there has been a considerable change I think in all forms of law enforcement.

O.H.: What was it like then when you were at Unley?

P.G.: I, I recall Unley as, I think I explained to you, as situation ethics, situation. There was discriminatory treatment of people, it was parish pump local government.

O.H.: How did you cope with that?

P.G.: Not all that well. I was much younger and I felt that everybody should be treated the same, you learn slightly different (laughs) differently as you become older.

O.H.: How did you cope with it on a daily basis there?

P.G.: Oh, I got through it alright and when the opportunity come to go back to Adelaide, there was no second thoughts on that.

O.H.: How did that come about that you were able to go back?

P.G.: I feel there was a retirement from the City Council, I think Lloyd Bishop may have left to go to Glenelg as a Health Surveyor.

O.H.: So the position came up, where did you see it?

P.G.: Where did I see it?

O.H.: Was it in the paper?

P.G.: Oh, grapevine, let's say it was grapevine, I'd guess at that one.

O.H.: You don't actually recall how you heard?

P.G.: No, I don't recall that, but I kept fairly close to the City Council. After all at that time I was still doing the Meat Inspection.

O.H.: For the Council?

P.G.: No, for myself at school.

O.H.: Oh, still learning.

P.G.: Yeah.

O.H.: I think it might have been Inspector Fordham that retired at that time, I think Mr. Bishop was later.

P.G.: Fordham, Fordham went down to Glenelg as Town Clerk [as Health Inspector]. Yes I think you're right, I think I took Fordham's place in Grey Ward. No Fordham went down as the Health Surveyor, Bishop went after that as the Health Surveyor, because he was friendly, quite friendly with Fordham. Yes you're right, you've had a good look at those files haven't you (laughs).

O.H.: It's not important. So, what happened, how did the process come about, you moving to Adelaide? Did you have an interview?

P.G.: Yes, yes there were - it was a fairly strong field of applicants, fairly strong and Doctor Fry was the Doctor at the time, and it was a toss up between me and a Health Surveyor, who worked at Brighton I think, or followed on and worked at Brighton, and he was very good, very good man and I think I may have just got in by a whisker.

O.H.: I can tell you why you got in, if you're interested.

P.G.: Yes please.

O.H.: Because of your war service was one of the reasons and because you were over thirty.

P.G.: Is that a fact, is that?

O.H.: That was down as the reasons why. They had a sort of ranking of people.

P.G.: Oh yes. Hocking was the man that I, Hosking some name. Is that on file is it?

O.H.: Mmn.

P.G.: Just a comment somewhere?

O.H.: Yes. So what was the interview like, who ran that?

P.G.: Oh, I think Mr. Boorman was there if I remember rightly and Dr. Fry would have been a part of the interview and I think I would have gone up before Mr. Veale, I think. Although I had been before him as a Traffic Inspector to get that job, so I'm not quite sure of that. But I remember going down to see Mr. Rogers, in a sort of a cheerful way, and he said to me, "Well", he said, "you're back are you, Health Surveyor, well you won't have much to do. They do nothing up there". And that was that (laughs). That offended me greatly.

- O.H.: What was your first impression of Dr. Fry?
- P.G.: Great, a gentleman, a gentle man, in all respects, yes very good.
- O.H.: Can you describe him in any way, things you recall about him?
- P.G.: Well I recall him as being lean of frame, thin faced, rather a red complexion, I think he had a moustache, he probably had English education. I think he went to the First World War, he would have spent time in England, he was a Rhodes Scholar as I understand and he would have acquired an English accent. But he was a gentleman, he treated us like his sons, (laughs) we could do no wrong. And his way of controlling you was very gentle, but these gentle approaches from Dr. Fry was like severe punishment, yes there was no raised voices. Gentlemanly type of person and he liked you to be well dressed and well spoken and respectful.
- O.H.: Do you remember your first day as a Health Inspector?
- P.G.: I was taken - Fordham would have been there, he took me down into Grey Ward, into what was then on the verge of losing it's population, I think the population slide from Grey Ward had, I say on the verge, but I think it had started, and all these little cottages all over the place.
- O.H.: What do you remember of that first day in Grey Ward?
- P.G.: Nothing (laughs).
- O.H.: Do you recall what he showed you?
- P.G.: Oh yes, I - a part of those two or three days training which you got (laughs) - it was like billabong training, have you heard of billabong training?
- O.H.: No.
- P.G.: Oh, some tribes, some of the Aborigines practised or did practice billabong training, that is they threw their kids into the deepest part of the billabong (laughs) and if they got out they were meant to make it in life. That's the sort of training we had. I remember as the work down there developed, I did make an odd note or two, but in - I remember in Grey Ward the box seat toilet pans - you may never have heard of box seat toilet pans, but they were, whereas we've got a single piece now, these were in two and they were, you couldn't sit on them - lovely subject - you couldn't sit on them you had to sit on what amounted to a box that was above them and they had been banned because if they had any weight on them at all the seal which was underwater would break, the two pieces would break and of course they'd leak and all the rest of it.
- O.H.: Did you have any incidents with people with that kind of toilet?
- P.G.: No, no I do remember a lot of them, now these would be collectors items, a lot of them were Royal Doulton with beautifully glazed fine china with the Royal Doulton inside the bowl itself, Royal Doulton patterns invitrified. Yes they'd be real collectors items, but they were

down for removal and we proceeded to slaughter those. And I remember candle smoke over the door sills of the houses occupied, I think by the Greek people.

O.H.: What do you mean by that?

P.G.: Inside the house on the door lintel, the door sill or the door lintel, was the smudge of candle smoke in the form of a cross, and that was traditional of the Greek Orthodox or some of them to do this, and that sort of used to mystify me, but it was in all these little humble little cottages throughout Grey Ward.

O.H.: Did you find out what it was for?

P.G.: Oh, yes it is, it's a blessing in the house and I was speaking to a Greek man last - I went to the opening of a restaurant last Wednesday night, I mentioned it to him, he said "Oh yes, sometimes we'd bring the candle home from the church and do that within the cottage". I remember in Grey Ward on the balcony in West Terrace the occupiers of that upper part of the house had all their fowls tied to the balcony railings, one leg, and they kept their chooks up on the balcony on West Terrace.

O.H.: What did you do about that?

P.G.: Stared in amazement (laughs). Some of those things, sort of you're not taught those, you don't know quite what to do about that.

O.H.: You say that Mr. Fordham threw you in the deep end, what do you mean by that, do you recall any of the very early incidents?

P.G.: Well, Mr. Fordham was very good, very thorough, very good Officer, but that was the nature of the training, a two or three day stint and off you go with your pencil and book, so I call that billabong training.

O.H.: So how would a day go on for a Health Inspector, you'd come in to the office in the morning?

P.G.: Come in, you may make out reports from the day before. You were bound to stay in the office until ten o'clock to discuss with ratepayers or recipients of notices. Ten, off you went to your Ward, you walked to your Ward, and you carried out inspections. In those times there was a lot of door knocking, you could knock on doors and people'd show you through their house, inspect yards, inspect the laneways, in summertime you'd keep an eye open for smoky fires or odours, bad odours, any depositing of offensive matter in the streets or in the lanes or in the gutters. And lodging houses, quite a lot of lodging houses around then, and we used to licence the lodging houses. They were fairly grim places, lots of single men in them, migrant men, and they were probably, in the majority, they were houses that men had bought as a speculation, packed them with single men and just turned a blind eye to what they did in there, whether they wanted to become alcoholic or knocked the place about or live in their little rooms and become very untidy and dirty. They didn't care, they were - it was not a controlled or administered lodging house situation and a lot of those houses, when the time was ripe, that is when they increased so much in value, the lodgers were disposed of and the place was knocked down, some of them reasonable houses structurally, a lot of them



replaced by besser block garages, little workshops. The result of that there were lots, eventually there'd become lots and lots of vacant blocks, cars parked on them, muddy surfaces.

O.H.: When you started what was the Grey Ward like?

P.G.: It was largely residential, but it was turning into a semi-industrial. It was the hardest Ward to work in, it was the slummiest Ward to work in. It was coming to the end of its days as a very large residential Ward.

O.H.: Do you remember any particular things that occurred in those early days with lodging houses, any incidents, people you particularly remember?

P.G.: Oh, there were two items. I was attacked by a man with an iron bar, that was over in Young Ward, and that's down near the Presbyterian Hospital, that particular building.

O.H.: When would that have been?

P.G.: Oh, early 1960's. That was a lodging house and they were drunk and disorderly.

O.H.: What happened?

P.G.: Oh, this guy cornered me with a tyre lever, I managed to get out of it, but I think mainly because he was a bit alcoholic. Had he been sober it might have been a different matter.

O.H.: Had you been going there to serve him a notice?

P.G.: Oh yes, they were a dirty lot, bad lot and I was trying to clean the place up or get it cleaned up, it's now a specialists, it's a two storey place on the corner of one of the side streets. Dr. Munro Ford had it as his rooms. Well built, beautiful house facing the South Park Lands, but that had been stacked with these undesirables, these lodging house types. Lots of bed bugs in the lodging houses in those days. They might even still be in some of them.

O.H.: What happened with that incident, how did you deal with it?

P.G.: Didn't deal with it (laughs). No, I didn't make a big fuss over that. There were some things that you could have made a fuss over, but I quickly determined that it wasn't worthwhile, making out reports and having to give evidence. I'd seen it with other men and at the end of the day sometimes you were somehow found to be as much to blame as the person who attacked you. I was also clubbed by a one legged man with a stick, and that did happen in Grey Ward. He attacked me with his walking stick or something or other and the remarkable thing was that was able to hit me about ten times with this stick but he remained on his leg, single leg, quite comfortable, remarkable balance, raining blows on me (laughs).

O.H.: So who was he, a lodging house owner?

P.G.: I never ever knew what caused this. I don't think he was a parking sticker recipient or anything like that. No, some of these people,

they were the characters that were about the City at the time. I remember Mr. Bailey, he retired while I was there, not Jim Bailey, the other one, the one that drove the dray and he used to come across to the Market with about twelve dogs, little dogs, and I remember him with his stick and his dogs. I just forget his first name, George I think, George Bailey, he was the last dray man for the Council. And then speaking of dogs reminds me of the lodging house - not quite right, a private home on the corner of West Terrace and South Terrace - Mr. Brassington handled that one, and there was a gentleman in there with oh something between thirty and forty dogs in this house and they had become so inbred and so conditioned by living in a darkened house that they were more like pigs, they were hairless and most of them were blind. And that gentleman, there was mail in that house that hadn't been opened since the 1930's. Mr. Brassington handled that case mostly and the net result was that we got him out of it and he went to board down at Glenelg, washed, got him cleaned up, clothed, boarded at Glenelg and married the boarding house lady and died a month later.

O.H.: What happened with the house and the dogs?

P.G.: That house - oh the dogs were destroyed, but the house was removed and that's where that motel stands now, the multi-storeyed motel. Another case that I worked with Mr. Boorman on in Moonta Street was the family the Tall family, T-A-L-L, Tall's. I think three ladies and a gentleman in there, and time had stood still there and they had plenty of money. And they lived in degradation. They lived on scraps from the nearby Market. They cooked with newspaper and cardboard. They were all well into their eighties, and that was another case of where we cleaned them up and they died. Not always wise to give people hot baths after, if they haven't had one for twenty or thirty years, a shock.

O.H.: I'll just stop you there and I'll change sides.

### TAPE 3 SIDE B

O.H. Talking of these things makes me think, was there any adjustment in sort of coping with some of these terrible conditions?

P.G.: Yes, yes, you adjusted.

O.H.: How did you do that?

P.G.: Well, you've got the theoretical approach to all these things, but you very quickly learn to adjust. The Health Act itself does not take into consideration poverty, and to serve notices and to punish people who are incapable of understanding the notices is cruelty, I saw it as cruelty. The Health Act always appeared to me to be a device of the middle classes to maintain middle class standards. So you did, you learnt to compromise with the characters if you assessed them as being some of the older people, a little bit alzheimeric - I didn't understand it at the time, but there was an additional safeguard, if you, if you took - and it had happened before - but if you took them to court, the Magistrate would in most cases question your wisdom, the way you were going about your work, he didn't, the Magistrates didn't want to see this type of case come before them. And I think out of that we did have a social worker at the time, but out of that came the the development of social work, of understanding of these people's problems, so you had an enhancement of the Community Services Section of the Health Office.

O.H.: I think when you started, actually started, the Social Worker was Miss Miller.

P.G.: That's correct, Barbara Miller.

O.H.: Yes, she retired, so there was a gap where you didn't have one till about 1963.

P.G.: And then I think Miss Baker came in, yes.

O.H.: So did you find in that period where there wasn't a Social Worker that you had to deal with those problems?

P.G.: We became, we became the Social Workers, and the Councillors were opposed to spending the money. That was the reason for the gap. I think Barbara went to Western Australia.

O.H.: What was she like?

P.G.: Oh, nice lady, good looking. Mr. Boorman used to work a lot with Miss Miller.

O.H.: (Laughs) Are you smiling for a reason?

P.G.: No, I'm just pleasant, nice day today (laughs).

O.H.: How did you get on with the other Health Inspectors, there would have been, what have we got, Mr. Clarke?

P.G.: Oh, yes he was alright, he's still alive. Nice man Mr. Clarke.

O.H.: Mr. Webb, Mr. Shillingford and Mr. Bishop were the others when you started.

P.G.: Yes, ah Mr. Bishop is a friend of mine, so is Mr. Webb, nice man, Mr. Webb.

O.H.: Did you see much of each other during the day?

P.G.: Yes we did, yes, we probably spent two or three hours a day in each others company.

O.H.: What kind of relationship was there, was it one where you discussed problems?

P.G.: Oh, I thought it was always fairly good, pretty good. We used to socialise a bit. We went to Mr. Sedgley's farewell. That was a bit of a shambles, I think if I remember rightly we misbehaved a bit that night and I think it was at the Criterion Hotel, might have been the Ambassador's, but I think it was the Criterion.

O.H.: When was that?

P.G.: Oh, Mr. Sedgley probably left, oh perhaps 1962. Mr. Sedgley was the City Engineer. He was in the Army with Mr. Veale and at his

farewell he told the story of coming back to Victoria Barracks during the War and Mr. Veale, I think he organised sparrow force on Timor and Mr. Sedgley was forbidden to recognise Mr. Veale if they saw each other. So in this long corridor in Victoria Barracks, as the story goes, can you picture it, Mr. Sedgley and Mr. Veale approaching each other in this long corridor (laughs) without anybody to hear what they were going to say and they both just looked the other way as they passed, and they'd been mates for all those years. He told that story with tears in his eyes. Mr. Sedgley was the man who during the Ball, the Royal Ball in the Town Hall, I was on the exit door at this banqueting room, and him, he and his entourage come sweeping towards me and I said "You can't come in here Sir". Over on the entry door was this great long queue and he said to me "I think I'm well enough known around this place to go anywhere I like" and he and his entourage entered the supper, the banqueting room (laughs). Another little story. In the Wards in those days, if, sometimes when the ceilings collapsed in the houses you'd see the shingles, which had been put on the roof in the very early days 1840's, 1850's, and had been later on covered with the galvanised iron, but you'd look up on the purlins, the under timbers of the roof and there were these shingles.

O.H.: So, you would spend your day walking - would you just go up one street and then down the next?

P.G.: Oh yes, we did it - in our little black book, and I've showed you the black book, there was the Ward numbers PTA, the Ward and the PTA numbers, the Part Town Acre numbers, and you would methodically go through your Ward, Part Town Acre at a time, and when you got the address and you knew the Part Town Acre, the address of the house that you may be dealing with, you'd go to the to the Valuers Office and he'd have his big books there and you'd look up who owned and/or occupied the house, and then you'd work out who you would give the notice to.

O.H.: So you'd go from house to house just door to door during the day?

P.G.: Yes, premises to premises, and as I say Part Town Acre at a time. Unless you were dealing with complaints and then you'd break that routine and hare off in the necessary direction.

O.H.: How did the complaints come in?

P.G.: Phone, I think Mr. Boorman got most of the complaints and I'm not sure if we had a complaint book or not.

O.H.: I found one, a later one, it was in the seventies.

P.G.: Which year was that one?

O.H.: It was somewhere in the seventies, the one I looked at.

P.G.: Oh, that would have been -

O.H.: It was mainly food complaints and things.

P.G.: Yes, that would have been a - we set that scheme up, I think, Mr. Brassington and I set that going.

O.H.: What kind of complaints came in in the early days?

P.G.: Oh, rooster waking you up in the morning, roof leaking, floor collapse, ceiling fallen in, people next door with a heap of rotten fish in their backyard. They used to have some backyard industries like there'd be a guy smoking fish in an old rainwater tank or something like that, that caused us some problems sometimes, overcrowding of lodging houses, vermin infestation.

O.H.: Would they take priority over the door to door?

P.G.: Oh, you'd break off your routine work to deal with the complaints. The Councillors would forward complaints, not directly to you thank goodness, they would go through the Administration. That was, in those early days the lines of communication were strictly set out. It was a tight ship.

O.H.: In what way?

P.G.: Well it was orderly and controlled and if there was a message to be got to you, it'd go through your Senior Officer.

O.H.: That'd be through?

P.G.: Geoff Boorman, and he often would get it from the Town Clerk's Office.

O.H.: What was he like as a - I suppose he was your immediate superior?

P.G.: Oh, Geoff was very good, gentleman, very good, very energetic, worked very hard, very hard for the Council. He'd been there a long time. I think Geoff had, in the thirties, to stimulate employment for young people, I think there was a scheme somewhat similar to some of the schemes that our Governments have devised at the present time, that is he was subsidised by the Government to work in a clerical position in the Town Hall. His father had been in Local Government, a Town Clerk of Mitcham. No Geoff was very good.

O.H.: What was he like as a superior?

P.G.: Very good, good.

O.H.: How often would you have dealings with him then?

P.G.: Every day, every day.

O.H.: So if a complaint came about would it be you who would attend to the ones that occurred in the Ward that you were assigned to?

P.G.: Yes, yes, that was another orderly system we had, that we did not meddle in other people's area of responsibility.

O.H.: I looked at some of your earliest dockets just to have a look at some of the things you were dealing with and there seemed to be a lot of structural things as well, structural problems with the houses and peeling plaster and all sorts of things.

P.G.: Yes, yes.

O.H.: Did you know much about - I guess you'd learnt the building side?

P.G.: Oh, yes, yes, the - our course was very strong in that respect, I've still got the original notes. Over half of the course was to do with building and building structure, building materials, timber sizes etc., this house where we are now, I doubled the size of this based upon what I learnt during the course and that was bricklaying, flooring, timber work, installing the windows. You've seen a little bit of my work (laughs).

O.H.: So how long would it take you to assess what needed to be done to a house?

P.G.: Inspection would take about an hour, hour and a half in a very thorough inspection, the writing up of the report would take longer, and you may need after you'd written your report you'd go back and check the items. You'd need to be thorough in what you were doing, keep good notes, round about an hour.

O.H.: How did you do an inspection, methodically room to room?

P.G.: I devised a system of working clock-wise around a place, that is keep your left hand as you sort of go around clock-wise and separate the front of the house from the house itself and in turn the rear yard, exterior of the house separate from the interior of the house.

O.H.: How would that pan out in an actual walking around the house?

P.G.: Well you'd finish up with an orderly list of things and they'd all be related to each other, you wouldn't, you wouldn't be talking about an insanitary rear yard at the same time as flooring that was infested with white ants. You'd group, even inside the house, you'd group all of the masonry work that may require to be done, you'd group the timber work, and then you might have the odds and sods, the broken sash cords, broken glass, doors that won't close or won't open.

O.H.: So after you'd done the structural type of thing would you deal with the other kinds of things that were wrong with it?

P.G.: Well, it was a rare occasion that you had a mixture of insanitary condition and structural faults and if you're determined to declare the house unfit with subsequent demolition or major upgrading of the house, you'd tend not to talk about small things, small things such as a rear fence dilapidated. If you did refer to it it'd be a single line.

O.H.: What would you concentrate on in those circumstances?

P.G.: The major things, the things that would reinforce your decision to recommend say the declaration - "The house is so bad you shouldn't be living into it, and in twenty eight days we want you to go". We never put anybody out on the street and indeed some people lived in what we call condemned houses for a considerable length of time after they'd been condemned and if this did occur you'd note it, you'd need to note

that, put that on the file.

O.H.: How did the owners of houses, or the occupiers I suppose, react to having a Health Inspector visit?

P.G.: Well on most occasions they encouraged you to condemn the house because at the time housing with fixed rent under the say Housing Improvement Act was a very poor investment and there was pressure from the commercial interests to get vacant blocks in Grey Ward for example. Yes, the owners would encourage you, I had one owner who, his father had left a true and faithful servant life tenancy in a house in Wright Street, and he put all sorts of pressure on me to have that house declared unfit because he wanted to sell it for commercial use. So here was this faithful old servant living out his days and here's the son of the benefactor trying to arrange for the old servant to be displaced.

O.H.: How did you deal with that?

P.G.: I never yielded on that.

O.H.: So you took the side of the occupier?

P.G.: Oh, yes, yes.

O.H.: Did you find that you were often in debate's between owners and occupiers?

P.G.: No, you would, again you would try to, you would try to avoid - you'd try to prepare the way to get the most harmonious solution to the problem. As far as occupiers and owners were concerned, yes there were owners who complained of the occupiers being slothful and dirty and causing their premises to become dilapidated. The law did change here and there, I think the right to throw the tenants out, I think that was limited. It certainly did become limited if it wasn't limited in the fifties. This was a transition period of the landlord, the traditional landlord disappearing from the scene. I remember Ernest Saunders and Company were a very big letting agent and they moved right out of the field. It was not good investments, any house that came under the Housing Improvement Act had a fixed rent on it, most uneconomical for the owner.

O.H.: Do you remember any incidents or any examples of problems you had with owners and occupiers, other than that one you gave?

P.G.: I may, if you come back again (laughs) I may be able to recall some of them.

O.H.: What about in general when you're doing your house to house inspections, how did the public in general react to being inspected?

P.G.: Quite good, quite good, you see there'd been people, Health Surveyors, knocking on their doors for years, they were used to it. If you went knocking on doors now you would have a fair amount of difficulty. There were some people who would refuse entry. We were entitled to enlist the help of a policeman, I only ever did that once, but it wasn't in a housing situation. If we were refused we'd go back, tell Geoff about it and we had a standard letter that went out to them pointing out there obligations. You see if you're knocking on hundreds of doors you're going

to get people, some people, a small percentage, who probably, how can I say this kindly, probably they're a little bit mental and this can take the form of aggression and screaming and yelling. The job was not that important that you'd force your way in in a situation like that. The old Health Act did contain powers which would enable you to force that entry, with, you'd go and get a police officer, I think Section 49 if I remember rightly.

O.H.: So you'd, again like in your traffic inspection days, use your own discretion.

P.G.: Yes, back off in a situation like that. And there was not much sympathy for an officer who became forceful in his attitude. We're fairly democratic, all those people are entitled to go and talk to their Councillor and if this happens a lot then you're an unsuitable officer.

O.H.: Did you have any regular customers that you had to drop into on a regular basis with problems?

P.G.: Yes, we had the characters about the place.

O.H.: Who do you recall?

P.G.: Oh, I'm having some difficulty with that.

O.H.: There was one that Mr. Boorman mentioned, a Laura Carter.

P.G.: Oh yes, yes, I think Laura Carter was the lady who used to take up abode in the toilets, is this the one? [Peter Griffin later corrected himself. "My thinking is faulty. The lady in the Whitmore Square toilets is Matilda Fletcher".]

O.H.: I'm not sure, there's one - it was to do with chooks I think.

P.G.: Oh yes, yes. Well there was a lady who lived next door to the Windsor Poultry Processing and they'd unload their chooks and some of them'd fly over her fence and get in her yard and she would take control of these chooks, and insist that they were hers, and occasionally she'd go to the back fence and scream out at the Windsor people (laughs), "When are you going to give me some wheat to feed these fowls of yours?" but she would never give them back. Was her name Laura Carter?

O.H.: There was one woman, I'm not sure if it's the same one.

P.G.: Oh, she lived in Wright Street, I think or Sturt, Sturt, I don't know. No, Sturt Street she lived in near the Windsor Poultry, that's at the back of the Kings Head Hotel, Laura Carter. [P.G. addition - "Laura Carter gave Mr. Boorman the nickname 'Monkey Face'. The Health Inspectors became aware of this but we used 'MF' for various obvious reasons."]

O.H.: Sturt Street itself - I was told by one of the men who worked down at the Depot there, that it was a place where there were a few prostitutes and people like that.

P.G.: It was reputed during the Depression years as being that way. There were - this in latter years, this is into the seventies, there were three brothels there or house of ill fame, we'll use the real word, there



were three there.

O.H.: Did you deal with them yourself?

P.G.: Oh, we used to inspect them, we would go to them and when the pressure was on regarding them, then we would really make a big effort to get rid of them. But it was only a displacement, they would go to a lot of trouble, you'd get rid of them and they'd open up two doors away or two streets away, and they're still in the City now. Occasionally everybody gets busy and demands action. Going back, going forward a few years, Murray Phillips and I nearly almost got arrested in one, we were interviewing a single person brothel in Gilbert Street, and while we were doing it the Vice Squad burst in on a raid and they were ready for us, Murray and I, but the Sergeant - we were sort of, we couldn't say anything, tongue tied, but the Sergeant called out the, one of the Senior Constables and the next thing they came back in and they were all smiles, managed to get out. I adopted a fairly relaxed atmosphere towards, attitude towards them. It seemed to me, I didn't mind if the women were in there, I didn't like to see men operating them, but the women never worried me at all. Most of them were a lot cleaner than the best of motels, beautifully set up places, and I don't know what all the fuss is about really. Early on I thought I knew what it was all about, but as the time went on.

O.H.: One of the things that - when you first started they were having this organisational review and there was a meeting, I don't know whether you recall you attended, in the first year or so where you discussed all these things and they were talking about the docket system and how it was difficult to find out the history of a place because it was all done by each docket being filed when an incident occurred. Did you find it difficult to find the history of what was going on in the places you were dealing with?

P.G.: I found the organisational reviews very difficult, you're telling me about one, I think we went through about thirty of them. (laughs) The docket system was kept in the strongroom, all the dockets. I think the problem with the dockets was that we were continually opening up new dockets on the same premises, simple as that. Did we really have a big meeting over a thing like that?

O.H.; It was a discussion of a lot of things. It actually happened when you'd just started.

P.G.: Oh, I wouldn't have been saying much I can tell you (laughs).

O.H.: Did you find that you discussed problems and issues with the other Health Inspectors?

P.G.: Yes, yes, yes, discussed issues and problems. I got thrown out of the Iplex factory one day by one of the Menzel gentlemen, Max I think or one of them, I think Geoff played bowls with this Max, and oh he was terrible. Anyway I came back and like a good boy and told my story to Geoff, Geoff fixed all that up. He was very good, very supportive, reminded the bloke that he should be ashamed of himself that I was only there to do a job, and I would be fair and reasonable and have a good approach, so that was all very nice.

O.H.: If you had problems, would that be your first point of call?

P.G.: Yes it would be, yes, yes, well he was, Geoff was probably at least ten years older than me, and he'd been around a lot in Local Government, no he was very supportive.

O.H.: Did you have much to do with Doctor Fry when you had problems?

P.G.: Oh yes, Doctor was good yes, he'd have us in - I think we had regular weekly meetings with him and he'd discuss things and give advice, I can still see him now, he had this room full of beautiful blackwood and cedar furniture, padded with black leather, beautifully done. I think the City Gardener got all those when we had an organisational review, the Parks and Gardens took us over and they took all that beautiful furniture, we never saw it again. It was all replaced with "el cheapo" modern stuff that kept falling to pieces, that was a matter of great regret. Joan Ringwood could help you with that because she appreciated nice furniture, nice furnishings.

O.H.: What was the Health Office like when you first started?

P.G.: Hot, hot with grey linoleum on the floor, dreadful. Venetian blinds, sixteen foot ceilings, in the Town Hall additions, abominable. Beautiful red cedar counter though, solid cedar, about sixteen foot long.

O.H.: What was your - did you have a desk of your own?

P.G.: Yes, yes, an Australian oak desk.

O.H.: Would that have been in an office with the other Health Inspectors?

P.G.: Yes, all in a common room and Geoff was in a little glass box to one side and we shared telephones, I never had a telephone, I shared it with, mine with Mr. Webb (laughs). There was a pecking order see, they've got pecking orders nowadays, in those days it was whether you got a telephone or not (laughs).

O.H.: Was there a pecking order amongst the Inspectors?

P.G.: Oh yes, yes, there was a pecking order.

O.H.: In terms of what?

P.G.: Oh, well we were, we - as a new chum you're allotted Grey Ward, and that had been happening for about a hundred years and Mr. Webb was in charge of the restaurants and Mr. Shillingford drove the disinfectant van, public toilets etc. fair enough. Mr. Clarke did the City Wards. Geoff was the senior. Well that, there was no prospect of that ever changing unless they died, and when you looked at the ages of us you looked forward to about twenty years of Grey Ward (laughs). I think Mr. Bishop left and I took over Young Ward which was more prestigious, I was on my way up that ladder (laughs).

O.H.: I was trying to see when that was, how long do you think you were in Grey Ward then?

P.G.: Two or three years, that'd be 1961 maybe I went to Young Ward, maybe 1960.

O.H.: Yeah, I've got Mr. Bishop resigned in 1962, yeah.

P.G.: Oh well that'd be it '62, so I had about three or four years in Grey Ward.

O.H.: What stands out in your memory from that time?

P.G.: Boredom, doing the same thing day after day, putting in a three weekly report, making up what they called board orders and a lot of that, a lot of that was feeding statistics. It'd had been done like that for so many generations and that was what the Council had come to expect, and that was what you were feeding, the statistical game.

O.H.: Did you find that the number of houses that you were condemning was rising, because it appears from the -?

P.G.: Yes, the big push on condemnations occurred in 1962 when Mr. Brassington came into the work and he and I formed a - we were the young members we'd been in the Navy so we formed certain rapport and we felt there were far too many rotting old houses laying around the place, and that was before the days when the Planners would tell you what you could do and what you couldn't do and we set to and we declared masses of houses, masses of them.

O.H. I'll just stop you there.

#### TAPE 4 SIDE A

O.H.: You were talking about how you and Mr. Brassington -

P.G.: Yes, yes, we declared lots, they were demolished in the main and the pity of that, I think, was that there was no system to pick up the vacant blocks that had been so created and I think that's probably where a lot of ugly things were built and came into being in the City and extension of businesses and car parks that probably should never have been in the City and that was the opportunity for the people to set up these places that in retrospect have been pretty ugly. But I must say the houses were bad, very bad. We did at that time have houses that had no wheeled access to them, put it that way, other than a wheelbarrow, houses that were in behind other houses and accessible by a lane. Immediately prior to me going into Grey Ward there were some houses that shared toilets, from different families. So, there were some slum-like houses in Grey Ward, I'd hesitate to call it a slum, but there were some. And probably amongst those houses a, say a Heritage Planner may have seen fit to have recommended retaining some of them and I'm not sure which ones. There were houses in those days that still had the Fire Brigade plate on the wall, that is the horse drawn fire engine'd tear up, have a look and if wasn't the plate of his particular insurance company, they'd drive off, so I'm told. There were houses there mostly without damp proof courses, some of them with jarrah damp proof courses, that's down about about, oh about a foot above ground level there'd be this strip of jarrah timber the whole width of the wall as a damp proof barrier and highly effective. That was, those jarrah damp proofs were there when the rest of the walls were rotting away.

O.H.: What else do you remember about the houses?

P.G.: Damp, ill-lit, no natural lighting, dormer windows, skylights, no bathrooms, rudimentary laundries. I've mentioned salt-damp. I think that those houses, a lot of them were built as workers' cottages in the 1840's, such was the influx of migration and the rich men were starting to build beautiful homes on the Park Land frontages and at North Adelaide and they rushed these ship loads of labourers and bricklayers etc. shepherds and all the rest of it, so they built, threw them up as temporary houses and they were still there well over a hundred years later. And I believe they were all meant to have an open fire burning in them, such was the dampness and the ill-ventilated nature of the places that if you had say a log fire going - they all had fireplaces - if you had that going it would probably cheer up the house out of sight. But of course we're looking at the situation where people were fiddling around at the best with little radiators and that.

O.H.: What kinds of people were living in those houses when you were in Grey Ward?

P.G.: There was a considerable influx of migrants. I remember that a lot of the displaced people, particularly the old Australians, would, they'd finish up at places like Gilles Plain and that, but they'd come in of a Market day and they'd sit in the Market, sit there all day. That, that again - the removal of those houses I think, again with the benefit of hindsight, it probably broke up what was a nice little society of people.

O.H.: Did you feel that then?

P.G.: No, that was a latter realisation, that came to me later.

O.H.: Did you have any particular problems with with migrants or New Australians as they were called then?

P.G.: No, no, there were some slum landlords among them, but no they were quite reasonable, they're very hospitable people, hospitable in this sense that they'd give you a little glass of some liqueur with some of these little biscuits with all the icing sugar on them and that. No they were nice people, nice people.

O.H.: Did you have any problem with communication, with language?

P.G.: No, no, just a smile on your face and make hand, point your hands and that, and sometimes if they had children with a year or two of Aussie education then they could help you. No I never found language any barrier. I suppose precise language is necessary for filling in forms and all the rest of it but I think as long as you keep a smile on your face you can get messages across.

O.H.: Was there any difficulty in explaining what you wanted to be done?

P.G.: No, the main difficulty is they'd never do it. That was the main difficulty (laughs).

O.H.: Why?

P.G.: Oh probably they had better things to do with their money and maybe the houses were only temporary, and indeed they were temporary because I don't think any of those people are left now.

O.H.: Did you have problems with overcrowding then?

P.G.: Yes, the overcrowding, yes there was overcrowding. I was going to say the overcrowding became very prevalent in backpackers. Oh, yes, ten in a room sometimes, boys and girls all mixed in together, in tiers. Overcrowding in lodging houses, there was Mrs. - had a lodging house in Angas Street, she used to put the overflow in her baths, they used to sleep in the baths. Her husband was a very good golfer, she was Scotch and so was he. Ah, Harvey, Mrs. Harvey in Angas Street, and the houses still stand, beautiful two storied with lots of wrought iron on them, just down below the Beijing Restaurant. Yes, Mrs. Harvey she was the keeper of the keys in her lodging houses, and she never turned anybody away but she used to allow them to sleep in the baths.

O.H.: What would you do when that kind of thing happened?

P.G.: Well, you'd only know about it the next day (laughs). Oh you might tell her not to do it, but you're not there all the time and the, somebody knocks on the door, single bloke knocks on the door in the middle of winter at ten o'clock at night, you're not there then.

O.H.: Did you liaise with the Social Worker when Miss Baker did start, with those kind of problems?

P.G.: Yes, Mr. Boorman did most of the liaising with Miss Miller (laughs) what are you laughing at?

O.H.: So in that period when there was no Social Worker was it more difficult when you had problems like that?

P.G.: No, I don't think so, no, Social Workers were a bit of a help. Desperate housing shortage in those days and there was still the lingering "every man for himself" attitude. The caring, the safety nets were not near as much in place as what they are now. I don't know what would have happened to the idea of a girl raising a child as a single parent in those days, sort of unheard of. Social Workers had a difficult time, I think they had a little Lord Mayor's budget to administer, few pound a year.

O.H.: You said you coped - you had a problem coping with the boredom, are there any other things that stand out, that were problems?

P.G.: A very bad problem was the lack of transport, that was a bad problem, and I noticed that mainly in Young Ward, not near so well served with the public transport and a bigger Ward, those Town Acres would go down towards the Racecourse. And also there was a lot of problems in the Park Lands in Young Ward that you didn't get in Grey Ward. Dumped rubbish down there mainly, possums, yes I'd say transport was a considerable problem.

O.H.: How did that affect you, in terms of your work?

P.G.: Well it, the work output wasn't there, you were spending a

considerable amount of your time in walking, going to and fro, and then when you'd, sometimes when you'd get back to the office from going down around where the Presbyterian Hospital is, there'd be a message waiting for you to say they'd forgotten to tell you something. So, off you'd go, yes that was very wasteful.

O.H.: Was it tiring the amount of walking?

P.G.: No, I loved walking.

O.H.: That was lucky then.

P.G.: Yeah, liked walking.

O.H.: Did you develop a like of it then?

P.G.: Very good, good walker, I walk now quite a lot these days, play two rounds of golf sometimes.

O.H.: Did you make much use of the public transport?

P.G.: Yes, I did, I tried it, but gave up, gave up. Even now, digressing slightly, public transport is hopeless, if I wanted to go to town and back right now, I'd have to budget an hour of my time, whereas a motor vehicle to and fro from here is about eighteen minutes.

O.H.: Yes, I came across a report talking about how, from the Medical Officer of Health, saying that a lot of time is being lost waiting for buses and having to walk around.

P.G.: Was that Dr. Dwyer?

O.H.: I think it was Dr. Dwyer.

P.G.: Yes.

O.H.: How did things change when Dr. Dwyer took over from Dr. Fry?

P.G.: We had Tim Murrell for a while, not sure how long, we had Dr. Swiggs occasionally. I don't know that they changed all that much. Dr. Dwyer was a part-time medical officer, I think Dr. Fry was as well, I'm not sure about that, but I know Dr. Dwyer was half a day. No, he was very good, he was another supportive, understanding person and about the only admonishment we used to get from him, he'd come out and say "Well you're all talking at once, how do you get to know what each one is saying?", things like that, they're educated people they have a gentle approach to things. We behaved ourselves.

O.H.: Did he make any changes in routine or anything?

P.G.: No, no changes that I, that stand out in my mind. There was no reorganisation of jobs and he communicated, when it mattered through Mr. Boorman, he was a good communicator in that respect, but he was a cheerful person, we used to have lovely Christmas parties, and he was a wine connoisseur and he was interested in Bridge Oil, I think he was a Director of Bridge Oil for a while, he was interested in the Stock Exchange.

O.H.: Did you know his nickname?

P.G.: Barb, I think.

O.H.: Joan Ringwood told me it was "Barb Dwyer".

P.G.: Barb, yeh, "Barb Dwyer".

O.H.: Do you know why that came about?

P.G.: Oh, it's an Army, because he was a somewhat prickly person in the Army, I think he was a Major or a Brigadier or something, oh he had a wonderful Army career. Oh, and another one of his activities was the Flying Doctor, he loved the Flying Doctor Organisation, and he liked the Zoo, when I tried to clean up the Zoo he came to their rescue.

O.H.: When was that?

P.G.: Oh the Zoo were tipping all their muck into the Torrens, hippopotamus tank, all the drainage from all the animal pens, and they were making the that part of the Torrens particular in Summer they were making it filthy. They weren't the only one tipping everything in the Torrens, and I tried to get them onto the deep drainage and I heard a lot about the difficulties and the impossibilities of such a thing, but eventually they did join it up and I think they probably got that money from the Whitlam Government in the early seventies, a special grant.

O.H.: So that would have been in the, what the late sixties that you're talking about?

P.G.: Yes, yeah. Dr. Dwyer was very good.

O.H.: What was the atmosphere of the office like?

P.G.: Oh, I think, I think it was, overall it was quite good, there was some pettiness at times.

O.H.: What kinds of problems?

P.G.: Well, they're all alive right now (laughs).

O.H.: Okay then, we'll leave that. Was it a busy office or a relaxed office or what kind of place?

P.G.: Oh, it was, Geoff used to bawl us out at times, yes, I found it reasonably relaxed.

O.H.: Did you often get the public coming in to make complaints?

P.G.: Oh, yes they'd come to the counter, they were encouraged to come to the counter. They came there to see us, they came there to see the Social Worker, we did have a District Nurse, and of course we had immunisation, yes we had a flow of the public.

O.H.: Did you have any connection with any of those other things that were going on in the Health Office?

P.G.: Well, I liaised with the Social Worker, not much with the District Nurse, no our work was well defined.

O.H.: That was Sister Riggs then it would have been when you started?

P.G.: Yes, yes, Betty Riggs.

O.H.: What was she like?

P.G.: Oh, nice lady, yeah, no problems there.

O.H.: If you came across cases of people who were ill or something like that on your rounds, would that be when you'd - ?

P.G.: Yes, we liaised pretty much with the Social Worker, a bit with the Housing Trust. I never ever got on with the Housing Trust at all well.

O.H.: Why?

P.G.: Well, I think it was as much frustration of the desperate housing state that, at the time, and they were of very little help and I remember they used to invest money in factory projects, which I could never understand when people were living in terrible circumstances. Miss Donnelly was a nice lady, she was the Secretary to the Medical Officer of Health, is she still alive do you know?

O.H.: I'm not sure.

P.G.: She was a lovely lady, Miss Donnelly.

O.H.: Who would do most of your typing and reports?

P.G.: Joan, no typing pool then. Each little Department, each little set up, typist and that. Almost nobody to determine alterations to your work pattern or within that Department.

O.H.: What do you mean by that?

P.G.: Well, towards the end it was a shambles in the Town Hall, you'd put a report in and there'd be six people altering things and saying you can't do this and you can't do that, and calling you to conferences. So many of them were able to meddle in what you were trying to do, but in those days it was a very well-defined path, authority path, well-defined. I'm not saying there wasn't liaison between Departments, but you each had your own well-defined areas of responsibility, but in the end nobody knew what was happening, what you were setting out to achieve and so many interfering with you.

O.H.: So, did you prefer the old defined way?

P.G.: Yes, I preferred the defined, I preferred a distance, a distance. I didn't take to the familiarity or the first name terms between people in authority, back slapping.

O.H.: Was there any problem with stress in those early days or just



dealing with stress?

P.G.: Streets?

O.H.: Stress.

P.G.: Stress, no.

O.H.: Just dealing with, you know, insanitary conditions and problems?

P.G.: No, stress is a latter day development. Well, again looking back on it, if you've got four kiddies and you're not getting much money and you're working hard and you're bored in your job, is this stress is it? (laughs) No, I don't subscribe to stress.

O.H.: No, you seemed to have a feeling for the people that you were dealing with and the problems that they had, I wondered how that impacted on you?

P.G.: Yes, yes I did, yes I did, and I kept that feeling right to the end of the thirty eight years, yes, I did.

O.H.: So, how did you deal with that?

P.G.: Oh, you do them as many good turns as you can, help them as much as you can. As I told you I went to the opening of a restaurant on Wednesday, now I've been four and a bit years out of the job, but those people went out of their way to ring me up. They had opened a restaurant back in the nineteen, oh early eighties, and I'd sort of indicated what they had to do and where they'd put things and answered all their questions as they arose, they're Greek people, they didn't forget.

O.H.: Did that kind of thing happen in the early days?

P.G.: What kind of thing?

O.H.: People, people remembering the good turns that you'd done them.

P.G.: Oh yes, yeah.

O.H.: Did you do much out of hours work?

P.G.: You're taking us right up to the end, you're bringing us -

O.H.: No, I mean in the early days.

P.G.: No, no, I don't remember. Out of hours work chasing taxis around the place, but very little out of hours on the health work, if any. The out of hours work came with the advent of licensed premises, noise complaints, pigeon control, feral cat control, mainly.

O.H.: So you weren't called to complaints at night?

P.G.: No, no, and we weren't, I think Mr. Boorman used to go back. I remember him once going back on the candles by - I always say that,

Carols by Candlelight, and I remember him going back and he was very upset at the toilet arrangement at Elder Park, and he had the terrible job of having to empty these buckets or something or other into the Torrens. I remembering coming in and tearing a strip off one of our Health Surveyors over that. Wasn't me (laughs).

O.H.: So it was nine to five?

P.G.: Yes, yes.

O.H.: In those days when they were widening the streets in different areas, did that have any influence on your work?

P.G.: Yes, I worked in Young Ward when they did the, started widening the Frome Street. I'll always remember that because they demolished most of the Elder cottages and I think Elder Street disappeared and David Street disappeared and I thought that was such a shame because they eventually abandoned the project and there were eleven of the Elder cottages left. They're still standing today, they've been modernised. They sold for very high prices and right now they'd be very valuable inner City heritage dwellings. But the other, I think there was forty eight in all, the other thirty seven of them are demolished, and I thought that was such a shame. And that was noticeable over the period of service that the Council would tend to rescind things, they'd start off to do something, a new Council would come in and they would stop it, stop and start, rescinding of things they were going to do. I think that's a fair criticism of the two yearly period for Councillors.

O.H.: So did that occur in the early days?

P.G.: Yes, they were chopping and changing, but I don't think there was any worse change than the abandonment of the Frome Street, the wide Frome Street through to South Terrace. If it was any possibility of it being abandoned they should never have started it, created such problems, and as I say the loss of these city cottages. There was a body of influential body within the Councillors who were determined that there would be no residential area in the square mile, maybe in North Adelaide, but not in the square mile, they were determined that they'd get rid of every residence in the square mile, it was going to be light industrial.

O.H.: How did that effect your job because the population was dropping quite rapidly and houses being replaced with businesses?

P.G.: I always held it never affected our job at all because in order to say that it's affecting it, you're going to, affecting it, you've got to overlook the fact that there's tens of thousands of people come into the City every day, the commuters, and they're all dropping paper, they're all dumping rubbish - not all of them but some of them do, they're all using the City, and if it's not houses that need the attention of a Health Surveyor, then it's commercial buildings that need it.

O.H.: Did you find that that changed over time, there were less residences you were inspecting and more commercial?

P.G.: Yes, we did, we did change and then later on when the food industry took off in the seventies and to this day, I would estimate that at least half the time of those Health Surveyors up there now would be

taken up with food and food related problems, food premises.

O.H.: What differences were there between inspecting residences and inspecting commercial properties and warehouses and things like that?

P.G.: Commercial premises, I suppose you'd talk about the toilets, you'd talk about lighting and ventilation and you'd talk about the generation and disposal of any offensive matter or rubbish. It would not be the same emphasis on whether it was fit for sleeping, for bedroom, for bathing, for laundry work. In some respects, particularly if the office building was new, or the commercial building was new, there were less problems, in some respects. But some of them did create considerable environmental problems, I remember the brake burning furnaces, that is brake shoes on motor cars would have the old brake lining burnt off them in this high temperature furnace, and you would get complaints that people in a radius of a hundred yards were choking from these fumes, and indeed they were. That's an example. Tyre yards where they'd store mountains of old tyres could become a big mosquito breeding problem with the water which would lodge inside the tyre out in the open, and you'd look at this great heap of tyres with mosquitos billowing about the place and you'd try to think of just how you'd deal with that problem.

O.H.: And how did you?

P.G.: I think we'd make them get rid of the heap of tyres in that case (laughs). I'll tell you a little story about Geoff Boorman and his car. He got a car in 1964, and a year or two after that we had developed a removal of possums from the City and we were sending them up to the Flinders Ranges and later on we were having them destroyed and I would, I could never see the possum destroyed. Anyway, I trapped a possum and I've got a lend of Geoff's car, he must have been on holidays, so I picked up the possum late in the afternoon, came down here to Kooyonga Golf Links, just across the road. In the dark, Willingale Avenue, nothing but the best, pulled up alongside the Golf Links, opened up the boot and opened up the cage, stood around innocently, with that some bloke comes hurtling out the dark with a notebook and a torch, said "You're down here trapping animals see" - it was the opposite to what I was really doing. So he circled the car tried to get my name and I never opened my mouth, I stood there like a wooden Indian, took all the particulars of the car and at some stage I walked around and quietly noted that the cage was empty and closed the boot and drove off. Geoff used to give three or four ladies a ride to work in this car and after about a fortnight the car was very odorous, in a wretched condition, with things running around in the back seat (laughs) under the ladies feet. It turned out that the possum hadn't left the car, he had climbed in to the swab is it of the back seat and he'd lived in the car ever since (laughs) and if you know anything about possums they're pretty smelly things. I don't think Geoff ever forgave me for that. (laughs)

O.H.: He found out it was you did he?

P.G.: Oh yes, yeah. Another little one in, if you can picture it, this was down in Logan Street in Grey Ward, but they had the a yard full of scrap iron, scrap metal, and I'd asked them to somehow or other get rid of all the grass, the rank vegetation overgrown, and they bought a goat in (laughs), and the goat, he went feral - well he probably was feral - but he went feral and he'd, he was an old billy goat, he was sort of, he was

suffering from pizzal rot, wretched old thing. And we never ever did catch the goat, I think he died in there, but if you could picture it this goat -

O.H. I'll just stop you and we'll swap sides.

P.G. For the goat story.

TAPE 4 SIDE B

P.G. Yes if you could picture this goat against those that you see in the Swiss Alps, these majestic things standing on a rock silhouetted against the blue sky, well this one he used to get up on the top of this great heap of scrap iron (laughs) and there was the goat, Logan Street in Grey Ward.

O.H.: You mentioned that you didn't often like into any kind of legal proceedings with any people you had problems with, and I noticed that it didn't come up very often that you did, but one that did was the Polites, do you remember them, Manolis and Stamatios Polites in Gilbert Street, where according to the digest that was your first case that you actually had to take proceedings against?

P.G.: You'll have to help me with this one.

O.H.: I think it was that they'd sold the dwelling that you wanted them to actually fix up, they sold it off to someone unsuspecting.

P.G.: Without telling the people?

O.H.: Did that kind of thing happen much?

P.G.: Yes, that was one thing that I did take umbrage at that sort of business, and you've got to help me some more (laughs).

O.H.: No, I just wondered what happened when you took legal proceedings against people, what the process was?

P.G.: Well if you can't help me somebody else'll have to. No, I don't, I don't remember that one all that well, but I'm not surprised that there was proceedings taken against them. Very difficult things to handle, very difficult.

O.H.: Do you remember any that you did take legal proceedings against?

P.G.: Oh, in the food business I did. I lost two in a row but I won some of them. That was under the new Food Act, that takes us up beyond 1985. Back in the Ward work, no I'd need some help on that, you see they're probably unpleasant things and I've probably put them out of my mind. I'd have to read the file and then I wouldn't be sure it was me.

O.H.: So you feel you did that put the unpleasant things aside?

P.G.: Oh, I do that yes.

O.H.: Was that a way of coping with the job?

P.G.: Everbody's way of coping.

O.H.: What about the unpleasantness just of sights and smells and that kind of thing?

P.G.: You get used to it. The worst place I've ever been is a chicken factory when they're slitting the chickens' throats and flogging the feathers off them, and slurping the stomach out of them, and it's all hot and steamy and of course steam accentuates odours, yes that's dreadful. But I've been in some worse places than that I think, that was bad enough. No perhaps that is the worst place. See some distressing things with young mothers who couldn't cope, unwashed nappies, see some houses where people receiving help from charitable bodies in the form of clothing, used clothing, and the houses would be littered with these items of clothing, used once and not laundered and thrown about. Oh yes, and down in Carrington Street - I think he's dead now, what was their name? - it was Jack and Myra, at the back of the General Havelock Hotel in Carrington Street. They were cat lovers and they allowed the cats in the house, that was a wretched, odorous place, with the cat business oh inch, two inches all over the floors of the house. Doyle, Jack and Myra Doyle. And then we had another lady in McLaren Street, I actually went to the Guardianship Board. I'll remember her name in a minute. She had cubic metres of, I think ninety two cubic metres of rubbish in the house, she used to go out at night collecting the food bins from behind the restaurants and she'd bag up these food scraps and bring them back and store them in the house - Mrs. Unsic, Rosie Unsic. Rosie was a very defiant lady, but you see you had to do something about those places because the neighbours complained so much and whilst they were living in wretched conditions, they were also generating odours which permeated next door and down the street, and there was always the possibility of rat infestations developing and certainly the flies were mobile. So if you're going to do your job at all you had to do something about those places, and they were very difficult. As I say we had to go to the Guardianship Board and get orders and that's far from a pleasant operation.

O.H.: What did you do?

P.G.: Well we did just that and she had a nephew I think. And I think she was put into Glenside I think, put into some protective environment and when she did we had a clearance from the Guardianship Board to clear the place up, we had a resolution from Council, so in comes a big truck and away goes the gear, truck load after truck load of it. And in circumstances like that you've got to be rather careful that you're not throwing out something that's valuable. And talking about values, reverting to the Talls that I told you about early, that place had King George V banknotes, boxes, jars, paper bags full of it, they were wealthy people, and they had this money littered throughout the house, Mr. Boorman handled all that, he gathered it all together and he handed on to one of the authorities, probably the Public Trustee. I know they, their wills gave everything to the Church of Christ across Grote Street, opposite Moonta Street.

O.H.: Did you find you were ever sort of helping to fix up things that were needing to be fixed yourself or making suggestions as to how to do it?

P.G.: Oh yes, yes, in the housing, in the Ward work yes, yeah.

Yes, the barrier to achieving a lot of what you wanted done was money, because a lot of the people that you were dealing with simply didn't have any and of course this led to the Home Handyman services which we see about the place. So what we've seen over those years is a transition from a lack of support services to support services, lack of support - frustration, support services - ridding ourselves of some of the frustration. Whether those support services will survive or not is another matter, because they've got to be financed and most of them were initially financed at least fifty percent of the way by the State Government.

O.H.: But in those days what happened with things like that?

P.G.: Frustration, didn't get done quite often. Sometimes you could enlist the help of the Council trucks to take stuff away, but that was a little bit bureaucratic, you used to have to put in memos and then often you'd face refusal, so there was frustration there.

O.H.: So it was the responsibility of the owner to get the things done, did you ever find that you were sort of drawn in to helping things to get done?

P.G.: Oh yes, yeah. Oh just a small example, but I think this house here I had a rotary clothes hoist for example I didn't want and I know the other men were donating bits and pieces and I know where that clothes hoist is now in Adelaide, it's still up.

O.H.: Where is it?

P.G.: It's in Lowe Street, that's a little street running off of Gouger - no it's not Lowe it's Bailey Street, off Gouger Street, down near the Directors Hotel.

O.H.: So how did that come about?

P.G.: Oh some lady who moved into the house, young mother and didn't have a clothes line. I was not alone in that, I know Mr. Boorman used to make lots of donations, he used to grow a lot of oranges, and I think he'd be giving away oranges. Social workers (laughs).

O.H.: You mentioned about rat infestations and vermin infestations, did you work with the rat catchers and people like that?

P.G.: Oh yes, if you saw them, yes you were bound to report it to the, to Mr. Shillingford would handle that. Worst rat inspection I ever saw was in a fish cafe where the Hilton Hotel stands and I forget the name of that fish cafe, but the whole of the yard was undermined and within the fish cleaning rooms at the rear of the preparation rooms in the corners were mounds of squats, what we called squats, where the rats had mounds of their droppings and fur and all the rest of it and that was the worst rat infestation I've ever seen. But it was not, it was not a rare thing there were yards with rat warrens in them, particularly in Grey Ward.

O.H.: What did you do when that happened?

P.G.: Oh, they were treated, poisoned, using poisons incidentally that you wouldn't be allowed to use now, it's mainly Warfarin nowadays, but they were the days of the strychnine baits. And North Adelaide had its

populations of the black rat, the fruit rat. Down in the City it was mainly the Norwegian rat, the grey rat, the one that was notorious for spreading the plague in olden times.

O.H.: So you worked in Grey Ward and then you moved to Young Ward, what happened after that?

P.G.: Young Ward yes, later on I came down to Gawler and Hindmarsh, the City Wards.

O.H.: What sort of date range would that have been?

P.G.: What sort of?

O.H.: Date, the date.

P.G.: Oh, I would have thought, I think I took them over when Mr. Clarke retired. I would have thought '66, '68.

O.H.: So what differences were there there?

P.G.: Oh, more life, commercial area, shops, thousands of people.

O.H.: How did that affect your work or change your work?

P.G.: Well, there was a very little residential component. I don't think, I think there was about sixty people lived - that is apart from caretakers on the multi-storey buildings. There was certainly more attention had to be paid to refuse disposal in the City Wards. You simply couldn't tolerate lanes with rubbish or food matter in them for twenty four hours, particularly summertime, so had to be more diligent, and it did bring in the riverbank areas up the Torrens, which was a different type of work altogether.

O.H.: What did you do there?

P.G.: Oh, mosquito breeding, treatment of stagnant pools, any obstructions in some of the creeks, you'd get them cleared out, fair bit of refuse dumping in them and the discharges into the Torrens, which was almost a career in itself. I've mentioned to you the Zoo, well in addition to that we had the Tram Depot, and they used to discharge their share of oil into the little creek that runs through the Botanical Gardens. We had the railway yards, there were overflows of dieseline into the lower part of the Torrens Lake, one of them was most serious at one stage. Always suspected that there were pipes coming from the Adelaide Hospital, which was established in the, I think aroundabout 18, 1840 I think, 1850, 1860, and there was some very suspicious pipes there and also from the University in addition to that the street drains contributed some pretty offensive matter from time to time. So that was a different sort of work altogether.

O.H.: What did you do in those situations?

P.G.: Oh, we were, during the time that I was in the City Wards, the Swim Through Adelaide was abandoned, due to the high pollution, what we would do there, we'd take specimens of the water and submit them to the Government Analyst, to get the bacterial count. It would be a broad brush bacterial count. We wouldn't attempt to look for specific organisms, if we

had the E. Coli count up sufficiently high, we'd know we were dealing with very polluted water. Down near the Weir it wasn't so bad, that's the influence of sunlight and depth, but getting back towards the Zoo and the University Bridge and Albert Bridge, very heavily polluted, and resulting out of that the rowing ceased on the Torrens, the Swim Through Adelaide ceased. And that was done with difficulty, nobody wanted to quit the Swim Through Adelaide, but we were, our results were backed up by analysts' reports and medical officers looking at it and I think Dr. Dwyer finally convinced the Council that it was a dangerous activity.

O.H.: What else do you remember of that period in the City Wards?

P.G.: Well it was at the time I think the - I'm not sure about this, I think the City Baths disappeared at that time, maybe before I got into the City Wards. What else do I remember, oh not much (laughs).

O.H.: Did your job still maintain the door to door sort of procedure?

P.G.: No well, well I've already mentioned it's almost nil residential component. Let's say it was a premises to premises on an organised basis, but I seem to remember at that time we were developing projects and, projects such as trying to clean up the Torrens. Some stage there in 1974 Mr. Webb retired and I took over the restaurants from Mr. Webb and now when did Mr. Boorman retire, that's '74, I think Mr. Boorman, may be 1980, maybe '82, '78, do you know?

O.H.: I'm not absolutely certain, no.

P.G.: No, he may know, he may know.

O.H.: When you took over the restaurants, how did that change your work?

P.G.: Oh, greatly, greatly. The restaurants were run under a By-Law, By-Law 12, it was called By-Law 14 at one stage, and that was in 1974, it coincided with the upsurge in restaurant building and my work was flooded with interest after that. Very interesting work, the development of the restaurants, the building of them, the investment that went into them, the ethnic nature of most of them, the different cooking appliances that were used, the different foods, different handling of food, and I had done the meat and other foods course and, that transformed - there's a lot of engineering in a restaurant that you wouldn't see in a house or a commercial building for that matter. It was a new field altogether.

O.H.: Did you need to do any background work on that to learn anything new?

P.G.: Not in a formal sense, but certainly in an informal. An example, the best example I would give you is the different plumbing that's necessary in a restaurant and the removal of the fumes, the steams, the grease laden steams, that is by the hoods and ducting, fan assisted duct work.

O.H.: You mean you had to find out about that?

P.G.: Oh yes, I had to study that, I got the Sheet Metal Workers



Manual, "Australian Sheet Metals" and "Australian Standards 1688", Parts I and Parts II, that's air handling systems. But with those things at hand and watching the people at work, after a short period of time you're able to talk somewhere near their level.

O.H.: Inspecting restaurants, did that take you into night work as well?

P.G.: Yes, there was night work involved in that.

O.H.: How often?

P.G.: I think in the early, early time until we got an overtime budget, I don't think it was all that frequent, I think a little bit of it was voluntary work, time off in lieu. The Council, if I remember the Council, it was always somewhat parsimonious with things that I felt was really necessary, but very generous with things that didn't appear to be necessary at all. There was probably voluntary work in there, but later on it was a paid overtime.

O.H.: Have you got any idea of how many nights a week you'd be out?

P.G.: Oh, I would think about two a month.

O.H.: What would that be, inspecting a restaurant while it was open?

P.G.: Yes, looking at restaurants that never opened until seven and eight o'clock at night, and later on they developed these disco activities, with food, food in conjunction with liquor, well some of those didn't open until eleven o'clock at night, but I can recall often arranging for daytime inspections. It didn't matter if there wasn't people in them in that type of operation, but in a, when a restaurant is operating and people seated at tables, then that is a better time to inspect them than when they're not operating.

O.H.: How would you do that?

P.G.: Walk in, announce yourself and carry out an inspection.

O.H.: Of the kitchens or everything?

P.G.: Oh, mainly the kitchens, the toilets, and the bars, a little bit of time in the public room but not much, discreet, you might have a look at their table set up, see that their napery and their cutlery's in nice clean order.

O.H.: Do you remember any incidents from that time, really poor restaurants and bad conditions?

P.G.: Yes, there were some bad restaurants, bad ones. A great amount of the German cockroaches in restaurants, the *Blattellidae Germanica*. The best time to see them was to suddenly switch on the light in a kitchen. They're a nocturnal insect and often the place would be moving with them. They're very resistant to insecticides. You've got to face the fact that in half the commercial kitchens the cockroaches have got a hold, and they've got a hold in a lot of the snack bars, they love heat, they love

moisture, they'll hang around hot water services under sinks and drains, under coffee machines, motors, electric motors and switches, very prevalent. Mainly built out in the most modern places, but there's not all that many of those in Adelaide, a lot of old buildings are used.

O.H.: Did you have any problem with the restaurant proprietors not being open to being inspected?

P.G.: Yes, I did, I think I prosecuted some of them. They were always given a chance and if they stayed dirty for forty eight hours and also resentful - I just couldn't handle blokes who were not only dirty but they'd get aggressive as well.

O.H.: Do you remember any examples?

P.G.: Oh, one or two. They're still in business.

O.H.: You don't need to mention their names, the kind of things that happened.

P.G.: No. Oh one of them, one place that was very dirty, and I'd done follow up inspections two or three of them I think, and there'd been a slight improvement, I went to do another follow up and the maitre de said to me "Peter and Henry have said you can't come in here", "Oh", "Yes they've banned you from inspecting this place" (laughs). I think if I remember rightly I rang up, got Bill Brassington down and just inspected, but they finished up being prosecuted, because they were still very dirty. But you see, and I believe this affects people that had got a job to do like that, if you're having difficulty doing the job and on top of that it's compounded by people that are aggressive and bullying you and trying to physically remove you from the place and barring you, then I think you're inclined to follow the thing through, you'd be a bit of a wimp if you walked away from it, wouldn't you?

O.H.: Did you find that over time you were more willing to be, to follow things through than when you just started?

P.G.: Oh no, no, I was - no there was no change in that. I like to think I was pretty consistent right through.

O.H.: We mentioned this complaints book that you and Bill Brassington put together in connection with restaurants, I was reading through some of the disgusting complaints that came through. What did you do when those things came through?

P.G.: Well, previous to that, there was scraps of paper laying around here and there and blowing around and then we did have a complaints sheet, but that was still loose sheets un-numbered and that and we instigated the system of a book with numbered complaint sheets, and if there was no action you said no action, and there was no possibility that you'd lose any of them or that you could hide them away, and they were in duplicate and the top sheet would go to the Surveyor, the blue bottom sheet would remain there, and each month we'd put a report in to the Council, and that worked out very well, that's good for morale that sort of business.

O.H.: So those complaints would mainly come through by phone would they or what?

P.G.: Phone. There was a funny law that you couldn't receive a complaint from another Health Surveyor, could never understand why that was - that was in the old Health Act, but we were dealing with the By-Law and later on with the Food and Drug Act, and then later on again in 1985 with the Food Act, so we could interchange complaints we could say, "You know I saw such and such you know, a fellow told me that so and so smokes in the kitchen all the time", and, but most, the majority of them came from the public, aggrieved public.

O.H.: So would you react to those things immediately?

P.G.: Oh, as soon as possible. And the complaints on European Wasps, and this is, we've jumped years ahead now, that I guaranteed that we could attend to that complaint in fifteen minutes anywhere in the City, and that was a guarantee. We always had a motor vehicle and we had a man to do it, and that was, although we did have Inspectors assigned, an Inspector for the European Wasp, that was one of these rare occasions when anybody could grab it and go and do it, we considered that was important enough.

O.H.: The restaurant job was that still an on foot job, you didn't have vehicles?

P.G.: No, I had a motor car, Webby got a car in during Dr. Dwyer's time. Doctor came ambling in one day and he said, "We've got money left over in the budget, anybody got any ideas what we can do with it", and Webby said "I'd like a motor car Sir", "Okay Webby get yourself a car", and that was the story on that one. And when he retired in '74 I inherited the motor car, beautiful.

O.H.: How did that affect your work, change it?

P.G.: Oh, it's a thing you protect, privilege like that, oh it was out the front and you had the right to take it home and bring it back in, and you could carry all your books and your papers. It gave you mobility and it gave, you were able to give good service to the ratepayers and the complainants, and then later on when we did the Food and Act work, Food and Drug Act work and latterly the Food Act work, the cars have been known to go from one end of the suburbs to the other, picking up food specimens that were purchased in the City, interviewing people who'd lodged complaints on some experience, unhappy experience in the City, so you needed that mobility, you couldn't have done the job without it.

O.H.: So how different was your job then from what you'd been doing in Grey Ward?

P.G.: Well, I've told you all about the boredom in Grey Ward haven't I. It was an interesting job, and you met so many different people, so many different ethnic people, it was a whole new life. The food and drinks are very basic things for human beings (laughs) very interesting, met some lovely people.

O.H.: I guess you knew what restaurants not to go to?

P.G.: Yes, yeah I did.

O.H.: How did being a Health Inspector influence your ordinary

life, your day to day life as a person?

P.G.: Oh, I never become sort of paranoid or too fussy, some of them do, some of them say food's got to be kept covered, and sometimes I think you know they'll starve to death, they'll never take those covers off and have some of the food. I found it a very good career, excellent, good education out of it, good practical education, excellent. I tried to get some of my grandsons to do it and they won't do it, I tried to get them to join the Navy and they won't join the Navy (laughs).

O.H. We're just about to run out of tape again so we might leave it there for today and cover the later part next time.

P.G. Yes certainly and I'll get you a cup of coffee.

CITY OF ADELAIDE

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW WITH

PETER GRIFFIN

FORMER TRAFFIC & HEALTH INSPECTOR

Conducted by KAREN WALTER

10 June 1994

Volume 2 of 2

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THIRD INTERVIEW WITH PETER GRIFFIN RECORDED BY KAREN WALTER ON 10 JUNE 1994  
AT LOCKLEYS.

TAPE 5 SIDE A

O.H.: Okay, I just had a couple of follow up questions from listening to the tape from last time. You were mentioning the boredom that you suffered going through the Grey Ward and you had a few techniques for coping with boredom when you were a Traffic Inspector, I wondered whether you had any in coping with the boredom of being a Health Inspector?

P.G.: Well, the with the traffic inspection I think I've mentioned that when I was on the motor bike, that I did some studies. In Grey Ward and in Young Ward there were interesting things, particularly the architecture, the nature of the early building techniques, and I've mentioned the Fire Brigade plates which were on the front of the houses, and the old fashioned toilets, the sharing of toilets by several houses. The boredom came mainly from doing the same work, the housing, knocking on doors, inspecting houses, a lack of variety. I did spend a certain amount of time in the West Terrace Cemetery, which was a part of our area.

O.H.: That was part of the Grey Ward?

P.G.: Yes, that was part of Grey Ward.

O.H.: What did you do there?

P.G.: Well we did give advice to the curators of the Cemetery on some of the collapsed graves and the fact that some of those graves were rat infested, and also the disposal of decaying vegetable matter, which gathered from time to time, water which was mosquito infested, in the vases and in some of the depressions within the Cemetery. At that time the Cemetery was in very poor condition and in the Catholic section it was so overgrown that yearly they would set fire to that part of the Cemetery to clear it. In recent times I've been in the Cemetery and it's much better kept. The time that I was there each of the sections of the Cemetery were, the maintenance of those sections were the responsibility of the body which had control of the areas and those, the bodies were largely religious, the Jews had a section, the Mohammedans, and the Druse they had a small section and the Catholics had quite a big area. I think the Anglicans and the general part had, they had forfeited the right to control their own respective sections, and that had gone over to the Government Curators.

O.H.: So, did you have to work with each of the different groups in terms of maintenance?

P.G.: No, there was a central office in the West Terrace, the curators, the gardeners were on almost a first name basis there.

O.H.: Would you do a routine type of inspection?

P.G.: Yes, that was part of the routine.

O.H.: How often?

P.G.: Well the Cemetery, at least once every six months. The, our programmes were to visit places twice a year. Cross in to Young Ward, the

Park Land areas and some of the buildings in the Park Lands - the sporting clubs had buildings, and what's known as the Glenelg Reservoir - these were interesting places. The unfenced parts of the Racecourse interesting, and the creeks themselves that run through and of course we could always go down to the the Government reserves, the Botanic Gardens, and the Zoo and the rear part of the Botanic Gardens.

O.H.: When you say interesting, in what way?

P.G.: Well, for example the, all the matter from the Zoo was composted in the Botanic Gardens and at that time the animal manures were quarantined, and as I say composted within the Botanic Gardens. The - interesting in following the pollution of the Torrens which I've referred to last week, the various bodies and statutory authorities who saw fit to dump their waste and some of them very toxic wastes into the Torrens.

O.H.: Yes, I came across in the Digest an area where you'd found some dead fish in the Torrens.

P.G.: Yes, yes, I remember that quite clearly. There was fish from the University footbridge back to the Zoo and lots of them floating on the surface with lesions on the skin, like ulcerated surfaces of the skin. We suspected a discharge from either the University or the Royal Adelaide Hospital for that.

O.H.: How were you able to trace it?

P.G.: Well, guess work in this case, but there were some things that we could eliminate, for example there wasn't oil on the water at that time and oil would have suggested the bus and tram Depot at Hackney, and there was an absence of floating chaff like matter which used to come from the Zoo and whatever it was was pretty toxic and the Zoo, the oil and the Zoo were never known to poison the fish.

O.H.: What were you able to do about that?

P.G.: Very little, nobody knew anything about it. People feigned surprise if you told them that their their animal wastes were going into the Torrens and fair enough the pipes had probably been established generations previously.

O.H.: You said Dr. Dwyer had a special interest in the Zoo?

P.G.: Yes, he, he saw the problems of the Zoo, mainly financial, and he was hesitant to recommend any costly measures for the Zoo. I think the Zoo financed a lot of their problems under these schemes which the Whitlam Government brought in, I seem to remember the Zoo being fenced with a palisade type fence and I think they got grants at that time for the connection to the deep drainage of some of the covered animal pens.

O.H.: So how did Dr. Dwyer become involved with you in that issue?

P.G.: Well, I don't know if he was on the Board of the Zoological Society but Dr. Dwyer moved in those circles. He probably would have - I'm guessing at this, he probably would have had it mentioned to him by some of his friends. He served on a lot of committees and boards in a voluntary capacity.



O.H.: He was the one that initially found out about the problem did he or did you discover it?

P.G.: No, I told him all about them and reported to him on them and I remember him saying to me at one stage, "Oh don't be too tough on the poor old Zoo". They're, it's on a very small acreage, I think something like seven acres, and they haven't got any money.

O.H.: How did you initially find out about that then?

P.G.: Well, by the observations, the condition of the Torrens that upper part. There were reed beds at the back of the Zoo and of course in summer it become very stagnant, very still waters - I think a Mr. Lancaster was the Director of the Zoo at the time. He used to ride around on a push-bike and he was very defensive in the matter of the Zoo.

O.H.: So that came up as a series of reports to Council about that.

P.G.: Yes, yes.

O.H.: I was wondering about the reports, were they generally initiated by things the Council was interested in or was it things that just came up?

P.G.: No, most of, almost all those reports of mine would have been initiatives developed. That was the way to do it, you'd see something wrong and you'd report on it, and put it into the system and so it'd sort of stagger it's way through the system and sometimes it would go to Council and sometimes it wouldn't.

O.H.: How much time would you put into the reports that you were working on?

P.H.: They would be compiled from notes made and observations and tidied up and rehashed and then finally put to paper, typed and fed into the system.

O.H.: I'll get onto some of the others that you that you put in, because I went through a few of them, but before we go on, just to sort of compare Grey Ward and Young Ward, what were the main differences you found in moving from one to the other?

P.G.: Young Ward on its fringes on the Park Land fringes had what you could describe as the rich merchants' housing. Along their portion of South Terrace and East Terrace, almost as far as Pirie Street, there were some beautiful houses, bluestone, prestigious, on very large blocks of land. I don't remember any houses of note in Grey Ward. Both Wards contained what were described in the early days as workmans' cottages. I thought that Young Ward was a little more prestigious compared to Grey Ward. I don't think the West Terrace Cemetery helped Grey Ward very much.

O.H.: In what ways?

P.G.: Well, even to this day they tell me that people who look down on the Cemetery from the motel dining room on the corner of West and South Terrace, and that's up a sixth or seventh floor, I believe they often ask

to be shifted to some other part of the dining room. It would be an aesthetic thing.

O.H.: I noticed at the time, I think it was in the mid sixties, they were talking also about putting a morgue on Kintore Avenue, do you remember anything about that?

P.G.: A morgue on?

O.H.: Kintore Avenue in the City, there were some reports going in relation to that.

P.G.: I remember, I remember Kintore Avenue when the Adelaide Bowling Club blocked off access to that road at the back of the University. I don't remember that, it may come to me later.

O.H.: No, it may not have been a big issue. The other thing you mentioned were backpackers, that you had troubles with overcrowding with backpackers. I wondered what sort of period that was in and what kind of problems?

P.G.: Well the backpackers in the 1980's were - when I became the Principal Health Surveyor, the Health Surveyors did report severe overcrowding in some of them. I think the backpackers themselves, both the boys and the girls, the young ladies and gentlemen, I think they were used to this al fresco type of accommodation. There was pressure on the limited accommodation, overflow hostels were established in that time. I didn't view that all that seriously, I think the young people were fairly generous towards each other and understanding.

O.H.: So that was a later period problem?

P.G.: Yes, I remember myself going to the the Port Arthur in Tasmania with my son, and we pitched our tent and it was so blooming cold we finished up in the log fire room at the Port Arthur Hostel and I seem to remember sleeping head to toe on benches (laughs) with young ladies about the place, nobody seemed to mind.

O.H.: You also mentioned in some cases there were situations where you weren't able to help people in terms of, you know, insanitary conditions and having to be moved out. How did you feel when it became a point where there was nothing you could do?

P.G.: Well we never tipped anybody onto the street, there was pressure put on them to find something better, but there were odd cases where people remained beyond the time limit in condemned houses, and we simply waited and watched. Once they vacated we took a very dim view of anybody coming back in and in fact I think we were able to stop anybody coming back into the places.

O.H.: What happened to them when they did move out?

P.G.: Well, some of them moved out in a box, and most of them would have found Housing Trust accommodation, and I think I've mentioned to you that most of this accommodation was in the outer areas of the City and that in itself, looking back on it, was an undesirable thing. They lost their sense of community, with their neighbours, in Grey Ward. And again looking

back on it, I seem to remember a house in Gawler Ward, one of the few houses there, with a dirt floor, with an old Maltese man in excess of ninety living in there quite happily and quite healthily.

O.H.: Was that one of the problems, that people just didn't want to move from the City?

P.G.: They were very loathe to move out, they loved those areas, they liked the Market and they liked to have neighbours about them.

O.H.: You mentioned you had regular sort of people who were, that you had to visit quite regularly, would they be some of the people, the people that stayed in those houses?

P.G.: Yes, they were, you could sum them up as being characters and some of the older people had vermin problems in their house, and an odd one or two of them were not good neighbours to others, some had lots of cats, others had too many dogs, some of them had loud radios going, I suppose they were a bit deaf so they turned everything up. Some of them were, of course had mental problems.

O.H.: You mentioned a Mrs. Harvey who let her people sleep in the bath?

P.G.: The overflow (laughs).

O.H.: I came across a Mrs. Isabella Harvey, would that have been her?

P.G.: That's the lady, yes.

O.H.: It seemed you had a long running thing about bed bugs in the mattresses?

P.G.: Oh, she had, yes she had lots of bed bugs. I suppose the bed bugs are still here and there, but they were very prevalent. I've seen bed bugs in babies' cots.

O.H.: In her case it was coming towards court proceedings but then she fixed everything up.

P.G.: Well there was a certain amount of huff and puff and bluff about some of these things.

O.H.: I was wondering about that, yes.

P.G.: We were, I think it's fair to say we were always loathe to go to court. We tried to settle it without it, but in that situation you do learn to be, appear a little fiercer than what you finally are.

O.H.: So did that often help, the mention of legal proceedings?

P.G.: Yes it did, yes. I think some of the hardened ones were no longer frightened by it.

O.H.: What happened when you did take legal proceedings, what was the process?

P.G.: You forgot about them as soon as you could, they were the unpleasant thing. I, you'd know better than me, because as I say I put those things out of my mind, but I don't remember many, I remember some under the Food Act which I lost, you don't forget those.

O.H.: Tell me about those.

P.G.: Well all the people are still alive. I'll say this, that there's some very skilful lawyers and defending lawyers. I don't suppose we should have a problem with that, but I would maintain that on the two that I did lose that the people were guilty. No, when you're challenged on commas and full stops in summonses, and the correct form of the summons and before you even give evidence you've lost them on these technicalities, it's not very encouraging, I suppose you learn to do it better next time. Quite often those things, it's not the Health Surveyor's fault so much as the legal people who prepare the documentation. I suppose there are safeguards in our society which are necessary.

O.H.: That was one thing I was going to ask, you call yourself a Health Inspector and a Health Surveyor, do you remember when that change came in?

P.G.: Well, going back to the 1850's when this health surveying or inspecting started, they were called Sanitary Inspectors. That came out of England, English legislation and traced directly to the shortcomings of the Industrial Revolution when all of the crofters and the country people were brought in to the shadow of the factory chimney and in shocking housing. So we see the name Sanitary Inspector, then at some stage they became Health Inspector and then at some stage they became Health Surveyors and I would have thought that would have been, say 1970 at a guess, year or two either way of that, and I believe now they're called Environmental Health Officers. I don't think this is unique, I think within our society everybody is increasingly reaching for exalted names to describe their function, their career path.

O.H.: So it was just a reclassification, it didn't change anything?

P.G.: Oh, it's just a better name for the same thing. It may reflect, from Inspector to Surveyor does give some indication of a policing role to an advisory consulting role.

O.H.: Did that come about?

P.G.: Oh, yes, yes, you could, it did come about that you could no longer do it or else, adopt that attitude, that the encouraging and surveying was much more satisfactory role, particularly in the food premises.

O.H.: Is that where it came about, or did that come about earlier?

P.G.: It didn't come about for that reason, it came about, largely I think that, the do it or else role had gone out of fashion. I think that happened a great deal throughout our society, any policing role become more like a advisory consulting role.

O.H.: What sort of period would you say that change started to

happen?

P.G.: Oh, about ten years.

O.H.: Ten years ago?

P.G.: No, no, over a period of about ten years that that graduation came in.

O.H.: From when?

P.G.: I would have thought about from 1965-1975, maybe a little later, may be into the seventies.

O.H.: That would have been when you were in the City Wards, would it?

P.G.: Yes, I left the Ward work in 1974.

O.H.: In that time in the Wards, did you ever have anything to do with the - you said about licensing of lodging houses, did you have anything to do with the private hospitals?

P.G.: Yes, we inspected the private hospitals, but that role was reserved for Mr. Boorman, the Senior Health Surveyor. He licensed the private hospitals and the nursing homes and rest homes, and he liaised with the Commonwealth Government, who put subsidies into the hospitals and nursing homes. And there was a State authority that was the Department of Public Health had a role to play, and he did joint inspections and occasionally he would get letters from the Commonwealth asking him to ensure that standards were upgraded in some of the places which we licensed.

O.H.: Right, so if there was a private hospital in the Ward that you were responsible for, he'd still be responsible for looking at it?

P.G.: Yes, he had that responsibility.

O.H.: So you wouldn't inspect them yourself?

P.G.: No, I wouldn't inspect them, although I did when I became the Principal Health Surveyor, I did inspect them. They were regulated under the Health Act, the South Australian Health Act. The Commonwealth were subsidising them and their officers would expect to have top, top quality conditions within the private hospitals in particular.

O.H.: What about the child care centres that were starting up in those days?

P.G.: Yes, yes we, there was an evolution in child care centres. We inspected them under the Health Act and at some stage they came under the control of the Government body, probably the Child Welfare Department.

O.H.: So, you inspected them in your Wards?

P.G.: Yes, before the Government officers took them over.

O.H.: What were they like in the early days?

P.G.: Oh, some of the child, so called child minding centres, were rudimentary. Some of them was within private homes by a housewife trying to augment income, they had no playgrounds, they had no formalised equipment, they probably didn't have rest periods for the children. And I seem to remember that some of them were not too good.

O.H.: What were you able to do about them?

P.G.: Make them comply with the Health Act and Regulations.

O.H.: Do you remember any in particular?

P.G.: No, I probably reported on some of the worst of them, no I don't remember. I do remember, sort of digressing a little bit onto lodging houses, I do remember in Grey Ward a lady who had, out in a back shed, she had about eight old pensioners sitting on wooden benches in this galvanised iron shed, and she seemed to take all of their pensions off them and they were very bad conditions. They were living under bad conditions, and probably if I'd known better, the old people probably had Alzheimers, they didn't seem to be with it, but I was appalled by that.

O.H.: What were you able to do?

P.G.: Well, we were able to break that up and I don't remember exactly the way we broke it up, that is got the old people into better accommodation, but Mr. Boorman was always very supportive in those things. He felt great sympathy for people in a situation like that. It was a sort of a parasitical operation by the people running it.

O.H.: You mentioned that on very few occasions, or once I think you may have said, you had to enlist the help of a policeman to get into a place.

P.G.: Oh, that occurred in Hindley Street at a at a slot machine parlour alongside of what was then the Wests Theatre. Yes, that was, that was a threat of violence from this little thug running the slot machines with these - I think I was down there to make him clean up a little food operation he had in the place, and I walked out in Hindley Street and hailed a motor bike policeman to help me out. He didn't understand that under this section of the Health Act, I think it was about 49 I think, that he was supposed to help me, and he was very hesitant about helping me and I reassured him that there was such a section in the Health Act.

O.H.: What happened?

P.G.: Oh, he helped out, the gentleman quietened down and I was able to do what I was there for.

O.H.: Was that the only time?

P.G.: That's the only time.

O.H.: The other thing you mentioned was the attacks. When you were attacked you decided not to actually pursue it because you'd heard of problems with other people having pursued it?

P.G.: Yes, yes.

O.H.: Can you remember what happened?

P.G.: I was never sure, and I don't think any of us was ever assured of support from the Administration in the City Council, and if there was any suggestion that you'd provoked such a thing, the Council would not help you in any way whatsoever. So without that backing you developed a diplomatic approach to the problems.

O.H.: Had somebody experienced that or was that something you just knew?

P.G.: Well, I mentioned to you a Mr. Frank Howard being made to leave the Council and Mr. Veale suggested that he would have made a fine soldier, and in an episode such as that the motorist went out of his way to provoke Frank and Frank allowed him to have the first hit, but Frank still lost his job over it and I think that would make you think twice about looking to the Council for support.

O.H.: So that would be the incident that stuck in your mind telling you not to?

P.G.: No that - well it has stuck in my mind, but I wouldn't say that that incident - it may have subconsciously determined my attitude towards looking to the Council for support.

O.H.: Was there anything else that gave you that awareness that there wasn't that support?

P.G.: No, it was probably a gradual perception that built up over the years.

O.H.: The other thing you mentioned was a lady living in the public conveniences. [Matilda Fletcher]

P.G.: Yes.

O.H.: How did you come across her?

P.G.: Well, Geoff Boorman and Barbara Miller handled that problem and that was, I think that was in Whitmore Square where she used to - I shouldn't laugh - where she would live in the toilet and she'd get into the ladies toilet and sleep and live in there. I seem to remember Geoff and Barbara having to have a shower once after getting the lady out of the toilet. We had a shower down at the disinfectant station in Halifax Street, hot shower. [P.G addition - "Matilda drank methylated spirits which made her incontinent and she found it necessary to be seated on the pan more or less permanently."]

O.H.: Did you ever have to use that after an inspection?

P.G.: Yes, I've used the shower.

TAPE 5 SIDE B

O.H.: Yes, you were mentioning that you needed to use the shower on occasions.

P.G.: Yes, I don't remember when that was. At the disinfectant station I do recall a magnificent English built autoclave, it was so big that you could put a whole double bed mattress into it. It had polished pipes and it was fed by a steam boiler, magnificent piece of machinery and I think that was cut up for scrap and I'd rank that with the loss of the Council's weights and measures equipment as an act of administrative vandalism.

O.H.: What was the disinfectant station like then, in those early days?

P.G.: Very well set up, they had a fume room there and they had the autoclave room, because there was polio during the time that the disinfectant station was in full operation. It had a poisons room and it had a laundry and a showering facility and a yard where they stored the drums of disinfectants and insecticides that were used. Very well built and very well equipped.

O.H.: What reasons would take you down there?

P.G.: For?

O.H.: What reasons would you end up at the disinfectant station?

P.G.: Well, we would as Ward Surveyors, we would have referred on to the to Mr. Shillingford, who was in charge, the matter of disinfecting or steaming mattresses and fuming goods. At that time, in the fume room we were receiving a considerable number of parcels for overseas, this was in the early days of migration, and the migrants were sending clothing back to their homelands. And the Commonwealth would allow an export of these goods so long as they were accompanied by a fumigation certificate.

O.H.: So that was Mr. Shillingford's area.

P.G.: Yes, Mr. Shillingford, very much his area, he was in charge down there.

O.H.: What was he like?

P.G.: Mr. Shillingford? He was another gentleman. (laughs) Very conscientious, hard working.

O.H.: So these people actually maintained there, Mr. Webb and the restaurants and Mr. Shillingford with the disinfectant, were really in that position all the time, it seems?

P.G.: Yes, yes.

O.H.: There was no sort of movement around?

P.G.: No, as I explained to you, you live for those, that generation, that ten or fifteen years when you may follow in their footsteps, take their jobs. No the career path was very slow and you had to be patient.



O.H.: Okay, before we move on back to the restaurants, there are a few things that I saw that you were dealing with - this is mainly in the seventies before you actually became the restaurant inspector, I suppose when you were in the City Wards - and there were different things that you were doing that interested me like, one was testing gases in car parks.

P.G.: Yes.

O.H.: What did you do for that?

P.G.: Well we purchased a Draeger gas tester, Draeger gas tester was developed by the Germans during the War, and you'd take a measured amount of air and you'd pass it through a tube which contained reactive material and you could read off the amount of contaminants in the air. In the car parks you measured for nitrous oxide and for carbon monoxide. There was a World Health Organisation Standard for that and from memory in the streets it was seventeen parts per million and fifty parts per million in the car parks, monoxide. Nitrous oxide was a much smaller parts per million and considered to be a more dangerous gas to have present.

O.H.: Where else would you be testing gases?

P.G.: Well, we tested in Rundle Street before it became Rundle Mall and we tested in Hindley Street, at the time the Government offices recommended closing Hindley Street.

O.H.: When was that?

P.G.: Oh, that would have been in the early seventies and they've nagged along for years over excess monoxide in Hindley Street. And I thought that that was ridiculous that Hindley Street never got in daytime, never got to the seventeen parts per million and I don't think Rundle Mall, or Rundle Street. So what the motives for this, it escaped me. I did have, I did suspect that it was a, in the case of Rundle Street to Rundle Mall, was very definitely a Government - it was during the Dunstan Government, very definitely a Government determination that Rundle Street would become Rundle Mall. And they tried the same thing in Hindley Street, fortunately Hindley Street has been allowed to have traffic.

O.H.: The other thing you were testing for was sound levels, what would you do when you tested sound?

P.G.: Yes, we had a sound level meter. The sound level meter was used outside of places of public entertainment and out in the roads, where say jackhammers were operating, roadworks. My recollection is it was mainly in the in the disco areas because we did, when we did have a great number of complaints when the discos became the entertainment venues of popularity.

O.H.: And the other thing was a light meter to test smoke nuisances. How would you use that?

P.G.: Yes, yes we had light meters. They were used in situations where we would have complaints of office lighting being insufficient, there were Australian Standards for these things, and in an advisory capacity we would say look the lighting here is not up to Australian Standards, or the

monoxide levels are above Australian Standards, or the sound level was outside of Australian Standards, and that was the surveying part of the work. We didn't have hard and fast legislation in the early days and we would simply bring it to people's notice and encourage them and sort of hang in on it, keep chipping away before something was done.

O.H.: These kinds of equipment, you wouldn't would you have used them before you got into the City Wards or were they mainly in that area?

P.G.: This equipment was provided, I would think at the recommendations of the Health Surveyors. We had very little equipment, our laboratory had long since been dismantled. But I think Mr. Brassington and I had the idea that we should build up some of this equipment.

O.H.: When you say your laboratory had been dismantled, what do you mean?

P.G.: Yes, before I went there, Mr. Clarke had a laboratory, a water testing laboratory and I seem to remember lots of flasks and glassware and bunsen burners, and I think Johnny used to take swabs of things, culture, perhaps water from the Torrens, but that, as I say when I got there, there was some of this equipment lying around but it was never ever used.

O.H.: So the equipment was something that came in later?

P.G.: Yes, we got we got budget allocations, I think in the early stages we bought the equipment piecemeal, and then when I became Principal Health Surveyor, we were able to get a ten thousand dollar a year budget allocation, and so I set to and established a laboratory, fully equipped laboratory, and that's stood us in good stead, we did move with the times with that and it encouraged us to be professional in our approach to things. And there was legislation coming onto the books which required that equipment. Right now the lads have got a very well equipped laboratory for their work, we're not scientists, but for field work, Health Surveyor's field work.

O.H.: Did you feel the lack of that in the earlier days?

P.G.: Very much, very much.

O.H.: In what ways?

P.G.: Well, I don't want, I wouldn't want to reflect too much on the supervision we had at the time, but the boredom could have been eased by having laboratories and interesting things to do.

O.H.: In terms of the work can you explain how it would have helped?

P.G.: Yes, knocking on doors, looking over back fences, hanging around in lanes, there's not all that much interest in that.

O.H.: Would it have helped with with, you know, maintaining conditions and that as well?

P.G.: It would have helped yes in maintaining conditions in making

us more effective as Health Surveyors, plus giving us interest, plus demonstrating to the people that we were professionals, we had this type of equipment and we knew how to use it. Yes I think it would have enhanced the whole operation.

O.H.: One other thing I came across, you often were finding unregistered lodging houses or unregistered massage parlours. How would you - would you just come across them in your?

P.G.: Yes, there was, there was certainly unregistered lodging houses. I don't know that we registered the massage parlours. They were, they would have been in existence without our knowledge, we would find them. We didn't have much legislation to do much about it. Later on the Planners became interested in this thing and we did have a right of entry under the Health Act, which nobody else had, so we were able to enter the premises and we'd check out the sanitation and disposal of any items that were used in the lodging house, in the massage parlours, and also the laundry etc., and we would as we were bound to under our conditions of employment we would report it to the City Planners offices, that such a place existed in say a residential area.

O.H.: Would you come across these unregistered places by accident or would they come in in complaints?

P.G.: In the case of the lodging houses, that was the benefits of routine inspections, door to door knocking, you found things like unregistered lodging houses, you found people living in distress in grossly insanitary conditions, in that case you'd refer it on to the Social Worker. That's how you learned so much about your Ward. Looking at backyards, you'd find rat warrens, maybe choked deep drainage that had been neglected. And in the case of unauthorised building work you may see fit to report that to one of the Building Inspectors.

O.H.: Did you find you developed a knowledge of the Ward as you worked in it?

P.G.: Yes, and the people.

O.H.: You mentioned that you were supposed to be able to visit the places twice a year. Through the reports from Dr. Dwyer and that it looked like there were problems with actually getting that done with the delays in transport and all that sort of stuff, that it was actually taking a year or two years to get around.

P.G.: Yes, I seem to remember our our frequency falling off at some stage and I think you may have picked this up from some report. Well for transport, you see if you wanted transport you'd have to justify it. The Council or the Administration, the senior Administration looked for justification and in turn when they reported to the Committees of the Elected Members, they had to have justification, so you learnt to justify things. I wouldn't say we exaggerated any of these problems, but human nature being what it is there was always the risk of that, but transport was a big problem.

O.H.: Were you aware of how long it sort of took you to get back to an original place in your Ward?

P.G.: Yes, see I'd like to say that the frequency increased with known trouble spots.

O.H.: You mean you'd focus on the areas where there were problems?

P.G.: Oh yes, if you had a if you had a place that was chronic in any way whatsoever you would go back more frequently.

O.H.: Did that help?

P.G.: Yes, if you chipped away, if you hung in there and nagged enough you usually achieved what you set out to achieve.

O.H.: Over the time, sort of sixties and seventies there seemed to be a lot of discussion about Health Inspectors' salaries, and for a time you were under the Municipal Officers Association and then you were in the Health Inspectors Association, what did you think of your salary during that period?

P.G.: Well the Council were very mean towards us. The Metropolitan County Board had better salary structure and the State Government had a better salary structure, and tin pot Councils throughout the metropolitan area often had a better salary structure.

O.H.: So you were aware of that at the time, that you were underpaid in comparison to others?

P.G.: Yes, of course we were, of course we were. Of course we were aware of it. We felt we were working for the most senior Local Government body in South Australia at least, and we didn't see any reason why we should be paid less than tin pot Councils elsewhere. We had a heavier burden. We couldn't point to a great population, resident population, but we could certainly point to the number of commuters that came into the City each day, all adding their little problem to the City.

O.H.: Were you involved in the union at all, the Municipal Officers Association, or the Health Inspectors Association?

P.G.: Yes, I think I've mentioned that I did serve on the MOA but I think as a Traffic Inspector, but we're talking about the Health Surveyors salaries. No I don't think I served on any of those bodies.

O.H.: Do you remember doing anything to sort of encourage a better salary?

P.G.: Well, Mr. Boorman didn't like us putting too much energy into salary discussions, so it was all, it was mostly done out of his earshot, but salaries were a bone of contention in those days.

O.H.: Did you ever consider moving from the Adelaide City Council to elsewhere?

P.G.: No, I never considered. One of the things with the Council at that time was a very generous superannuation, and as time rolled on you become aware that you had quite a stake in that and it did stabilise the workforce, well I believe it did, the superannuation. And in the end when I did leave, the superannuation was very nice to have.

O.H.: We'll move on to the restaurants, when you took over the restaurants in the 1970's, Mr. Webb - did you go round with Mr. Webb at first to sort of learn the ropes?

P.G.: Yes.

O.H.: What did you do, do you remember?

P.G.: He showed me what to do and I was impressed with his knowledge of all the different foreign languages. He knew at least three or four words in each one and there was quite a variety of them (laughs).

O.H.: Did that help him in dealing with people?

P.G.: No, I never learnt any of the languages. I never found it a disability either. If you smiled and waved your hands around and pointed you usually got your message through.

O.H.: Was he well known, because he'd been doing it since 1948 or something, in the restuarants?

P.G.: Very well known.

O.H.: Did it help to have him introduce you round?

P.G.: Yes.

O.H.: In what way?

P.G.: Well, he was on very good terms with the majority of the people in the restaurants and Mr. Webb could speak well, tell very good stories, you must interview him eventually.

O.H.: I noticed in the first report you put in that you said you'd started a new filing system for each of the premises.

P.G.: Yes.

O.H.; Was that your idea?

P.G.: Yes, and individual file for the premises, I hope they're still in existence.

O.H.: I haven't looked at them. What made you think to do that?

P.G.: I like to be organised and I think in a new job you need to organise and it becomes so much easier as the time went on. But I kept feeding those files right up to the when I left the restaurants.

O.H.: The grading system, did you also introduce that, or was that already there?

P.G.: That was, no, I introduced that, the idea of the grading system was to give me an idea of where I should concentrate my energies and that was very useful. The first thing to do was to do a round of inspections to every premises and the ABCD, if all the "D's" that I noted

then that was the next follow up.

O.H.: So, when you began you did that, you went to every place?

P.G.: Yes, yes, every place.

O.H.: What were restaurants like then in the 1974-5 when you started?

P.G.: Well compared to now they're under capitalised. Most of them had been established by the migrant people in, in often substandard premises. There were something like two hundred and twenty when I started and when I left it, on retirement, I think there was in excess of five hundred. Towards the finish they were fully capitalised and often in new premises and structurally, and fitted out in a very good way, good manner.

O.H.: You mentioned cockroaches as one of the problems, what were the other main problems you would come across?

P.G.: Dirt, not in the public rooms and not in the bars, but out the back in the kitchen, bad disposal of refuse, inadequate refrigeration, inadequate ventilation, lots of fires in the restaurants in those days largely associated with the hoods and ducting over the cooking appliances. I set to, under the Australian Standard 1688, to upgrade the hoods and ducting throughout the City, established contact with the better of the metal shops where they were made, the workrooms where they were made, and encouraged them to build to the Australian Standards, with the result that there were a minimum of fires at the finish, in fact I couldn't, I couldn't recall any fires that were associated with hoods and ducting. There were some fires associated with fryers being left on overnight or thermostats failing on fryers.

O.H.: In terms of dirt and that, what were you able to do?

P.G.: Make them clean the place up under threat of prosecution. Later on under the Food Act there were requirements within that Act which allowed you to prohibit the use of premises, or items of equipment within the premises.

O.H.: Do you remember some incidents or any particularly odd things about restaurants, things of interest that you discovered?

P.G.: Yes, I found that there were restaurants who did most of their cooking on the Monday and reheated and served for the rest of the week. You'd often see buckets of spinach and buckets of goulash and mashed potatoes and rubbish bins full of potato salad and coleslaws and when they wanted to serve these things they'd dip into them and reheat them or put them on, arrange them on a plate and send them out to the customer. I did find that in some cases that the public areas of the restaurants gave no indication to what was behind the scenes.

O.H.: In what way?

P.G.: Well, the contrast in conditions. You'd see waitresses and waiters come out with silver tongs and handle the bread roll as if it was something sacred and out the back they were in a rubbish bin in the corner of the kitchen, uncovered often, laying about, but out the front it was all

reverence and care and style.

O.H.: Did you do most of your visits when the restaurant was operating or was it during the day when it was closed?

P.G.: I would say about fifty-fifty on that. You see the operating lunch restaurants - bear in mind most of the food has been cooked on the Monday - they only operate from around about half past eleven to half past two. Now it's a bit of a problem to concentrate in those times. Some of the restaurateurs, and to be fair to them, they didn't want to see you when they were having their cash flow, so you tried to arrange your programme, snack bars and coffee lounges etc. were open over a longer period of time and so you'd do those in the hours other than say eleven to two and you'd try to get to the restaurants between about eleven and twelve, before they got in full swing.

O.H.: Did it help to see them when they were actually operating?

P.G.: Yes it did. Yes I think that was necessary. A certain amount of smoking in the kitchen and if you were able to get into the place, say through the back door, you would sometimes catch them. If you went there say at three or half past three when they might be having their staff meal, then they were having a cigarette while they were having their meal it was an entirely different matter than to see them say crouched over a hotplate with a cigarette in their mouth.

O.H.: So did you arrive unannounced or were they notified?

P.G.: Yes, this varied a bit, but in the places that you knew from previous experience that were a bit slipshod in their attitudes, then you tried to get there unannounced. The back door was always a good entry. We used to get a certain amount of feedback from tradespeople, on an anonymous or please keep this secret basis. They would see some things that would revolt them, other tradespeople would see them but not say anything about it.

O.H.: What about when you were in the public part of a restaurant, would the restaurant goers know you were a Health Inspector or would you be sort of incognito?

P.G.: I think they would know. You're on your own, and the staff would react. Yes I think they knew who you were, certainly in the snack bars, they would know when you were doing the behind the counter inspection, because you're in full view of the public and you were opening up little doors and looking at things and inspecting things and looking up flues and onto the occasional hotplate you'd see in the snack bar, yes they would know who you were.

O.H.: Yes, I noticed at one stage you did a sort of a survey of snack bars and found quite a lot of, you know, problems with them.

P.G.: They were lunchtime surveys if I remember correctly, and that was to observe whether the sandwich makers were handling the prepared food excessively. There were certain rules about the use of tongs and forks and implements. Yes we did some lunchtime surveys.

O.H.: How would you do that?

P.G.: Go in, stand at the back of the line of people at the counter and watch what the food handlers were doing.

O.H.: So they wouldn't know you were there at the time?

P.G.: No, I did ask some of the other Surveyors to help me with that, because I was well known. But then when they're very busy and you're standing at the back, it may not register that you were there watching them.

O.H. I'll just turn the tape.

TAPE 6 SIDE A

O.H.: So we were talking about lunchtime inspections of snack bars, what kinds of things did you discover when you were standing in the back of the queue?

P.G.: Mainly faulty food handling, too much hands on the sandwiches or the rolls and the various fillings that went into them.

O.H.: What follow up was there?

P.G.: We would go back in the less busy times of the day and sit down and have a talk with them, point out the faults, and I think there was some letters about that time went out to some of the people. But if there were letters they would have been a follow up to the verballing of them.

O.H.: How did people react?

P.G.: Well most of them would say, "Well that's a new girl and the wife came in and she doesn't fully understand. I was busy that day and there was staff sick." There was no end of excuses, and I would accept all of their excuses whether they were pulling my leg or not. The thing is you'd got your message across and it didn't achieve much by embarrassing these people too much. I used to have some skites told to me, some fibs, and I knew full well, but I just passed that over.

O.H.: I noticed most of the inspections you did alone but sometimes you went with Inspectors of the Metropolitan County Board,

P.G. Yes.

O.H. Why would that come about?

P.G.: Well at the time the Metropolitan County Board administered the Food and Drugs Act and that area had been delegated to the County Board by the Adelaide City Council and I was administering a By-Law. Later on the Metropolitan County Board was demolished, for the want of a better word and the Food and Drug Act work reverted to the various local authorities throughout the metropolitan area, throughout South Australia, and then later on the Food and Drug Act was repealed and the Food Act came in. Yes I did some initial inspections with the Metropolitan County Board, but I did avoid that. I think two Inspectors is intimidating and a waste of resources and I think a single Inspector should be able to handle the, any situation that would develop.



O.H.: So why would you be going with them on particular occasions?

P.G.: Oh, Mr. Webb had a system of dual inspection, but I wasn't keen on it, never was keen on it. We both had our own areas and I come back to the fact that it was, in my view a waste of resources. It's a different matter if you had have needed a witness, if you'd set out to gain evidence for a prosecution, but on the basis of routine inspections I felt that one man was enough.

O.H.: When you went with them would you be looking at different aspects?

P.G.: No, no we looked at much the same thing.

O.H.: On some occasions too you went with with a Ward Inspector to different places, what would that be for?

P.G.: The - I, without any precise occasion I would have been giving the Ward Inspector some indication of the nature of the work. There may have been an overlapping role, that is something was happening within the restaurant that was affecting his area of responsibility and then again it may have been necessary for a witness.

O.H.: What ways would responsibilities overlap?

P.G.: Well, I seem to remember one in Hindley Street where drainage from the rear of the restaurant was running into the, that large motel on the corner of Hindley and Morphett Street, and that was an occasion that the Ward Inspector was asking me what I was going to about the drainage from the restaurant yard. And some of that drainage could be very offensive. That's an example.

O.H.: And other occasions you were called out for investigations into noise and there was an occasion that you were on Melbourne Street at night and on Hindley Street at night.

P.G.: Oh yes, we used to.

O.H.: What were you doing?

P.G.: Oh, taking noise level readings out at Derek Jolly's operation in Portobello. Portobello was very near to residences and it was one of the emerging noisy discos and the ratepayers of Lower North Adelaide were very much concerned with the disturbance to their amenities. And we would go out as late as three o'clock in the morning, making observations, making notes and taking sound level readings and old Derek, Derek Jolly would come out and start sweeping footpaths at three o'clock. Derek was under a lot of pressure at that time from the Council and also Bogarts was another nuisance place, it's still there to this day, it's in different management now.

O.H.: What kinds of problems were occurring there?

P.G.: Noise, patrons revving cars up, loud talk, abusive language, screaming women, urinating in the streets, pulling pickets off fences.

O.H.: What kind of control did you have over that kind of disorderly behaviour?

P.G.: We would write it all down, note it, witness it, and eventually gather together all of the evidence and through the City Solicitor go to the Liquor Licensing Court and ask for curfews to be put on the trading hours of the entertainment venues.

O.H.: So you'd go to court as a witness?

P.G.: Yes, Liquor Licensing Court, go before the Judge, long, drawn out, expensive business, didn't achieve very much.

O.H.: Yes, I noticed on one thing I came across there were six days that you'd spent in Licensing Court with something to do with the Old Lion, and the Tramps Restaurant.

P.G.: Yes, yes, Tramps, that was one by the General Havelock Hotel, Johnny Cerutto, friend of Mr. Dunstons, well claimed to be a friend of the Dunstons. Yes Tramps was a nuisance, that was called M'Lords and then he changed the name to Tramps and some of his patrons used to become very offensive. I recall some old lady in Carrington Street asking him to tone it down in the early hours of the morning that her husband was ill and couldn't sleep and one of these characters hitched a rope to a towbar and pulled her front fence off. Oh and they'd bend street trees and break them and bend parking signs down level with the ground. I don't know what they were drinking or smoking or whatever they were doing but they were, he'd send them out in the early hours of the morning in a very active condition, bent upon vandalism. Yes that place was actually curfewed, and I remember that rather well because Judge Grubb, the late Judge Grubb, was highly critical of the way we took our sound level tests. And this was not an isolated incident, I don't know that some of the Courts liked Local Government very much, but that place was curfewed and it had to go out of business. Any closing at midnight or half past eleven or even as late as one o'clock was the kiss of death for those places, the people liked to stay on until three, at least three, and often with the place that shut at three they'd jump in their cars and go looking for a place that was open even till six and seven in the morning.

O.H.: What do you mean the Judge was critical of your sound level tests?

P.G.: Oh, he said we didn't take them properly and they were of no use as evidence.

O.H.: Were you ever in any danger, being in those areas and being an Inspector?

P.G.: Never aware of it. In the Hindley Street closures, during the likes of the Grand Prix and New Years Eve, I always made a point of leaving the street by half past ten, ten o'clock at the latest. I would have been aware of the dangers, but we were unobtrusive, fairly shadowy, and never went out of our way looking for trouble. You'd see fights, fights between men and women, men and men, and women and women - women and women indeed, some of the best fights were amongst the girls, but you'd never intervene.

O.H.: So how would you be shadowy, (laughs) what would you do?

P.G.: Oh, we had transport, and in the case of the Old Lion, we could carry out observation for six or seven hours without people knowing we were there. We had hand counters and clipboards.

O.H.: You'd park the car and just sit in there?

P.G.: Yes, park the car and just watch and count numbers. It was interesting to note that in the 1970's that the crowd at the Old Lion, 1977, was four times greater than in 1987, I remember that.

O.H.: On these nights you were with Inspector Cryer, who would be one of the new - there was Inspector Cryer and Inspector Gillies?

P.G.: Yes, yes.

O.H.: What were they like? I suppose they were the new blood coming into the -

P.G.: Young, younger men, very energetic and very good. Mr. Cryer left the Council and I was sorry to see him go, he works at Kakadu now. Jaberoo I think is the Council or the Civic authority there. Mr. Cryer was a very intelligent man and a very good Officer, excellent, innovative. Mr. Gillies was also very active, energetic, he took on Mr. Shillingford's job. He left the Council and I think he works in the Barossa Valley, but they were both excellent Officers, good personalities, good fun.

O.H.: I suppose that would have been a fairly interesting job sitting and sort of casing the joint in a car (laughs)?

P.G.: Oh, yes, yes, very interesting, the British Hotel was another one we used to watch. Mr. Brassington was very good at that work, he'd often supply us with a van that was blacked out other than a few little peepholes here and there.

O.H.: Real spy work (laughs).

P.G.: Very sneaky work (laughs). Well you had to be because, if you weren't then of course you didn't get good evidence. I was in a van one night when three Labour politicians came out of the British Hotel and they were the Government at the time and they joined in with the hoodlums rocking the van (laughs). Yes two of those politicians become Cabinet Ministers. The British was a very popular hotel with the University students, I think there were some residential colleges not far away. Booming business, on the odd occasions we used to try to get into the place to make some observations, you simply couldn't move, jam packed with people.

O.H.: What were the main problems there?

P.G.: Oh, noise, noise and anti-social behaviour by patrons coming and going, smashed glass, vandalism of fences. See they're old six o'clock working man's pubs that suddenly became crammed with noisy people and music and on both sides and at the rear, genteel residential people. It's a witches brew, you're going to have trouble in those situations.

O.H.: How did you deal with that?

P.G.: As I said we took all the evidence, all the numbers coming and going, the anti-social behaviour, the incidents, wrote them down, took some tape recordings at times, and bundled it all up and sent it off to the City Solicitor to, with a recommendation to oppose the licence, and the Elected Members wanted us to do this. What you had was Local Government areas being adversely affected by State Government laws and in effect a Liquor Licensing Commission or a Licensing Court, which was able to implant these problems in the Local Government areas.

O.H.: You had, in 1978, the BYO restaurants started up, did you have any particular problems with those?

P.G.: No, BYO never really took on. I don't recall any problems with them, but the problem with the BYO legislation was that the people had to set them up almost identically with a fully licensed restaurant, so there was a capitalisation there, with a very small return from corkage, so the BYO legislation didn't suit the needs of the restaurant scene. It never really took on, not like Melbourne and Canberra, I remember going to a BYO in Canberra where you walked through the kitchen to get to the single toilet in the restaurant. Well now that couldn't exist in Adelaide. If you had a BYO restaurant you would have had to have separate accommodation for the sexes and independent of any of the food rooms, air-locked from anything else in the place.

O.H.: I noticed on one occasion you did visit Sydney and that was to look into outdoor eating areas.

P.G.: Yes, they spent a great deal of money in sending me to Sydney to look at outdoor eating areas, which I reported in considerable detail, and that was at the commencement of the Rundle Mall set up, with the food kiosk in Rundle Mall, and I thought I put a very good report in but nobody took any notice of it.

O.H.: What were you looking at?

P.G.: How they operated in Sydney, the standard of them, how they got the food to them, where the food was prepared and the effect on the amenities of the areas in which they were established. I went out to Doyles, that was the fish restaurant, that was an outdoor area, and I went down to the Opera House and they had an outdoor area there and in the inner city, I can't remember in detail but there were several outdoor areas there. I regretted very much that nobody took any notice of that report and we finished up in the Mall with a disaster and that disaster has continued. But I saw the little kiosk today it looked very nice, Balfours have got it now and it looked very nice and cleaned up, but it's still only a second grade facility for a place like Rundle Mall.

O.H.: Were there particular problems with outdoor eating as that sort of began to take off in Adelaide?

P.G.: Yes, I think the problem, reverting to the Mall, was the fact that they did have a deep fryer in the Mall and inadequate ventilation and that the fumes from that, the grease laden fumes from that, used to enter the premises in the near vicinity and if you were an optician or a beautician or if you'd got a high grade clothing store, if you're

specialising in leather goods, the last thing you want is the smell of cooked chips coming into your premises.

O.H.: Did you deal with that particular place yourself as a restaurant inspector?

P.G.: Yes, I dealt with that and I think eventually the gentleman lost his licence to operate. His name was Tamm, Mr. Peter Tamm, and he, I think he lost the kiosk and it was taken on by another gentleman from the Norfolk Hotel I think, Mr. Fahey. But I don't know what the problem was there, it looked to be a goldmine to me but, nobody seemed to clean anything or the outdoor furniture become battered and chipped and dirty. It needed loving care and attention and it never seemed to get it. But Balfours have got it looking quite nice now, but I believe it's only a temporary arrangement.

O.H.: Over the years you were working in restaurants you mentioned you noticed that big rise in numbers, what other changes came about?

P.G.: Oh, the variety of foods, the different ethnic foods that came in and the popularity from time to time of different cuisines and the, in a way the unpopularity of what you called the silver service restaurants. They were changes, Indians have had their turn and certainly the Italians have always been popular and never more popular than what they are now, Chinese in the early days very popular, the Greek restaurants and the Lebanese. And there was always three or four vegetarian restaurants that were very popular had good businesses, but it is a changing scene and people seem to move around quite a lot, they're looking for nirvana I think (laughs) in the restaurants and they'd say to me, "Oh I had a lovely meal there. Next week I went so and so that wasn't so good and the week after I went somewhere else that was very poor". They find a lovely restaurant but the next week they're at another restaurant, chopping and changing.

O.H.: Did you need to learn new skills in terms of the different ethnic varieties of restaurants and the ways of cooking and customs?

P.G.: Yes, I remember the Mongolian restaurant was, that was intriguing the way they grilled their meats. The charcoal restaurants, most of the charcoal beds remain burning, alive for twenty four hours a day, and that was through a handling of the charcoal, the ashing of the embers, the Greeks use charcoal a lot, odd Turkish restaurant we had and the Lebanese restaurants, they liked to use the open charcoal. Yes there was a whole range of things, the taramasalatas and the tzadikis, yeah I was very interested in it and I concentrated on learning and never afraid to ask a question and the people in them they liked you doing this, they liked you showing interest in what they were doing and the foods they were preparing and some of the humblest peasant foods, and that's their description of them, became gourmet foods in the Adelaide scene. The use of the cracked wheat and the I think I'm thinking of tabouli is it?

O.H.: Tabouli.

P.G.: And tabouli and the cracked wheat and the chopped up parsley with little shreds of tomato in it, vegetarian and probably what they would describe as a peasant food and they became very popular and they're popular to this day. A very wide range of foods. I think Adelaide is, or the whole of our society, is so much the better for that.

O.H.: Taking you back, right at the very beginning when you became a Health Inspector for restaurants you were sent off to Hawkesbury College to do a Food Science course?

P.G.: Yes, yes, yes.

O.H.: What was that for?

P.G.: You've done some pretty good research (laughs). That was a bacteriological course, I think it lasted a week at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College, very interesting, I have some photographs somewhere of that in the laboratories showing the effects of faecal contamination, how it can get through to the food. The main thing I remember about it is that I was eaten alive by mosquitos on the first night at Hawkesbury and I had a room to myself and I remember buying some fly spray, mosquito spray the next night. Very interesting laboratory set up and we had a big dinner there and I remember the prize for the for the most intriguing named Council in Australia went to the Tea Tree Gully Council. Yes, so men from all over Australia and from New Zealand and the Pacific Islands were at that course.

O.H.: Whose idea was it that you go to it?

P.G.: Mine most likely. There was, you had to make these opportunities yourself and you would put in a memorandum on it and suggest that it was such a good idea and there was no better person than I to do it. A form of training and I think the Government force people now to train their staff, but it was very useful and necessary.

O.H.: Speaking of mosquitos, mosquitos and flies seem to come up all the time in terms of controlling them over your period of time.

P.G.: Yes, yes, I didn't concentrate too much on them.

O.H.: No, all of the Health Inspectors seemed to be - public displays and different things.

P.G.: It was probably for the lack of development of other interesting fields. Public Health problems change, but they emerge in different forms. There's a big hang-up over the rat, the brown rat, *ratus norvegicus*, and you could trace that back to the plague times, the flea from the rat, but to this day we all shriek in horror at the idea of a sharing our accommodation with one of these brown rats, but we haven't had plague in this country for eighty or ninety years, but other things emerge that are problems and I felt that, I felt that the Health Surveyors should have kept up with the emerging problems.

O.H.: What kinds of things did you do about flies and mosquitos over those years?

P.G.: Well we'd, in the City I remember organising a survey of the rainwater tanks and having them treated but I don't know if I achieved much from that, I had to delegate and I don't think the people I delegated to were all that keen on doing the work. You didn't have time to go out and do it yourself and there was not enough discipline in the organisation to say "Well you'll do it or else". In terms of flies, there was quite a good

good strategy developed by the State Government on flies back in the early sixties and they educated people. We had fly stations, we used sticky tape etc. those German fly coils. We were able to identify areas where flies bred and the material in which they bred and from that it become an education programme and that was one of the most successful things that the State Department of Health - most successful strategy I can remember them developing.

O.H.: What did you have to do in terms of that?

P.G.: Well, we set up fly stations and we identified the organic matter, there were a few stables around in those days, lots of lawn clippings laying in smouldering heaps. They were two areas of identification of fly breeding and so then we set to, and this is probably as Ward Inspectors, we set to getting people to treat their horse manure and to dig in grass clippings, dispose of them safely so they weren't exposed to fly breeding.

O.H.: Were you involved in Health Week at all, when they had it?

P.G.: Yes, we had Health Week in the Mall, we had, we set up a stand in the Mall, I think I've got a photograph here to do with Health Week in the Mall. We would have displays in the Mall as you can see.

O.H.: Yes, we're looking at a photograph from 1987.

P.G.: Yes, this is in a little tent arrangement in the Mall and we set up our equipment and we had some interesting exhibits, very well received.

O.H.: What about the earlier days of Health Week, did you become involved in that?

P.G.: No, I don't recall much in Health Week in earlier days. We did have some Town Hall Open Days where we set up our stalls in the Town Hall.

O.H. We'll just stop there.

#### TAPE SIX SIDE B

O.H. Yes, last week you made a comment that over the years you think you had about thirty different organisational reviews, are there any that stick in your mind over that time, changes that came about?

P.G.: They become a blur, there was so many of them. I felt we were in a constant review mode.

O.H.: The one that seems to come up a lot is the PA management one in the seventies.

P.G.: Yes.

O.H.: And the way that changed some of your clerical duties and reorganised things.

P.G.: Yes, yes.

O.H.: Did that bring about real changes?

P.G.: No, I think, it's like throwing a cat up in the air, they always land on their feet. No, I think in that respect the Council did spend a lot of money, but I think if they'd spoken to the people, their Officers, the people who worked for them, and they were able to assure them that they wouldn't take it out on them if they said anything out of place, they could have learnt just as much.

O.H.: Yes, they said that you replaced the Inspectors' notebook, the register of notices and the diary with a daily sheet, did that make any difference in your clerical work?

P.G.: Well, it meant there were lots of paper laying around and getting lost. Those - that's just rubbish isn't it, those things. The Council spent tens of thousands of dollars and that's the best thing they could come up with. I kept my black notebook, I showed it to you the other day.

O.H.: So you continued in the - ?

P.G.: Oh yes, yes, well as far as as far as having handfuls of paper instead of the book, nothing very dramatic about that for change, other than to make a nuisance of everything.

O.H.: It said they also wanted to rearrange the Ward allocation to balance the amount of load in each of the Wards. Was there a difference between how much work there was in each of the Wards?

P.G.: Well, that's - yes I suppose there was a difference, I mentioned to you about the lack of housing in the Gawler/Hindmarsh Wards, but that's that's only a supervisor's role to do that.

O.H.: Did you feel your workload changed from Grey to Young to the City? Was it heavier at any time?

P.G.: It become a little more interesting in the City Wards, no I wouldn't say, I may have complained that it changed but in retrospect I don't think it changed, it's a matter of how active you were.

O.H.: In 1975, Mr. Boorman retired and both you and Mr. Brassington applied for the position of Senior Health Inspector.

P.G.: Yes, yes.

O.H.: And you said that - well I can quote to you what you said in your application, you said that if you were, if you got the position you'd "make a detailed submission and recommendation regarding the future duties of the inspectorial staff with emphasis on the changing role and nature of health work undertaken by the Local Board of Health".

P.G.: Yes, eloquent.

O.H.: Did you have an idea in mind the way you would make changes?

P.G.: Yes, I did, yes.



O.H.: What were they?

P.G.: Well, I wanted to put more interest into the work, I wanted to establish a laboratory, I was able to do that eventually. I wanted to branch into other fields. They were health problems I was dealing with, I didn't lose sight of what we were there for, but we were in this rut of years of Ward work, of what become boredom, and I wanted to develop new strategies and put new interest into the work force.

O.H.: Did you have specific ideas at that time?

P.G.: Yes, in these words I've just said, perhaps I haven't been entirely specific, but I did have clear cut ideas.

O.H.: Were you disappointed when you missed out on that position at that time?

P.G.: I remember saying that I thought the better of the two men got the job. I was a good loser.

O.H.: What was Mr. Brassington like as a Senior Health Inspector?

P.G.: Oh, Mr. Brassington was very good, he worked hard at his work, applied himself well, and I got on reasonably well with him, I'd been there a little longer than him and no, I think it was a good partnership. We were able to put into effect a lot of the things we'd talked about.

O.H.: Yes, I wondered that when I saw you'd actually started earlier whether there was any sort of feeling of -

P.G.: Oh no, no, no I was a good loser and I helped Mr. Brassington, I didn't always agree with what he had to say but no, I was very supportive to him. There were some troubles at the time and he asked me for help and assistance and that and I gave it to him.

O.H.: Did he, did he make any changes?

P.G.: Yes, he concentrated on, on the - concentrated on strategies to try to get rid of the brothels out of the City, I remember that quite well. And no, that's about all I remember, I know he had a, he put a lot of effort into that and of course as a senior man he used to attend the Committee meetings and prepare reports. He was very active in the trying to control the licensed venues, the entertainment venues which were causing us a lot of trouble at the time.

O.H.: What kind of trouble?

P.G.: Oh, the noise and the anti-social behaviour and the effect it had on the residents of the City.

O.H.: And not long after that Doctor Dwyer retired.

P.G.: Yes.

O.H.: What was that like, after he'd been there so long?

P.G.: Oh, we didn't like to see the Doctor go. No he managed to prolong his service, his retirement, I think he was seventy, he should have gone at sixty five. He was replaced by Doctor Osmond for about a year but I don't know what become of Doctor Osmond, but she didn't impress the Council.

O.H.: How did the Inspectors feel about having a female Medical Officer of Health?

P.G.: Well, I didn't like it, if you're asking me that.

O.H.: For what reasons?

P.G.: Well, I didn't take kindly to working under the supervision of a woman and I wouldn't take kindly to it now. You see I'm a bit old, aren't I (laughs), I'm a bit old yeah.

O.H.: Did that cause problems with the fact that all the Health Inspectors were men and she was a woman?

P.G.: I think it did, yes, I think it did and we were - see Doctor Dwyer reported that there was nobody to take his place, nobody qualified. Doctor Dwyer had Public Health qualifications and I think Doctor Osmond was well, probably a General Practitioner, she hadn't specialised in Public Health, and if you look up Doctor Dwyer's report, he'll say nobody was fit to take on the job, and I don't know what he recommended beyond that. But I think the thing that really destabilised us was the fact that Doctor Osmond had such difficulty with the Administration and the Elected Members.

O.H.: What do you mean by that?

P.G.: Well, we were, we'd gone from being a Department to the fact that we were losing our grasp and I think we lost being a Department coinciding with that short period.

O.H.: Yes you became Park and Gardens and Recreation and Health.

P.G.: Yes, what was called the Weed Puller took control of us.

O.H.: What changes did that make?

P.G.: Terrible, disastrous.

O.H.: How?

P.G.: Oh, it was completely inappropriate, completely inappropriate, you could hardly forgive the top Administration for such a bungle as that, completely demoralising. Interference from people who didn't know anything about what we were doing, people who'd never as much as opened the Health Act. People even saying "Oh we'll come out and inspect with you" and they had no right to, and we didn't intend to exercise our right to take them out and show them the ropes and on the odd occasions disciplinary measures taken against you, completely inappropriate.

O.H.: Do you recall anything in particular?

P.G.: No, I've put all those ugly thoughts out of my mind, (laughs), selective memory. I just know that it was overall a disaster and a reflection on the top Administration in the Town Hall.

O.H.: Did that change your office accommodation at the time?

P.G.: We had that many changes, it's like our reviews and that, I've lost count of all those.

O.H.: So, that didn't actually last all that long before it was split off and it became Health and Community Services?

P.G.: No it didn't. Yeah we, no I think we become a unit somewhere in there, with Mr. Brassington going on to the Executive, onto COMET, somewhere in amongst all that.

O.H.: Yes, March 1983 he became the Head of the Health and Community Services Unit.

P.G.: Yes, he became a Controller I think.

O.H.: What - did your position change then as well, or were you - ?

P.G.: I became - I think I got a slight rise in money around about that time I think, I think I became Assistant to him or something like that, or Deputy to him. I was still on the restaurants at the time.

O.H.: At what point did you become the Principal Health Surveyor?

P.G.: When Mr. Brassington retired I became the Principal.

O.H.: Which was 19, what year was that 1980?

P.G.: Oh, I forget.

O.H.: What year did you retire?

P.G.: Oh, good question isn't it? '90, March the 16th, 1990.

O.H.: And how many years were you in that position?

P.G.: Oh, I might have been four or five or six as the Principal.

O.H.: So that would have been about '85 or something.

P.G.: Yes.

O.H.: So, how did that come about? When he retired did you just naturally move up?

P.G.: Well there was a vacancy and I applied for Principal and for once I managed to get a leg up after thirty odd years with them.

O.H.: And what happened from there?

P.G.: Oh, I had a whale of a time. I put in to, innovations, I put into effect all that I'd bottled up for all those years, with I must say

the help of John Hodgson, the City Planner, because we had become under him, and he was very supportive, and he helped a lot. I couldn't have got it done without Mr. Hodgson, John.

O.H.: You mentioned when we first got together about some of the things that you dealt with and one of the main things was the pigeons.

P.G.: Oh yes.

O.H.: Was that an issue right when you started as Health Surveyor?

P.G.: Oh yes, they'd always been as issue, the pigeons. You're going to have to go have another session if you're going to ask me too much about the pigeons.

O.H.: Well tell me what you can today.

P.G.: Well, I think at that time I was able to really develop the Health Services laboratory and I expanded the vermin control to pigeons and European Wasps - this is five or six years ago. I introduced a Legionnaires Disease control programme, and was able to have a Surveyor appointed, an additional Surveyor, to do the Legionnaires and the cooling towers in the City, and this coincided with the Grand Prix and the development of procedures for major outdoor functions.

O.H.: Okay, we'll deal with each of those on their own.

P.G.: Alright, well we'll start off with pigeons.

O.H.: Pigeons yes. So how did that sort of come about as a problem?

P.G.: Councillor Moschakis wanted something done about the pigeons. The City was infested with them, never been worse than what they were, they were affecting the heritage buildings. They were contaminating the the water tables in the City from the run off from roofing. An odd Lord Mayor or two was being splattered getting into the Town Hall and out, I think Mr. Bowen was one, and they demanded something be done, and they put through a resolution of Council and I was able to get a budget allocation of ten thousand dollars a year and so I had to develop a strategy. I was ably assisted by Mr. Murray Phillips, a Senior Health Surveyor, and we made contact with England. We did have initially, we had some idea of what amounted to a birth control programme for the pigeons, we researched that and we researched trapping which had been tried and then the use of alpha chloralose, which is a stupefying agent.

O.H.: Yes, I read something about that, they were saying that the birds could fly certain distances before they actually passed out.

P.G.: Yes, that's right, well we we introduced a barbituate into the baiting and they only went about five metres, because under the influence of the alpha chloralose they could get up about three hundred metres from where they'd taken the bait, and of course if you have pigeons flopping around in Rundle Mall and that, it's a very emotive thing. We developed a strategy of tracing them to their feeding grounds north of Adelaide. Those feeding grounds included the grain, the faba beans in particular which were grown at the Government farm at, out Enfield way and

they used to go down to Port Adelaide quite a lot to the grain silos and to the Wingfield rubbish tip. And we developed the strategy of having hunters, professional hunters which we employed, to wait at those grounds, set up decoys and shotgun them as they arrived.

O.H.: How did you find where they fed?

P.G.: Oh, we used to station ourselves in the Oberoi Hotel - I forget what it's called now, but it's the one at North Adelaide, at the head of O'Connell Street - and we would, we had field glasses and we had radios and we had men out in the northern suburbs in motor cars with radios. And from that we traced them to the feeding grounds, from the City, and that used to occur from oh about half an hour after daybreak. They'd go up like squadrons, thousands of them. We also had inner City shooting where our hunters came in and we paid a bounty I think three dollars a bird for the inner City shooting and a dollar out in the paddocks. We were fortunate in employing three or four top marksmen, magnificent shots, hardly ever missed, and we, I think our score was something like fourteen thousand pigeons and we really wiped them out of the City. There was a considerable amount of emotion associated with it, I had death threats over the phone, abusive letters and newspaper, media comments ranging from condemnation to being fully supportive.

O.H.: How did people react to having huntsmen in the City, was there any public opposition?

P.G.: Well, they hardly ever knew, there was one episode with a taxi driver that made our life a misery for a week or two with a letter to the Town Clerk.

O.H.: What was that about?

P.G.: Well, we were operating - it was three o'clock in morning in King William Street and it was near the Ambassadors Hotel and I was driving the car and the hunter saw three pigeons on the face of one of the old buildings there, just to the south of the Ambassadors Hotel, and he got out the car and bang, bang, bang, dropped the three of them, in fact he'd got the third one before the first one hit the footpath, very competent shots, 22 rifle, low velocity ammunition, Z bullets. And with that a taxi driver saw it and pulled up and took our numbers and demanded our names and he went mad and he wrote a letter into the Council, demanded an answer, it was very difficult to handle. But I did answer it in a report to Mr. Llewellyn-Smith and he was quite supportive, he told me not to worry too much about it. It was emotive work, it was in some respects, dangerous work.

O.H.: How?

P.G.: Dangerous, how? Well you're shooting in the City (laughs) and we did make a rule that they had to shoot to a parapet or a brick wall, never to the open skyline and never below, oh about a forty five degree angle to the horizontal. We tried to minimise the problem, odd bullet or two went astray and went through windows.

O.H.: When was it done? What time of the day?

P.G.: Mainly night time. There was a certain amount of daytime

shooting when you could take up a hide. We, I thought we handled it very well, we we wiped them out off of some of the heritage buildings, and got the people to clean the building because the pigeon is a remarkable bird in that respect, from a heighth, or from a distance, he knows a building that's been infested before and they love being in near proximity to an infestation, there must be some odour or something associated with it. We even went so far as to launch a boat into the Torrens Lake and float it under the City Bridge, there's something like eight hundred pigeons under the City Bridge, rotting out the masonry. Highly corrosive the droppings from the pigeon and we floated a boat under there at three o'clock in the morning with spotlights and shotguns, and got most of them that night and there was a certain amount of daytime shooting under the City Bridge, and we were able to wipe them out.

O.H.: Were you always present in those circumstances?

P.G.: Yes, we had a system of verification. I would, Mr. Phillips would usually make a count for the hunters, and he'd submit it to me and I'd verify it and it'd go off to the City Treasurer for payment. And we always had an Officer present, the only problem we ever had, some hunters come across from hunters from Victoria and they were trappers and first time they trapped, they got about a thousand birds at a dollar a bird, we paid them off. And I had made it clear to them what the rules were and later on they turned up with another thousand and I said, "Well you can't get verification, none of our Officers were present" and one word led to another, anyway I paid them off and said "That's it. Never again, you're finished". They got very nasty and I don't know where those thousand birds came from, they were taking them to Victoria, they had a restaurant trade going with them. I don't know where those birds came from, they said they came from Wingfield Depot but. One of the biggest problems we had, it was a resolution of Council but the support from within the Town Hall was very patchy, the Director of Parks and Recreation banned us from the Park Lands, although there were plenty of pigeons to be shot in the Park Lands, and the City Engineer put such conditions on us at the Wingfield Depot that we simply couldn't operate out there, so we had the position of a resolution of Council being actively opposed in a way by Departmental Heads. And I often wondered in all the years I worked for the Council I just wondered what the, what was the weight of a resolution of Council, when you had top Administrators counteracting to such an extent that you were unable to put that resolution into effect.

O.H.: What was the feeling within the Health Office then about it?

P.G.: Oh, they liked it, yes they liked it. There may have one or two that I sensed didn't want to have anything to do with it, but that wasn't a problem because there were others who worked - I know Nigel Asplin was very supportive, I've already mentioned Mr. Phillips, who was a tower of strength, and oh some of the other younger ones I think they they got their share of work out of it.

O.H.: What had been done in the past?

P.G.: Nothing, nothing, and it's a pity, I think they've got to, well they're not doing it now, now whether it's a matter of no budget allocation or whether there's some opinion or some counteracting of the resolution of Council, but it's not being done now and the pigeons are all back, they're all back there.

O.H.: Did you try other measures before that, I read something about effigies of eagles with the pigeons sitting on them?

P.G.: Oh yes there was that, we used - well I put a report in about we had a trap on the Town Hall, the Town Hall cat ate the decoys in the trap, (laughs) yes people -

O.H.: Did that happen?

P.G.: I believe it did, I reported it did so it must have (laughs).

O.H.: What about the birds, the pigeons sitting on the eagle?

P.G.: Oh yes, yes, there might have been, there may have been a little poetic licence for that one. But I thought that was a good report but everybody thought it was very humorous (laughs).

O.H.: So did you set up a trap and stuff on the Town Hall?

P.G.: I never set up traps, I saw traps fail, ridiculous, we were dealing with thousands of them. We had, our hunters in the northern fields would get seven or eight hundred a shoot, and you see when you're talking about trapping them one at a time, they'd outbreed you, we had advice from England that unless you got rid of sixty five percent of the birds, you would have no effect because the breeding was so prolific and they're very promiscuous the pigeons, that it was a waste of time unless you achieved a sixty five percent kill and then you would start to have a big effect on them, on the numbers. I'll always, if ever there was a male and female pigeon together, I'd always make sure that the hunter shot out the female. I didn't see any point in shooting the male, because the females would go out and meet all the ferals from Port Pirie, they'd meet them half way at Gawler out in the faba bean paddocks and it was on for young and old (laughs), so there's no point, no point shooting the males, always the female. And of course the hunter he wasn't too keen on this because the male was always a much bigger bird, a much easier shot. Suddenly the male would find the female disappear from under him (laughs).

O.H.: Okay, so that's basically the pigeons.

P.G.: Oh, I could go on and on and on, on the pigeons.

O.H.: Were there any other problems that you had other than the public reaction and the Town Hall reaction?

P.G.: Yes, well - what were the problems, no it was a very well thought out strategy, the ammunition we used in the inner city as I mentioned, was a low velocity target bullet, it was effective up to about thirty to thirty five metres. The Council did buy a top quality rifle. We did have airguns, but see the problem with an airgun, it would wound them and if they flopped into the street, it brought distress to people, so we decided that if we're going to shoot the blooming thing we'd shoot it with something that would really kill it, kill it off. The alpha chloralose we mixed in our laboratory we mixed our grain and as I mentioned we used about a quarter of a percent of barbiturate. The alpha chloralose was highly effective. In theory we had to gather the stupefied birds and gas them, that was not always easy to do, because you couldn't very well risk the

life of your men on slippery parapets and up in multi-storey buildings on ledges etc.. But it was a humane thing, they did die of - what's that thermal condition, of hypothermia, and we had discussed that strategy with the RSPCA and it did meet with their approval and the alpha chloralose I think was something like seven or eight hundred dollars a kilogram, and I think we bought that from Rentokil. The product came from North America.

O.H.: What about the you said the hormone, the breeding - well family planning for the pigeon or whatever you said before, did you use that as well?

P.G.: Well, that had been used in Europe but the problem with that - I mean it was humorous and people took it up, you know they didn't seem to talk about anything else than this family planning for the pigeons, but in practical terms it would have been almost impossible. You had to get the material and you had to get them to take the material, and the pigeon if he's getting faba beans and meeting all his friends out at Enfield or wherever it might be, or at Gawler, then he's not going to bother about this baited stuff sitting around on ledges. Very intelligent the pigeons, we determined that, we couldn't get them to take the bait, we had carried out baiting trials, we did get them to take the wheat bait with the alpha chloralose but only because we formulated a brew that they simply couldn't resist. We mixed it in a microwave with vegetable oils and the other oil, the sesame seed oil, it was a delightful brew that we made up, delightful bait, and they loved it and they consumed it in great quantities.

O.H.: Where did you do that, make it up?

P.G.: Well we mixed it in the laboratory and we did have access to buildings that the owners wanted, were prepared to give us a key and let us go up in the multi-storey and work off the flat top buildings, off the ledges etc., leave the bait there and they'd take it and we'd go along and bag them up. You would get about six or seven out of ten, but the other three would become bait shy, so it wasn't a hundred percent kill with it, so you had to have other strategies and we did, we had a wide range of them.

O.H.: The other thing you worked on was the European Wasp, now had that been worked on before you became the Principal?

P.G.: No, no, I developed the strategy on the wasp in the City.

O.H.: How did that come about?

P.G.: Oh, well they had been sighted and they had given some trouble.

O.H. I'll just stop you and we'll swap to the other tape.

#### TAPE 7 SIDE A

O.H.: So we were talking about European Wasps.

P.G.: Yes, we - when I say we, this is the Health Surveyors, we developed that strategy I would say at least seven years ago when we became aware that the wasp was in the City, and our view was that the Park Lands and the picnic areas, quite large, they were worth protecting and we had



had advice from Stirling, from a gentleman up there, that life was hardly worth living outside at barbecues because of what was happening with their infestations at Stirling, and that gentleman gave us some advice and we set to, destroying nests.

O.H.: How did you go about that?

P.G.: Well we used Carboryl, which is in the, most of the tomato dusts and we simply dusted the, dusted the entrance to the nests as and when we found them. Some of them were up above the ground, most of them were in the ground, and we would then as a matter of education we'd sometimes dig the nest out and put it on display in the Town Hall.

O.H.: We're looking at photographs of you, one digging out a nest and the other one, that's applying the Carboryl.

P.G.: Yes. And we had media support, I enlisted the support of the television and they did some very interesting items on it and one nest that was in a roof of a doctor at North Adelaide, we hired a cherry picker and introduced a drama into the operation and that finished up on television.

O.H.: What drama?

P.G.: Well, the sight of this Health Surveyor up on a cherry picker treating a wasp nest. They, I was disappointed, we did go to the Government Entomologist and they just wiped us off, they said "Oh look they're nothing to worry about, you're wasting your time". And now, in the recent months we've read in the paper how they're emerging as a great problem. But together with that man at Stirling, who did work before us, and then our work, I think we deserve a pat on the back for starting it off. They tell me in the City they haven't had near the same problem that they're having now in the suburbs and of course the suburbs, they're all awake now and at it, but Adelaide is fortunate because they have that belt of Park Lands around it. Now they are established in North Adelaide, but on the basis of them flying five hundred metres, so long as the Council concentrates on those lush parts of the City and North Adelaide, they're going to control them. But if they're out of control in Unley, then I think they'll remain out of control.

O.H.: Did you have any problems, incidents, where you were bitten?

P.G.: Oh, Phillips got stung, his own fault. I warned him about it (laughs). He was warned and he wouldn't listen to me and he got stung about, I don't know he said about seventeen times.

O.H.: What happened?

P.G.: Oh, it hurt him.

O.H.: What did he do that was stupid?

P.G.: Well, I'd dusted - it was in the, in an airbrick at Christ Church, North Adelaide, and I'd dusted the airbrick. He said "I don't think you got the dust in there Griff", so he goes back to have a look, I'm hiding around a corner, I said "You're going to get stung if you hang around there", and he did to. I don't think it was seventeen times, but he got stung.

O.H.: Was there any danger in the work?

P.G.: Well, as you see from these photographs, I'm, I've got plastic gloves on to handle the Carboryl, but apart from that I never took any precautions, but when I did dust a nest I ran away. He who runs away lives to fight another day. They say there's danger, they become very agitated and I believe they will swarm on you and sting you to death, so they say. Perhaps I was lucky.

O.H.: What was the Council's attitude to that, I guess that didn't have a problem?

P.G.: Oh, we used to tell them all about it and how good we were, but you never got feedback like that. The only feedback I got was this retirement letter from Michael Llewellyn-Smith which is full of praise but in the thirty eight years that I worked for the Council, I think this about the first time somebody said I was worth my salt.

O.H.: Is there anything else about the wasps that is of interest?

P.G.: What can we say about the wasps. Well I'd say this, that you've got to persist with the strategy and they're the sort of things that the Council need to finance and need to keep going, and they're the sort of thing that the supervisors need to make sure that there's a performance, because if they relax and they get a proper hold there'll be some changes in the way the Park Lands are used. And I'm even talking about the likes of the Adelaide Oval or any Park Land functions, where there's food being cooked and people out in the open, so it will need to be followed up.

O.H.: So do you feel those things, both the pigeons and the wasps have sort of been let go, you did all that work to establish control programmes?

P.G.: No, I think the wasps have been continuing but I understand, I'm told that the pigeon strategy has lapsed.

O.H.: What about Legionnaires Disease, how did that eventuate?

P.G.: Well this ties in with the pigeons because they do hang around the cooling towers a lot and in Woolongong the contaminated tower which resulted in several deaths, nine deaths and about fifty six very serious illnesses, that cooling tower was contaminated with pigeon droppings and there was a dead pigeon in it, and once they contaminate the water there's sufficient nourishment introduced into the water for it to breed up the Legionella organism.

O.H.: Is that how you came across it or how you got involved with it?

P.G.: Yes, that was, I did go to Woolongong with Murray Phillips and we studied the outbreak there and there are similarities between Adelaide and Woolongong in the water quality and the people of Woolongong had had this tragedy and they said they would assess Adelaide as being a place where the Legionella would cause trouble and indeed we have had outbreaks and we've had deaths in South Australia. So I came back and combined with the pigeon strategy and the strategy to appoint a person, a

Health Surveyor, to check out the cooling towers, together with an Australian Standards which came in, I think that's resulted in a minimisation, if not an eradication, of the problem of Legionnaires Disease. In Woolongong when it happened in the Crown Street Mall, it had a devastating effect on commercial activity within that part of Woolongong and there were companies who never had a customer. Can you imagine it say in the Mall being traced to our Mall and the Mall being deserted and the shops being deserted and this went on for something like eight weeks. It shows the effect it could have and in that respect Councillor Ninio at the time was well aware, he was very supportive on the Legionella strategy.

O.H.: Did you do inspections yourself or did you work towards getting this other Health Surveyor?

P.G.: Well in the initial stages I worked very closely with it, but when the Health Surveyor came on to do it specially, that was delegated and they knew what they had to do.

O.H.: So what would you do for an inspection, how would you go about that?

P.G.: Check out the physical condition of the cooling tower, check out whether they were taking any measures to cleanse it, if they had sub-contractors and check out the sterilants which they were using, or the, they call them biocides, and encourage people who were not having a servicing of the towers to carry out the service. Some of the worst towers in the City are on buildings owned by the Adelaide City Council, once again difficulties within the Administration, difficulties for us to convince them to do something about it. Come on, don't go to sleep on me (laughs).

O.H.: I was waiting to see if something else was going to be said.

P.G.: I've got you hypnotised.

O.H.: No, I was pausing, I thought you were going to say something else.

P.G.: Right.

O.H.: So, were there any other issues with that, were most people aware of the problem?

P.G.: Oh yes, I think, there was a lot of publicity on the deaths at Woolongong and it's a matter of striking while that opportunity is available to you to develop the strategy. Yes they couldn't very well refuse it - that is I'm talking about the Elected Members, they were supportive, they wanted to see it come to pass that something was done about it.

O.H.: What happened with the Council buildings that you were talking about?

P.G.: Oh, I don't think we ever really convinced them. I, that came through the Building Surveyor's Department - oh there was resentment there, there was resentment to do something about the cooling tower, towers plural.

O.H.: Is that programme still continuing?

P.G.: Yes, it is. I don't know whether they've coped with the problems on the, on the Council buildings, I would assume they have by now.

O.H.: And the other thing you dealt with was the outdoor functions?

P.G.: Yes, that came out of the Grand Prix. In the first Grand Prix there were hundreds of stalls established within the circuit. To this day that's dropped back to something like a quarter, but initially everybody thought that everybody would be eating their heads off, and they needed all these food outlets, well you're out in the open, it's summertime, there is problems with the storage of food in the initial stages, the preparation of it and the disposal of the waste associated with that operation. There were little creeks running through the circuit area and we had to stop the stall operators from throwing their slops into that. But above all we had to get the food to the people, the tens of thousands who were coming there, in a wholesome and a danger free condition.

O.H.: So did this come about as a result of you working during the Grand Prix, or were you aware of it before?

P.G.: Oh, we anticipated it, we liaised with the Grand Prix authorities, the management of the Grand Prix. We were able to get entry to the circuit, and we were able to convince them that it was necessary for us to work. Under the Formula One Grand Prix Act, the Health Act and the Food and Drugs Act, were two Acts which were not exempted, like the Road Traffic Act's exempted, and the Noise Control Act is exempted, but that wasn't exempted, and whilst the Grand Prix authority itself were very conscious of the fact that they controlled everything within that circuit, they did allow us in there, and I would hold that we performed a very useful function because we never had one complaint of food poisoning of the millions of meals and items of food that have been sold in the - I think it's eight years that it's been operating - not one complaint on contaminated food or ill effects from eating any food. So our learning curve was almost perpendicular in that case. And in addition to that we had what we called street trading stands and they're in the streets leading to the circuit, where the shopkeepers were able to get out on the footpath and in the case of the lower part of Rundle Street, onto the roadway, and sell their food stuffs operating from their food outlets, and there were something like a hundred of those, although some of them would have been T shirt sellers and jewellery sellers. So we've learnt a lot from that.

O.H.: In a practical sense, on the days of the Grand Prix, what would you do, wander around?

P.G.: We'd be up early, we'd start about half past seven to eight o'clock, get to the circuit and it was divided into sectors, there was a northern sector, a Gold Pass sector and the central sector, and there'd be a Health Surveyor allotted to each one of those sectors, and then there'd be one allotted to the street trading stands and they'd go out inspecting. Seeing that the footpaths were not contaminated with fat from fryers, from hot plates and a whole range of things to be checked out.

O.H.: All day?

P.G.: Yes, all day.

O.H.: What kinds of things did you come across?

P.G.: Oh, refrigerators not acting at the low enough temperatures, there'd be muck being thrown into the Park Land creeks. Floors - we'd laid down a condition that they had to have a solid flooring, but some times they'd be working off a dusty area, dirt areas, we'd have some of the access roadways'd be dusty and billowing clouds blowing into the food outlets, so we'd get the water carts out. We also looked at the toilets, but the Grand Prix authority had plumbers and that operating on the toilets, they were never any problem, oh an occasional hose would burst and lack of water supply.

O.H.: Did that system move over to other outdoor functions other than the Grand Prix or was that just for the Grand Prix?

P.G.: Yes, there was a spillover from that, we learnt so much from it - we did have, Hindley Street was lots of outdoor trading stands in Hindley Street. Sometimes down on War Memorial Drive there'd be some stands, down at Writers Week, there'd be food outlets there and we were able to apply the experience and the expertise to those areas, not in a policing fashion but as much as in an advisory fashion, the best way of doing things.

O.H.: So what would you say was your major achievement as Principal Health Surveyor, which part of what you - ?

P.G.: My major achievement?

O.H.: The one you're most proud of, I guess.

P.G.: Oh the major one. Well the one that's, I suppose, that's lasted - I would like to lay claim to the Health Services laboratory.

O.H.: How did you go about doing that, setting that up?

P.G.: Got a budget allocation, convinced John Hodgson that it was necessary, it was about time we upgraded our work, encouraged the Health Surveyors to learn all the equipment, to know how to use it, what use it was to them, how it would assist them in their work, to demonstrate to the public that we had expertise, that we were not just wandering around talking about things, we were able to demonstrate that their refrigeration was faulty, that their freezer was not getting down to minus eighteen degrees, that they were losing food and perhaps not presenting food in as nice a condition by reason the fact they weren't refrigerating it properly. If you're asking me to single out one, I'll lay claim to that one.

O.H.: What kinds of things were you able to do through that laboratory, what kinds of equipment did you have?

P.G.: We were able to test water. We had a millipor facility, we had microscopes, we were able to examine food stuffs and pick up foreign bodies within the food stuffs. We had cameras, we had thermometers, digital thermometers. We had hoods and ducting in there, so that if we brought in contaminated fish for example, we weren't causing a nuisance in the Town Hall, we were able to convey that so as not to affect the environment. Oh now - oh we had knives, nice sharp knives and means of

sharpening them, we had mesh gloves so that we were safe if we were incising any product, we had a digital scales which measured down to a point one of a gram, very useful, particularly when you had to make precise measurements of the barbiturates etc.. I'd need to stand in the laboratory, I don't think that's the end of it, there's more things to it.

O.H.: Speaking of health and safety measures, they sort of developed over time, were they less of an issue in the early days?

P.G.: Well, there was a Health and Safety Officer in the Town Hall, and we didn't interfere with his work. We did health and safety before that Officer was appointed, but then there was a Health and Safety Act came in and that got to be a real growth industry, Health Surveying was partly forgotten when that came in, but I think things are settling back now.

O.H.: What do you mean it was forgotten?

P.G.: Oh, as Government legislation comes forward it becomes the flavour of the month, it's all the rage, but gradually it takes its place in our community, like I suppose breathalyser testing in the early days got a lot of media attention, but now it's just another fact of our existence.

O.H.: You were mentioning food poisoning and foreign objects in food, I came across a lot of that in those complaints books and in your reports, did you have any, ever have any deaths or any really serious problems?

P.G.: Yes, we had an oyster problem came through from the New South Wales oysters, and there were some serious problems associated with that, widespread illness and one reputed death from that, we were never quite sure. There was a lady lost her baby in advanced pregnancy from it. I don't know that we ever knew what was wrong with the oysters, but coming out of that problem, New South Wales established what's called depuration of oysters - that's the, the oysters are allowed to remain in a sterilised water, self cleansing process, water that passes through ultra violet light and after about thirty six hours, they're cleansed, but people do say the viruses remain active, but I don't think there's been any problems since they've had the depuration plants in.

O.H.: Was that over a period of time or was that a specific incident?

P.G.: Oh, it was, there was always, what would you say, endemic problems with oysters, but the big problem, oh about ten years ago, that was short, sharp and shiny, and it was all over in three weeks and it extended even as far as Hong Kong where the Australian oysters were banned from Hong Kong. It was said to have been an overflow of sewage in the, particularly in the Georges River, during very wet months in New South Wales, but it was devastating.

O.H.: Yes, I think Joan Ringwood mentioned that she recalls call after call coming into the office.

P.G.: Yes, oh yes, dozens and dozens of problems and what the laboratory would say to me is, "Look we've got to have first specimens, vomit or faecal matter, first specimens", and I'd sit by the phone and I remember one occasion a man rang up and he said "Oh I'm ill, I had oysters,

I'm ill, I've got diarrhoea, I'm being sick", and I said "Who else had oysters?" "Oh it was with the wife", "Is she ill?", "No she's not ill yet". I said "Well she will be ill within about an hour or two". So I raced all the pots down to her, the specimen pots, and we were able to get material on that occasion, but the laboratory still didn't come up with anything. Bit of a mystery what happened there, all sorts of theories, but it's almost like the Doctor Bogle case.

O.H.: What's the Doctor Bogle case?

P.G.: Oh yes, I think there was a Doctor Bogle and a Mrs. Chandler died in very mysterious circumstance in New South Wales many years ago, they found them on the banks of the Lane Cove River, covered with a bit of galvanised iron, both dead of course. That was a famous case the Bogle/Chandler mystery, I don't think they ever found the, they're supposed to have died from a poison, I'm not saying it was oysters incidentally (laughs), no I'm not saying it's the oysters, but I mention that in the context of it being a mystery much the same as the oyster problems.

O.H.: Okay, summing up, over your time as a Health Inspector with the Council, what ways do you think health conditions in Adelaide changed over that period of time?

P.G.: Well, our work changed from sort of a humdrum, we've done it like this for a hundred years, let's keep on doing it that way, changed from that to innovation and the development of strategies and I would say that the men are now better equipped to deal with any variety of things and particularly new things that emerge.

O.H.: How do you think that happened? Was it a gradual thing?

P.G.: Well, I think it came about with, with men with younger ideas, of a different generation who wanted to vary their work, who were able to keep putting in reports that achieved this by way of budget allocations. There was that enthusiasm to develop it. Enthusiasm plus support from say, from the Executive Administration and Elected Members. There was a certain amount of opportunism in it, that is if an Elected Member demanded that something be done about pigeons - which did happen, Councillor Moschakis - then you would bob up with a strategy and you'd say, "By the way this is going to cost you ten thousand dollars", and you'd get it that way, opportunism. If, coupled with that, if the Lord Mayor Bowen gets splattered by a pigeon, and he demands that something done about it, well you could tell him what you can do but if he's going to avoid it, he's got to support you. Opportunism I suppose, and being prepared to grasp the nettle.

O.H.: Did you find you were able to make any innovations and ideas before you became the Principal Health Surveyor?

P.G.: Mr. Brassington was reasonably receptive, reasonably. He didn't like spending money on equipment, we, I don't think - he even opposed us getting swimming pool equipment I think, I forget the name of the gear that we're supposed to have got, some testing equipment, he felt that you could borrow from the State Department of Health and that. He had his own strategies.

O.H.: Were you able to suggest ideas, do you remember anything that

came up within those days?

P.G.: Oh yes, he was reasonably receptive, but he'd, I think he'd go off to COMET and I think they might squash ideas and to be fair to him he'd come back and he'd say "Well it was not on", sort of business, and we sometimes we probably thought it was him obstructing the idea, but maybe it wasn't being received down in the corridors of power. No, I must come back to the City Planner, Mr. Hodgson, he was very supportive.

O.H.: So, over your years of walking around the streets of Adelaide, how have they changed, from your first days in the fifties?

P.G.: Streets. Well, Adelaide has become ugly, despite the millions of dollars that's gone into planning, I don't think Adelaide's ever looked worse than what it does now. There's very few things of beauty that have been produced in Adelaide, but there's a lot of beautiful things have been knocked over. And the likes of Victoria Square, used to be a fairly elegant square, now it's just a scramble to avoid high speed traffic for the average pedestrian and there's lots of gaps in Adelaide, and as I say despite all the planning and all the endeavour it's not looking very good.

O.H.: What if you walked back through Grey Ward today from when you walked back in the fifties, what changes would there be?

P.G.: What would I see? Well, I wouldn't see much better block and I wouldn't see many vacant blocks and in Gilbert Street I'd see one of the most beautiful churches, a miniature Gothic cathedral, which was knocked down and it's now a scrap iron yard. What else would I see? Well, I wouldn't see that rotten building on South Terrace, that yellow thing, and I wouldn't see the equally rotten building up on the other end of South Terrace, up near the Cemetery, the motel. Down in, down in Young Ward, not quite the devastation that was wrought in Grey Ward, but back in the City I'd see the likes of Brookman Building and the Bowman Arcade, and I suppose, I don't know whether the Brewery was an improvement on what's there now, I'll give them the benefit of the doubt there, although there is a bus interchange that always looks a bit shabby. Well, I wouldn't have seen any graffiti and there's plenty of that in the City right now. They're some of the things.

O.H.: Just summing up working with the Council over those years, did it change the sort of - I know in your position you were gradually, very slowly being able to step up.

P.G.: Very slowly.

O.H.: Did it, did the Council itself change as a place to work?

P.G.: No, it was always very difficult to work in the City Council, very difficult. I can understand the great re-organisation which has gone on, but it'll need to be followed through because it'll be very easy to lapse back into those old obstructive "what you can't do" ways, always very difficult to work in.

O.H.: In what ways? In that obstructive way?

P.G.: Oh, just obstruction, negative thought, lots of experts on



what you can't do, discouragement for innovation and endless reviews and management consultants and reports, never seemed to be able to be allowed to do you the work that you were paid to do, always diversions, always meetings, a somewhat clumsy approach to achieving decisions, too much sort of, corporate thought.

O.H. I'll just turn over the tape.

TAPE 7 SIDE B

O.H.: What about in terms of your social, the social side of working there?

P.G.: Oh, quite good, yes excellent.

O.H.: Were you involved much in the Social Club?

P.G.: Oh yes, I was the President, I had my turn as President in the Social - yes, the social life was quite good, some stalwarts in there, I see Trevor Dick's still in it, and he was always very supportive of the Social Club. I'm still invited back to the Annual Golf Day, that's been going since 1959 I think, the Golf Days, some very creative people in the, organising functions, social functions.

O.H.: What kinds of things stick out in your mind from the Social Club?

P.G.: Well, we used to have theme nights for our Annual Dinners. What did I have, my theme was something to do with Australian I think, we sort of had a, created a bushland in the Town Hall and had a lousy band, (laughs) terrible band, completed at odds with the theme that we'd developed, what was that called? I just forget now. But we had theme nights, we had dress up nights, fancy dress and that, very good.

O.H.: Did you initiate anything yourself as President, anything new?

P.G.: I followed on mainly to what was, what we'd always had. I wouldn't claim to be very creative in thinking up new things to do in the Social Club.

O.H.: At Social Club functions did people tend to sort of hang out in their Departmental groups?

P.G.: Yes, wee bit, wee bit yeah. Yes, we're a bit, we didn't intermingle. Of course most of us were, I suppose married and that and so the marrieds would be on the tables and the singles would be on other tables, and that seemed quite reasonable, you couldn't very well have it any other way. Conservative element in the Town Hall, fairly conservative.

O.H.: What about Councillors and Aldermen, would they turn up at Social Club functions?

P.G.: Oh yes, we'd always have the Lord Mayor as the Guest of Honour at the Annual - the Australian Scene incidentally was the one I organised - Lord Mayor Porter, Robert Porter, I think he become Sir Robert actually, and he came along, we fed him chocolates and nuts, much better

things than the troops got. I remember a Lord Mayor falling off the platform, stepped back and fell off this platform, what was his name? Oh terrible, at one of our functions, I just forget his name. [Alderman Hargreaves]

O.H.: How were Lord Mayors and Councillors and Aldermen, how did they act in the company of the staff?

P.G.: Switch that off for a minute.

O.H.: I was just asking about relationships between staff and Members of Council and Lord Mayors, at Social Club functions, oh and in general?

P.G.: Oh that, well the Lord Mayor would always turn up. I don't think it was a very familiar relationship. The Lord Mayor if I remember used to make a speech and it was all very proper.

O.H.: What about in general in your thirty odd years?

P.G.: Well, I deliberately avoided any familiarity with Councillors and I never regretted that. I'd seen familiarity at Unley and I'd heard about it at other Councils, and invariably at some stage it falls apart. No I kept a distance and deliberately so.

O.H.: So, thinking back, what would be one, the good things that you gained out of working for the Council over all those years, and the not so good things?

P.G.: Well, the good things, it gave employment, it gave stability to your life and it put bread on the table and I raised children and I can look back on it with good memories. I think the not so good things about the Council is that it was almost continual frustration. And from my own point of view I thought I could have done better in promotions, not that I would have wanted to have moved out of the work I was doing, it was very interesting, but I had to be very patient. So there was a lack of a career path there, that, the frustration, the lack of a career path and really some of the Departmental Heads should have been taken by the throat and shaken. I'm not at all surprised at what's come to pass now with respect to the re-organisation of the Council and it'll need to be followed through.

O.H.: So, your retirement was, at what age did you retire?

P.G.: Sixty five.

O.H.: Sixty five, in 1990. So what happened with your retirement dinner and that kind of thing?

P.G.: Oh, I had a good time, that was great. The Lord Mayor put on a function, Mr. Condous, and I was able to invite something like a hundred and twenty people, and that was all my family. My brothers came along, I've got four brothers but only three were able to come along and all the family and my I think I had, yes I had twelve grandchildren at the time, and I was able to invite a lot of people from the restaurants who I'd made friends with, and they all came along and that was lovely, and then the staff put on a function for me and that was very nice too. No I've got

lovely thoughts in that respect, they gave me a nice gift.

O.H.: What was that?

P.G.: It's a lamp stand, a brass lamp stand, bought it down at David Jones, very good quality.

O.H.: Of course the clock was earlier wasn't it, for thirty years?

P.G.: Oh, that clock, yes that clock came earlier.

O.H.: There was a problem you said about not being in continuous service because of the two days?

P.G.: Oh yes, I think I went into that, yes. Yes as I say I went to Unley for a year and if it wouldn't have been for the late Mr. Ellis, Val Ellis, who strongly supported me getting that continuous - but they were the mean minded things that came out of a guy in Treasury and Personnel, so unnecessary, never giving you the benefit of the doubt, I wasn't the only one that it happened to, never given the benefit of the doubt. If the alternative was to be mean they took it.

O.H.: There's one thing I'd like to finish up with as well, is the fact that you're still not allowed to wear shorts?

P.G.: That's correct.

O.H.: How did that happen?

P.G.: Well, I was parking cars about the time of the Davis Cup in the early fifties at the Adelaide Oval and I wore shorts, and I think it was Councillor Edwards who got onto Mr. Hughes. Councillor Edwards never missed an opportunity to embarrass Mr. Hughes. I'm parking the cars and the old George Hutchinson in the Dog Catcher's wagon come chugging up, the old Commer van, a green van, and George stammered a bit and he said, "I, I, I've got a note for you, Peter", and here was the note from Mr. Hughes. "You've been reported for wearing shorts. You are to return home, come back to the job properly dressed and you're never to wear shorts again", and I didn't, I truly didn't. And at my farewell I asked the, Mr. Llewellyn-Smith, could he possibly arrange for me to be released from that as I was going into retirement and I liked wearing shorts in summer. He said "Well I'll see about that".

O.H.: So have you been released as yet?

P.G.: No, I never got anything in writing. I never kept the note, but I still haven't got anything in writing, releasing me from it, well I don't think I have. I had one or two to drink that day. Can I tell you a little story?

O.H.: Yes, I was going to say is there anything else that you wanted to tell me?

P.G.: Oh, there is a little story about pigeons. We shot a pigeon from the window of our office one day. We were up on the second level, and the pigeon plummeted to earth and just at that moment, looking down into the Light Court, one of the Italian cleaners was having discussion with a

friend and he's waving his hands around - this is a true story - and the pigeon, the dead pigeon lobbed in his right hand, and without as much as looking skyward he brought it down to waist level and started to pluck it with his left hand. He didn't ask where the pigeon came from, he didn't look or anything, just a reflex action (laughs).

O.H.: Force of habit (laughs).

P.G.: True story, I've got witnesses to that one.

O.H.: Is there anything else that stands out from your time with the, over thirty eight years?

P.G.: Well, we've just about, we've just about said it all I think. No I'm just looking through the farewell speech. Oh there's a little story about that too. Three months after I left, Word Processing sent a copy of this speech back to the office and asked does it need upgrading (laughs). That was a procedure with Word Processing. If it didn't need upgrading then they would remove it, remove it from the Word Processing. I did act as consultant to the Ayers House Restaurant for the Queen's Luncheon at the Kaiser Stuhl Winery in March, 1977.

O.H.: What did you do for that?

P.G.: Well, Mr. Cramey said "Look this is one of the most important functions I've ever put on. I want you to see that the food prepared in the Ayers House kitchens and put into transport, gets to Nuriootpa and is served in the most safest way it could possibly do. And besides that, will you check out the menus". So I got him to take rice off the menu, because rice is notorious, sometimes, for causing food poisoning, and he did that. So that was one of the jewels in the crown, but you've heard about all the others.

O.H.: Oh, it's been really, really good and I hope that you've enjoyed it as much as I have.

P.G.: Well, I have.

O.H.: I'd like to thank you for taking part in the project.

P.G.: Oh, thank you, you've interviewed nicely, and we've got on well together, and I don't suppose you've got time for a cup of coffee have you?

O.H.: Yes I have.

P.G.: Oh fine.

Further anecdote added by Peter Griffin on reading transcript, to be added to page 36:

One of the regular users of the Adelaide Oval car park in the 1950s was the Fire Chief, Mr Whyte. He would arrive in a low slung Jaguar red racing sports car. (He insisted he needed such a car to arrive first at fires and was often criticised for having such a car.) As he arrived at the Oval, seated in the passenger's seat, chauffeur driver, he would throw a hand full of silver into the air (without slowing down) and park adjacent to the ticket box. Needless to say he was never other than welcome to do as he pleased in the car park.

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