

Recorded: Wednesday 11 November 2020;
Interviewer: Jenny Stephens
Abstractor: Jenny Stephens

The time codes in this abstract summary have been recorded based on the original audio files. Please note that the times may differ for the online audio due to the original files being combined into one file. However, the order of content in this abstract below will match the online audio.

File 01 11 November 2020

CHILDHOOD days lived in GORE

Father's occupation SHOE SHOP

Met her future husband when holidaying in ROXBURGH

- 4.30 Moved to ROXBURGH with husband who was an ORCHARDIST. Bev helped. Produce was transferred to market by own car and LOCAL FRUIT TRAIN.
'Full on' work in the season including PICKING (STRAWBERRIES) cooking for the workers and managing children.
Early starts and evenings were used to pick and pack as hot days meant the middle of the day was too hot.
- 6.34 AMENITIES FOR CHILDREN at that time included play centre, Sunday school for small ones then brownies and scouts. There was always a school in Roxburgh when the Toms lived there
- 7.19 Significant memories – the ROXBURGH HYDRO DAM was built in 1950s. Many school teachers picked fruit – she explained some were accommodated in large house on the orchard and she described they were always treated like one big family.
Roxburgh's population changed (dropped) after the dam was built.
- 9.02 HOSPITAL was built for the hydro [ROXBURGH HYDRO DAM] - mainly maternity but also some medical beds. This was made over to the town after the dam was completed.
- 9.25 Experience of GOLD HISTORY – there was one DREDGE working on the river. Two were no use but were still there.
During the filling of the dam the river was low, and many people came to prospect for gold expecting to find good pickings – however the river level never dropped that much so it was a disappointment.

File 02

- 0.44 FLOODS were a big event in the town 1978(?).
Bev described standing on the bridge at COAL CREEK looking at the flooding when a wall of water came down, it picked up a horse shed - they ran.
- 1.32 In a more recent flood they rescued a neighbour and their cats and dogs then all sheltered in the fruit shed.

2.27 Bev was evacuated in the last flood (2017). Water came down the street, silt came in all around the house. She was home next day. A big team of people helped get rid of all the silt including the 'student' army (from CHRISTCHURCH).

4.50 APPLIANCES owned were a washing machine, electric jug and a toaster.

File 03 & 04 Interviewer explanation re sound disturbance

File 05

Packing shed made of concrete and stone the only HISTORIC BUILDING on the orchard. TOMS were fourth generation residents of the area. Bev said her son is fifth and her grandson is planning on following in his ancestors' footsteps.

2.45 OUTINGS and recreational opportunities included in the area. Most Sundays the family went for picnics. Up to eight in the car with 3 children and grandparents. A favourite was GORGE CREEK. BLACKS FOREST, POOLBURN or LAKE ONSLOW were also destinations.

4.44 Shopping was available here, occasionally went to DUNEDIN.

5.55 Industries of local interest CANNING FACTORY, and the HEALTH CAMP where up to 50 children stayed. Roxburgh's main school was always for both junior and senior classes. Lots of children due to the high number of post war babies.

7.38 SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES - example use of DISTRICT HALLS. Weekly Saturday dances were held with local music

8.12 The ROXBURGH BRASS BAND was 'always' in ROXBURGH. Bev unclear when it started but said it was "before her time"

9.35 ORGANISED ACTIVITIES available included playcentre, brownies, guides, cubs, scouts. These groups were big. Bev was a GUIDE CAPTAIN and took camps all over the place. She stated she loved it.

10.31 SPORT was popular especially rugby. Everybody played rugby. Not sure about cricket

11.28 Lots of CHURCHES in ROXBURGH. It was "taken for granted that you would go to church".

Recording ends