

## CENTRAL OTAGO ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

**Recorded: 21 April 2021**

**Interviewer:** Robyn LeLieve

**Abstractor:** Sara K Crawford

### EARLE HAYMES

*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.*

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

#### **File 01 (date)**

- 0:04 EARLE HAYMES. Lived in ALEXANDRA since 1956.
- 0:20 Job experience as a RABBITER [EMPLOYMENT]. Worked for the AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT from leaving school to 1964. Then gained employment at FINAGAN'S FREEZING WORKS for a season before commencing RABBITER role.
- 1:10 Interviewed for full-time FUMAGATION GANG job by HARRY TAYLOR – PEST DESTRUCTION SUPERVISOR for MOLYNEAUX BOARD [LOCAL GOVERNMENT]. Pest control area from GORGE CREEK to FISH CREEK in CROMWELL GORGE – included EARNSCLEUGH STATION, EARNSCLEUGH FLATS and FRUITLANDS. Worked in the role for a year. Describes job – used LAVASIDE gas and dogs – GOLDEN LABRADORS, LURCHERS and FOX TERRIERS. Mentions Dog Allowance – 3 SHILLINGS a week per dog for registering and feeding dogs. Enjoyed job.
- 4:00 Describes supervisor's method of managing FUMAGATION GANG. Mentions promotion to LEADING HAND [EMPLOYMENT]. Promoted over another employee with a longer service record.
- 5:07 Explains how change of supervisor altered the way the FUNAGATION GANG worked. New Supervisor DOUG NICHOLLS from LEANING ROCK BOARD issued SHOTGUNS to LEADING HANDS. Describes RABBIT HUNTING TECHNIQUES used by the FUMAGATION GANG.
- 6:18 Worked in FREELANCE RABBIT CONTROL role for GLENORCHY RABBIT BOARD in 1967. Camped in the REECE VALLEY for the job with dogs for 6 weeks.
- 6:52 RABBIT CONTROL techniques changed to include NIGHT SHOOTING – describes. Attempted to shoot one rabbit per shot. 300 RABBITS shot per vehicle per night. Details dead rabbit retrieval, skinning, gutting and feeding to dogs. Didn't sell skins – illegal to profit from RABBIT CONTROL activities. Could use skins for personal use after curing with ALUM POWDER and KEROSENE.
- 8:52 Started AERIAL POISONING. Gang of 6-7 used GIBSON CARROT CUTTER. Aeroplanes left from AIRSTRIPS near FRASER DAM or from EARNSCLEUGH STATION. Describes

how Gang cut carrots, mixed 1080 POISON then loaded onto HOPPER on aeroplane. Details time period for POISONING process. 1080 POISON dyed green so birds not attracted. Aimed for 90 percent RABBIT KILL rate – rate affected by time of year carrots dropped. Describes landscape where laced carrots dropped.

11.44 End of File 01

**End of File 01.**

**File 2 (25 August 2021), 21.4.2021**

**Document name: Haymes\_Earle File02**

0.0 States Interviewee name and address where interview took place.

Moved to ALEXANDRA in 1956 - lived with Grandparents. Previously in FOSTER CARE AS STATE WARD in DUNEDIN due to disintegration parents' marriage. Father remained in DUNEDIN while Earle in ALEXANDRA. Mother born in 1913 either on WEST COAST or SOLOMAN ISLANDS. Grandfather employed as Plantation Manager with LEVER BROTHERS [EMPLOYMENT] in SOLOMAN ISLANDS

2:40 Grandparents born late 1880's to 1890's. Recalls initial difficulty in adhering to their 'Victorian' standards of behaviour – grandmother a 'Matriarch'. Recalls grandfather's gruff demeanour. Grandfather worked as Carpenter [EMPLOYMENT]. Discusses relationship with grandfather - improved over time. Grandparents died aged 89 in late 1970's. Grandmother in dementia ward of DUNSTAN HOSPITAL in her last year. Explains appreciation of Grandparents 'strict' parenting style.

5.25 States that grandfather built his ALEXANDRA home. House still standing – near MOTORCAMP, next door to uncle's house. Built from POPLAR wood – not 'long life' timber. Recalls Sunday roast with '3 vege'. Recalls helping Grandfather with building activities on weekends.

7.08 Recalls wearing 'ordinary' but good quality clothing. Clothing provided by the State because Earle was in STATE/FOSTER CARE – grandparents paid to look after Earle. Paid 2 and six pence – 25 to 30 cents, pocket money – could go to the movies and buy FANTA (beverage).

8.07 Details sporting/recreational activities – rugby, cricket, softball, swimming, hiking, shooting (with 22 rifle – grandparents didn't know about gun). Mentions regular holiday job COL CREEK – employment "cheap labour" due to State Ward (status). Paid 30 pence an hour. Biked to job.

9:14 Attended Euchar evenings with grandmother. Got sick of the 'old biddies' telling him off for playing wrong card – stopped going.

9.37 Recalls Garden chores – carting lots of rocks for rock garden. Grandfather propagated alpine plants. Other chores – made bed, did dishes.

- 10:38 Grandparents had impact on Earle. Described father as a good man – father attended Earle’s 21<sup>st</sup> party in Dunedin. Party was last time Earle saw father alive – he died 1962/3. Earle mentions people who influenced him – looked up to grandfather. Only role model– Bill McGechan; Seed testing officer for CENTRAL OTAGO AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT – describes Bill’s appearance and seaman work. Describes life lesson taught by Bill – always return borrowed items.
- 13.20 Mentions ex flat mate from Alex – ex British army tank commander but he would not have been a good role model.
- 14.10 Describes family celebration – Christmas. Mentions RAVENSBOURNE (DUNEDIN) house – woman relatives lived there during war. [WORLD WAR II]. Reminisces about Sunday celebrations. Chicken soup and scones for “Sunday Tea” and singing around the piano.
- 15.35 Mentions Strict discipline (with Grandparents). Curfew until 17 years. Remembers Friday night at KIWI MILK BAR in ALEXANDRA – had to be home by 9.30pm. Attended St ENOCH’S church with grandmother every Sunday. Unsure of grandfather’s religious beliefs. Wore suit and tie to church. Mentions THOMAS CAMERON MILLER HAY Presbyterian minister – good bloke. Mentions names of others who attended bible class (with him). Discusses religious beliefs.
- 19.46 Discusses EDUCATION - ALEXANDRA DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL. Few classes under 30. Teachers laid back at ALEXANDRA school. Liked English, Geography, trigonometry, chemistry classes. Mentions school sport – in the First 15 Rugby, First Eleven cricket, ‘House’ swimming. Describes ‘old swimming pool’ – very murky.
- 23.17 Left school at 17 years. Wanted an outside job. Mentions jobs whilst school student – ‘cleaning boy’ at Preens Drycleaners and COAL CREEK orchard. Once leaving school did odd jobs – employed as labourer by Gordon Pollock plasterer. Did orchard work at EARNESCLEUGH STATION. Then five years at agricultural department – 40 hours per week. Mentions Irrigation work duties in IDA VALLEY. Starting salary – 3 pounds, 1 six. Bought REMINGTON KEENE BOLT ACTION with savings – Earle became an accurate shooter.
- 26.03 Used government supplied vehicles for work – describes location of garage for the vehicles (ALEXANDRA). Drove an old Bedford truck. Fleet had a tractor, trailers. Loved the job. Applied for (Technician) job, offered job, didn’t start – “dropped my bundle”. Later worked for FREEZING WORKS.

File finishes at 28:57.

### **File 3**

**Document name: Haymes\_Earle File03**

- 0:00 [EMPLOYMENT] Contemplated that (?) for a while – then CEO – Peter Neilson\* (?) offered job in MANITOTO. Mentions Trainee Operator job advertisement with WAITAKI POWER SCHEME – money good so took Operator job. Worked there for 7-8 years – building canals and dam. Stayed until 1982. Came back ‘here’ (CENTRAL OTAGO) working on CLYDE DAM.

- 1:53 Describes incident when operating a CATERPILLAR 769 DUMP Truck at CLYDE that led to (heart) arrhythmia diagnosis [HEALTH]– interfered with balance. Job finished.
- 3:22 [EMPLOYMENT] Fenced with stepfather in INVERCARGILL. Saw job advertisement for caretaker role at DUNSTAN HIGH SCHOOL – applied – got onto shortlist. Principal GRAHAM ROBERTSON\* (?) offered Earle the role. Worked role from 1982 to 1987. Then ‘lured away’ to PICTON CAMPING GROUND Manager role – job didn’t work out. Returned to Alex and worked for ARTHUR BARNET (Department Store) as INSTALLATION MAN – stayed until store closure in 1996. Recalls some staff being offered jobs with THE WAREHOUSE (which took over site). Believes senior staff not offered jobs due to THE WAREHOUSE “not wanting to pay us” (due to higher wages). Recalls being told that older staff wouldn’t handle “the high tech”.
- 6:32 Next role – 2 jobs; one with TIPTOP BAKERS and for ON THE SPOT TOBACCO. Eventually full-time with TIPTOP – stayed until retirement in 2006.
- 7:08 Describes vivid memories of lights in sky when very young – related to War time events. Earle was born in 1941. Remembers newspaper listing war [WORLD WAR II] deaths. Remembers reluctance to answer phone during war time (due to bad news). Mentions one uncle was PRISONER OF WAR in Germany. Recalls ration books and ration book stickers. Recalls being sent off to shops with ration book. Recalls “Penny Sliders” ice creams.
- 10:32 File finishes

Note: \* = unsure about spelling

#### File 4

**Document name: Haymes\_Earle File04**

- 0:00 Recalls first BLOSSOM FESTIVAL - 1957. Recalls first Blossom queen - KAREN ROBINSON. States it was a community effort with proceeds going back to committee and (purchase) of fairground equipment. Recalls being put to work as a clown (on train) selling raffle tickets, entrance fees. Maxwell did (clown) make-up. Recalls novelty vehicles as part of festival. Thinks it was more family oriented in those days. More commercial now – “lost some of its (old fashioned) atmosphere”.
- 2:44 Recalls more FLOATS – “2 or 3 times more than they do now”. Local (participating) organisations started to build floats earlier in year – participating groups included EARNECLEUGH fruit growers, ‘Catholic ladies’, GIRL GUIDES, local HIGH SCHOOL. Recalls making “flowers” every interval at high school.
- 3:41 Discusses lifelong interest in TRAINS. Describes watching trains from RAVENSWOOD RESIDENCE as a youngster. Wanted to be an ‘engine driver’. Unable due to eyesight problem. Recalls first trip in STEAM HAULED PASSENGER TRAIN at age 9/10 – describes beauty of (travelling) through the MANITOTO (through to ALEXANDRA). Said to

grandmother that he 'would live here one day'. Jokes about being a 'Foamer' due to interest in trains.

- 7:10 Recalls first trip to CROMWELL GORGE – via car. Describes being overwhelmed by 'colours, ruggedness, topography, sheer beauty'. Thinks railway line through gorge 'added to the mystery of the whole area'. Never got to ride the train to CROMWELL.
- 8:23 Recalls seeing and hearing STEAM TRAIN from Clyde. Recalls trip to DUNEDIN being a day trip – (incorporated) meal breaks at RANFURLY and MIDDLEMARCH. Remembers 'bustling' TEAROOM at RANFURLY as a child. Once (DIESEL RAIL CAR) train started, trip started 8.20am and in Dunedin before lunch time – this trip less 'romantic'. Thinks diesel locomotives for goods introduced late 60's/early 70's – Steam (GOOD TRAINS) operated at same time as DIESEL RAIL CARS.
- 10:30 Recalls loading FRUIT during holiday job onto FORD TRUCK when working at ROXBOROUGH ORCHARDS – fruit bound for wagons travelling to DUNEDIN MARKETS.
- 11:12 END OF FILE 4