

Recorded; 25-08-22, 31-08-22, 13-09-22

Interviewer; Jo Wilson

Abstractor; Jo Wilson

File 01; 25.08.22

Introduction, and recording agreement.

- 1.25 Born in CROMWELL, at ST HELEN'S MATERNITY HOSPITAL on 16.3.1926. Youngest of 3 children. Brought up in LOWBURN, went to Primary School there.
- 2.20 At Standard 5, (Year 9), went by bus to CROMWELL DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL for 2 years. Describes school. Left with Certificate of attendance 1938 at 14 years old.
- 7.03 Left school to work on the farm with father, at Lowburn. Her brother was working on their grandfather's orchard, as 'UNCLE FRANK' was away fighting in WW2
- 8.30 Work on the farm with HAYMAKING and MILKING COWS, (by Pelton wheel, water-driven, to power the milking machines.) Describes transport of milk to DUNEDIN. Paid on amount of Butter Fat.
- 14.20 GOODS TRAIN and PASSENGER trains to Dunedin described.
- 15.08 FARM STAFF – one boy when growing up. Irrigation from water races. Farm size 50 acres.
- 16.40 Farm location – below NORTHBURN STATION, and now below LAKE DUNSTAN.
- 18.02 Describes DEPRESSION time, relying on VEGETABLE GARDEN and farm produce.
- 19.10 Describes RADIO at home. Ran on batteries, (no power on the farm). Also no vehicle.
- 20.55 Brother FRANK & sister MARGERY mentioned. (She was married and living in Coal Creek)
- 21.56 GEORGE DUNGY mentioned – with truck to transport mail & the cream cans.
- 23.18 SOCIAL EVENTS; Went to Dances at LOWBURN HALL. (Across the Clutha River.) Describes LOWBURN PUNT.
- 25.06 Last punt left at midnight, when dances ended, otherwise very long walk home via Bridge at Cromwell. Photo of punt & Hotel by the River described.
- 25.30 LOWBURN BRIDGE built in 1938, very high with large hump to miss flooding.
- 26.30 DREDGE, AUSTRAL MALAY, (largest in Southern Hemisphere), assembled downstream of new bridge. Described.
- 29.30 1945-1950, remained working on the farm.
- 30.15 Meeting future Husband, MATT COWIE, (pre-war). Describes.
- 32.20 Describes WAR TIME RATIONING. Compared to English experience of war.
- 34.38 JERSEY BULL on the farm, & other animals.
- 37.15 Rabbit control on the farm.
- 38.06 Milking and shooting rabbits – describes. No labour on a Sunday.
- 40.15 TENNIS; played at Lowburn in summer, Sunday afternoons. Describes Lowburn amenities, (now all drowned).
- 41.15 CHURCH – held at Lowburn School. SUNDAY SCHOOL for primary school children. Walked.
- 44.25 CLUTHA RIVER floods – no impact on Audrey. But recalled stories of 1878 flood.
- 46.30 Cromwell during 1936-38 when at High school. 800 people, including one aunt.
- 48.35

End of File 1

File 02; 13.09.22

0.0 Introduction and identification.

1.30 WEDDING. Married in 04-03-1950, when 23 years old – Newspaper, (CENTRAL OTAGO NEWS), a report of wedding and wedding party.

3.31 End of File 2.

[NB Phone rang, and recorder paused, but not switched back on, so rest of interview not recorded, but notes taken manually. The third interview covered many of the same questions, but some of the detail was not repeated.

Neighbouring ORCHARD described. Owned by Mr JOHN SWAN – her maternal grandparents. He emigrated from Edinburgh with his parents aged 2. Went to Dunedin. He came to Cromwell when 20 years old. Went goldmining and bought land at the end of Lowburn Road. Grew mostly apples – COX'S ORANGE, peaches in cooler areas. Had a shed for grading and packing fruit which was sold in DUNEDIN, and some sold locally. Like many he combined mining and farming, using a gold pan & cradle.

Other orchards developed by the 'BETTANCOURTS']

File 3; 20.09.22

0.0 Introduction and identification.

1.42 Phone call. Interrupted recording.

End of File3

File 4; 20.09.22

1.43 Repeat of wedding and dress described. Honeymoon, including a trip to STEWART ISLAND.

2.40 INVERCARGILL and DUNEDIN for rest of honeymoon.

3.05 Husband MATT COWIE. Was born in 1923, brought up in ALEXANDRA & TARRAS. Bought farm near TARRAS, in 1949, called DEER PARK. (From Mr & Mrs MUNRO).

3.28 Likely met Matt at local dance, when Audrey 16-17 years old. (Dances held monthly at BANNOCKBURN, CROMWELL, RIPPOVALE, LOWBURN).

3.58 Worked on farms & RABBITING.

4.20 MATT in the OTAGO MOUNTED RIFLES, (but too young to travel), served in the ROYAL Navy when 21years old. Went on MINE SWEEPER to PERSIAN GULF.

5.35 DEER PARK FARM. Named by Munro's [previous owners].

6.15 Farm was 640 acres, or 1 square mile. Most farms were larger 'RUNS' going onto Hill country.

7.00 Mixed farm with crops, 1000 sheep.

7.40 Grain sent to DUNEDIN in bags.

8.00 TURNIPS grown for seed. Describes.

8.46 Audrey's work included FEEDING OUT, IRRIGATION, (after first 10 years of Dryland farming), and RAISING LAMBS. Describes an AUNT DAISY recipe for reviving lambs.

11.30 PET LAMBS. Daisy mentioned.

12.33 RADIO memories.

13.20 Farm located 1 mile, & North from TARRAS POST OFFICE.

- 13.40 Describes FARM HOUSE, & JACK GIBSON mentioned as one of builders. Built early 1900s.
14.30 HOUSE ALTERATIONS. In 1958. Describes coal range/and inefficient AGA/electric range.
End of File 4.

File 5; 20.09.22

- 0.0 Cooking duties on the farm. DESCRIBES. Catering for Contractors etc.
0.50 Farm help on the farm.
2.20 Describes cooked breakfast for the men. Had own hens & ducks.
3.21 PRESERVING. Describes. Dinner menu.
6.02 Cream from own cow, (made butter at one stage.) Fenced vegetable garden.
6.32 CHILDREN. LYNDELL, RUTH, PATRINA, LIZ, HEATHER, ANDREW [Birth dates available upon request for legitimate research purposes]. (Patrina died at one year old from enlarge Thymus gland).
7.40 HOSPITAL & DOCTOR in CROMWELL.
8.11 Mentions ST HELEN'S MATERNITY HOSPITAL. Describes.
9.33 EDUCATION. 3 eldest girls, TARRAS PRIMARY SCHOOL, then to TIMARU GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL. Younger 2 – HEATHER to DUNSTAN HIGH SCHOOL, (as boarder), and ANDREW to OTAGO BOYS HIGH SCHOOL. Subsidy provided for Boarding School costs.
10.34 Driving times TARRAS TO CROMWELL & ALEXANDRA.
12.41 TARRAS PRIMARY SCHOOL. 70 Pupils and 3 teachers, to Standard 6 [year 8].
12.57 Farm Staff. Mostly temporary. Mostly CONTRACTORS, building irrigation dam, SHEARING & CRUTCHING in the autumn. Took 3 days, with 4 to 5 people. (Cromwell gang).
14.33 Provided Breakfast, Lunch, morning & afternoon smoko, and they went home for tea.
15.33 QUEEN ELIZABETH 2nd, died recently, (she was a month younger than Audrey). Watched funeral. Went to QUEENSTOWN to see her, with children. Date? early 60's.
16.45 ACTIVITIES in TARRAS. Played GOLF – course developed 1952-3. Previously went to Wanaka. Grounds were donated by different farms, EG CLUDEN STATION, LINDIS PEAKS, ADAMS' and GIBSON'S property. Each hole was named after different volunteers. CLUDEN for the final hole.
16.55 PLUNKET, WOMEN'S DIVISION of FERATED FARMERS, (started early, but didn't continue)
17.29 SCHOOL involvement. Taking children to sport. Girls played NETBALL, ANDREW played RUGBY.
18.28 TARRAS CRICKET TEAM – adults only.
19.06 TENNIS – played on courts beside rugby ground.
19.33 BADMINTON & INDOOR BOWLS – played in village hall. (1st one near the school burnt down and 2nd one built ? date). No hotel in Tarras.
21.20 Summer Fairs for FUNDRAISING. Hall used for RUGBY post-match.
22.40 Recalls temporary Hall, nick-named ____ Inn.
24.10 Farm sold to PETER JOLLY – a neighbour.
24.48 Farm house bought by Keith & Barbara Dickinson with 6 acres of orchard. Unsuccessful, so sold.
25.23 Bought by DAVID CULL, (later Mayor of DUNEDIN). Subdivided land & has 2new houses on it.
26.05 VEGETABLE GARDEN & ORCHARD fully fenced - described.
27.17 End of File 5.