

ABSTRACT:**Wanaka Women Project****Recorded: Friday 25 October 2020****File 1 of 1****Interviewer: Liz Holland****Abstractor: Liz Holland****ELIZABETH (LIZ) RILEY**

- 0.49 Identifies self as Elizabeth Helen Riley and date of birth [Date*].
- 2.00 Born in her mother's birthplace.
- 2.58 Clarifies where Timaru Creek Station was in relation to Lake Hawea
- 4.00 Parents
Father: FRANCIS MELVILLE RILEY [born [Date*] Dunedin.
Had 2 brothers. His father a Doctor in Dunedin- taught Obstetrics in Dunedin.
Visited Timaru Creek Station for holidays.
Describes how her father came to be a farmer on a high country sheep station, at Timaru Creek.
Mother: MARGARET JANET PATERSON [born [Date*] in Timaru.
Went to Dunedin to study a Bachelor of Arts. [UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO]
Her father met her through a mutual friend.
- 8.12 Grandparents
Grandfathers died before she knew them; knew Grandmothers
Grandmother Riley, Dunedin stayed regularly
Grandmother Beatrice (nee Kippenberger) Paterson visited from Timaru
Explains the influence her grandmothers had on her, especially the correct way to behave; and although Grandmother Paterson didn't complete her own medical studies, she instilled the desire in Liz to keep on learning.
- 11.45 Early 1930s Father moved to Timaru Creek- an isolated life. Describes. [Married [Date*] and Liz's Mother moved to Timaru Creek. Station had 64000 acres; 8000 sheep and crops to feed animals. Describes
- 15.17 Recalls earliest memories of living at Timaru Creek. Farming activities, visitors, weather, homestead. Musterers coming for a meal at 4am. House a series of huts. Describes.
- 18.40 5 siblings- 6 children under 10 years old.
Bill- [WILLIAM RATCLIFFE RILEY- b [Date*]
Jo- [JOSEPHINE BEATRICE RILEY -b [Date*]- married name WALES]
Tim- [TIMOTHY DEREK RILEY - b [Date*]
Den- [DENIS MELVILLE RILEY - b [Date*], died [Date*]
Sue- [SUSAN JANET RILEY-b [Date*], married name FISHER]
- 19.25 Day to day life on Station; caring for other siblings, milking cows, preparing food; washing clothes. Mother needed to hear what children

were doing. Describes

- 25.11 Schooling very important. 8 miles to Hawea School, so used Correspondence School and Governesses until there were 3 school aged children and eligible to use a subsidised taxi to school. On Station Education- lambs born; animals killed; RAWLEIGHS travelling sales man; Stock and Station Agents –WRIGHT STEPHENSONS.
- 29.00 Shearing was at the DINGLE; shearers boated in on JEAN MARGARET. ROCKY POINT had no road at the time. Shearers looked after by Home Science students cooking for them for 6 weeks. Huge Store Rooms to store food at both Timaru Creek and Dingle. Liz would walk or ride around the ROCKY POINT BLUFF to stay with her father at DINGLE. IAN SARGINSON put in the one-way road after the RILEYS left TIMARU CREEK. Describes
- 34.24 The children entertained themselves; made things; exploring rubbish tip. Made friends with visitors children. Describes
- 38.00 1949 Sent to boarding School, ST HILDAS [COLLEGIATE SCHOOL] in Dunedin. Both Grandmothers lived in Dunedin. Then moved to TIMARU HIGH SCHOOL for 3rd Form and her brother in Form 2. Neither liked this time, [Bill] felt bullied.
- 41.09 JILL SPAIN in Timaru and supportive. Lifetime friends made from Timaru Creek- the GAWNS, BURDONS, KANES, ROWLEYS.
- 43.48 Hawea School – typical day. Describes.
- 45.11 Recalls PUBLIC WORKS arrived in HAWEA as LAKE HAWEA was to be raised 50 feet and this would cover their homestead. Public Works campsite, more children at Hawea School. Parents had to decide what to do- controversy in the family. TIMARU CREEK STATION sold to [IAN SARGINSON] and some compensation from Public Works. Building of the HAWEA DAM commenced. 1955/56 Very upsetting for the family. They all had to ALL begin again. Moved to farm at BERWICK [“THE DELL” renamed to “TUSSOCK RIDGES”] for 10 years. Parents retired to OUTRAM.
- 52.04 Relationship with Wanaka in 2020. Lives in Dunedin and visits and stays with her brother [BILL RILEY] regularly. Connects with family people she knew while growing up.
54. 15 Liz had a long career [Teaching then Psychiatric Nursing – not part of this project].

COVID-19 in 2020. Observations of WANAKA – change from a market centre to a tourist centre.

Recalls the WANAKA [A+P] SHOW. Riding the ponies to the Show.

DOUGLAS family, GP who had 6 children, ROWLEYS had 6 children- used to meet up. Wanaka a village. ELLA HORRELL came from Wanaka to work on farm – her son died in the lake in a terrible accident.

Pre COVID, Wanaka rapidly becoming a tourist town.

Blacksmith came from ARROWTOWN to shoe the horses at Timaru Creek.

Married couple at DINGLE came by horse and cart from ALBERT TOWN.

Stays with sister Jo who lives in ROXBURGH on the way up to WANAKA.

Mentions people who came camping to holiday houses in TIMARU BAY

[TIMARU CREEK] BIDDY +HUNTER [DENNISTON] (twins) now 85, her

longest standing friends.

1.01.56 END OF FILE

*Dates removed for privacy and security reasons. For enquiries related to genealogy, please apply directly to the Central Otago Oral History Project manager.