

**Abstract and Zoom notes for William (Bill) Munro**  
**3-06-2021**

**Zoom 0005**

- 0.38. Full name, d.o.b.**
- 1.46.** Family, Grandparents
- 3.02.** Father J R Munro
- 4.33.** Employment. Postmaster, description of Argus newspaper, machinery and working
- 5.27.** Publications
- 6.40.** Cromwell Totalisator Ltd.
- 7.36.** Auctioneers Licence. Wild horse auction. Luggage
- 8.38.** Mock Court. Description  
Some of this was not recorded

**Zoom 0006**

- 0.43.** J R Munro writing interests, Australian author D'Arcy Miland, J R's contribution to J C Parcell's Heart of the Desert
- 1.26.** J R interest in planes, flying. "Tiny" Olsen, flights from Dunedin, would buzz the house and Drop chocolate.
- 2.19.** 1933, visit of Sir Charles Kingsford Smith in Southern Cross. Bill ( interviewee) had a flight in Southern Cross over Cromwell.
- 2.59.** 1947, H V Morton flew Rearwin Sportster from/to Auckland, description

**Zoom 0007,0008 missing but no loss of interview material.**

**Zoom 0009**

- 0.10.** More flight details. Whitestar Aviation, aerial photographs.
- 0.20** Bill had flight aged 4 ½ years.

**Zoom 0010**

- 0.6.** J R keen swimmer, helped found swimming baths.  
List of other interests. JP, School Committee, member of Masonic and Oddfellows Lodges.
- 0 52.** Mayor of Cromwell, including visit from Governor General.

**1.36.** Bill's mother, Caroline Jessie Bain, details.

**2.05** Siblings, Names and dates.

**2.48.** Childhood memories of Pembroke (now Wanaka) Show. Dad's involvement  
Description of the drive on rough roads.

**4.13.** Bill's schooling. Primary school. Paper noises

**5.17.** Details of travel for rural pupils.

**6.16.** Cromwell High School, details of responsibilities.

**7.17.** School Certificate.

**8.00.** Employment. Worked for year for WW Webb who had bought the Argus from J R Munro, then At Bowie's Grocery, descriptions of wages, doing deliveries to Bannockburn, Ripponvale, Lowburn, Bendigo.  
Dalgety's Store, amalgamated from Jolly's and Stumbles. Description of commodities etc.

- 11.17.** Hobbies. Brass band, Bill played euphonium, brother Bruce the cornet.  
**Cont.** Different sport every night and in weekends. Description.
- 12.43.** Wife, Dulcie Mary Helen Gray. Also keen sportswoman. Description of Dulcie's employment  
 And sports activities.
- 13.38.** Marriage. 20-01-1951. Description of fraught rental car arrangements.  
 Honeymoon, more car problems
- 16.37.** Son Barry, 28-02-1960.
- 16.40.** Bill and Dulcie moved to Lawrence.1954. Grocery shop. Description of packaging, various  
 Commodities , deliveries.
- 18.45.** Use of flour bags etc, recycled materials.
- 19.49.** Prices of items.
- 20.45.** Details of leasing then owning store.
- 21.30.** Community interests, J C's, School committee, St Johns..Long service Citation.
- 21.58.** Fundraising
- 22.31.** 1954 moved to Dunedin. Bill worked for NZED for 5years, clerical and Area Services Manager
- 23.54.** 1980 moved back to Cromwell. Bill Council Clerk for a year then Rail, Road Services as  
 Manager for 2 years. Then worked for Beatties Garage and Ewen Hilyard, clerical
- 25.57.** Dulcie died suddenly 1988. Working for friends helped.

#### **Zoom 0011**

- 00.11.** Community activities Lawrence, Cromwell. Voluntary Fire Brigade, Masonic Lodge,  
**00.18.** Cromwell Friendship ( formerly Probus), Bowls, 20 yrs at Cromwell club, last 8 at  
 Bannockburn, still very active.

#### **Zoom 0012**

**Interview resumed after a break. A McA , full intro , File 2.**

- 0.16.** Bill's Travels.
- 1.24.** Thailand, River Quai, details, elephants with friend Margaret Grindlay.
- 2.38.** Description of WW2 Japanese atrocities at Hellfire Pass, eerie atmosphere.
- 4.06.** War cemetery, local women attended graves, cutting grass with scissors.
- 4.36.** Description of Phuket, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore
- 5.53.** South America, Falklands, penguins "little puff balls". No formed roads.
- 7.58.** Description of new housing for Falkland residents. Important..oil!
- 8.47.**Montevideo, Buenos Aires, tango demonstration.
- 9.57.** Mediterranean Cruise with friend Margaret.
- 10.46.** China, 2015. Descriptions of everyday life of Chinese,  
 Terracotta Soldiers, Great Wall, Tea Ceremony at Grand Palace  
 Yangtze River, cruise, very polluted with plastic, industrial waste etc  
 Description of locks on Yangtze  
 Electricity generation and ingenuity of Chinese in copying Seimans

### **Zoom 13**

Not recording.

### **Zoom 14.**

Memories and additions

- 0.10.** School holiday work. Fruit picking, haymaking for Mooney , Partridge. Story of horse bolting, Picking apricots at John Bilton's.  
Described Scott's Bakery,  
Milkmen. Pat Heaney, left top off milkcan in rain.."more milk!", measured milk into customers Billy. Jo Ward also had Sunhaven now a subdivision.  
Pictures in Cromwell. " Town Crier" announced the film showing. 6d entry.
  
- 6.41.** Activities. ATC (Air Training Corp). Taken by Bill Whiston. Camps: Taieri, Ohakea. Bill 18-19 yrs
- 7.49.** Description of travelling Cromwell to Ohakea. Anecdote of pressing trousers, under mattress.
  
- 8.58.** Argus. Description of building, machinery, water powered Pelton wheel, Linotype, one of first in Central Otago. Slugs of mercury type melted down.
- 14.39** Described wooden floors, could push broom handle through to Chinese built tunnels.
- 15.17.** Argus reconstructed in Heritage Precinct. Bill asked by Max Birtles to help with details.
  
- 16.08.** Dunedin. NZED employment Bill taken on flight over mouth of Clutha, checking silt deposits.
  
- 17.25.** Lawrence.Voluteering.Tuapeka Races, Labour Day weekends. Treasurer,Presbyterian church.  
  
Cromwell, 3 years Volunteer Fire Brigade, experiences.

