

**File: Marjorie & Greg Rule March2012.mp3**

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**Interviewers: Bob Richardson & Rosemary Jovanovic**

START AUDIO

Bob: Who are we interviewing? We're interviewing Marg Rule.  
Marg, where were you born and when and who?

Marg: I was Marjorie Doyle and I was born in Canberra at Pierces  
Creek, near the Cotter River.

Bob: When? Can we ask you?

Marg: Yes, of course. 23<sup>rd</sup> of the ninth, 1941.

Bob: The other person involved in this interview is Greg Rule.

Greg: That's me.

Bob: That's Greg. When were you born and where?

Greg: I was born at[Harden on the 7<sup>th</sup> January '21.

Bob: 1921. So you two are married?

Marg: Yes.

Bob: And you were married when?

Marg: On 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1976.

Bob: '76. When did you come to live in Hall?

Marg: After that, straightaway. We married in the house.

Bob: Greg was already in Hall?

Greg: Oh yes.

Marg: Greg, yes. He had the farm down on Gladstone Street, but then we built a new house in [Loftus 0:01:19] Street.

Bob: So Greg had the farm –

Marg: On Gladstone Street.

Greg: Sunnyside.

Bob: Sunnyside. And then married in '76.

Marg: Yes, in the house where we live.

Bob: In that very house? What's the address of that house?

Marg: 6 Loftus Street, Hall.

Bob: You have been there since 1976?

Marg: Yes.

Bob: Good on you.

Greg: We go out occasionally.

Bob: I'm sure you do. And children?

Marg: I have got three children by a previous marriage and Greg and I don't have children.

Bob: Right, there are three and they are grown up and gone away?

Marg: Yes, they are all living on the Gold Coast and I've got eight grandchildren.

Bob: So what are the names and ages of your children?

Marg: Ian Rule and he is 50. Andrew Weaver and he is 48, and Matthew Weaver is 46. I have eight grandchildren.

Bob: Do you work?

Marg: I work for Myer.

Bob: Have you done that for very long?

Marg: 12 years.

Bob: 12 years at Myer. Before that?

Marg: Prior to that I worked in a Telstra and I took triple 0 calls and I took the call when the Commissioner of Police was –

Bob: Yes. Say it?

Marg: Well, she rang and she said, “The Commissioner has had a heart attack” and then she called me back a few minutes later and said, “The Commissioner has been shot.”

Bob: What commissioner was that?

Marg: Winchester.

Bob: When he died of a heart attack?

Marg: He didn't, he was shot.

Bob: Shot?

Marg: He was shot.

Rosemary: That's right; a car in his drive way wasn't it?

Marg: Yes. I worked triple 0 for all those years, well, I worked for Telstra and did a lot of other things, but I worked triple 0.

Bob: Where did you go to school?

Marg: I went to school at St Christopher's at Manuka. After that I did a shorthand typing course and went to work at Foreign Affairs.

Bob: That's interesting. Do you remember anyone at Foreign Affairs in those days?

Marg: I worked for Sir Roden Cutler and Sir James Plimsoll, they were all there.

Bob: Cutler hey?

Marg: Yes, they were lovely, they were beautiful people. I then worked for the American Embassy as well, for a while, until such times as my baby came along, my Ian.

Bob: What years was the American Embassy?

Marg: Ian was born in '62, so prior to – maybe '60 till '62 at the American Embassy.

Rosemary: I didn't think married women were allowed to work in the public service in those days.

Marg: Well this was the Embassy then.

Rosemary: But you said before that Foreign Affairs didn't you?

Marg: Yes, but then I left there.

Rosemary: Oh okay, so you weren't married then?

Marg: I wasn't married, no. I worked in Braddon then for Adam Ingram and Son and they had a hardware and plumbing shop and I answered the phone there in their premises. It's not there any longer of course because it's gone. And then I went to the American Embassy.

Bob: Hmm, very interesting background. Marg, do you remember when you were young, do you remember Hall in the days gone by?

Marg: Well Hall was a country village in the bush. My parents had a property called 'Montana' at Yass it was. Dad was a wood chopper, so we always travelled a lot and passed Hall.

Rosemary: But the main street was the highway, even I remember that.

Marg: Yes, definitely.

Bob: How did you meet young Greg?

Marg: In this house where we are sitting, Brian and Ann, but they lived in Hackett at the time.

Bob: Brian and Ann O'Connor?

Marg: Yes. They had a house in Hackett, in Selwyn Street, and then they bought this. Ann told me she had a rich uncle, "but I soon made him poor." We met down here at the Pavilion and the music wasn't very good and Ann and Brian left and got themselves some coffee and he said to me later on, "If you'd have invited me, I'd have come along." He must have liked the look of me straight away.

Bob: What year would that have been, do you remember? Back in the '60s?

Marg: Oh it would have been about '69.

Greg: I don't rush into things.

Bob: Good thinking.

Marg: I had to ask him to marry me, because he wouldn't ask.

Bob: Is that right? We'll cut that out.

Greg: You make mistakes in your life don't you?

Bob: When you met her Greg, what were you doing in those days?

Greg: I think I was still shearing; I'm not too sure.

Bob: Still a shearer?

Greg: It was either that or very close to Parliament House, I'm not too sure which. My trade prior to that was shearing, you see? I've also shorn between Queensland and Tasmania and a few spots in between. I gave shearing away in 1963 and I came home and there was an ad in the paper for an attendant in Parliament House and I applied for it. A lot of people responded and two of us got it and I was one of the lucky ones and I spent 21 years there. I saw quite a few Prime Ministers go through.

Bob: Like who, Greg? Name them.

Greg: Menzies was one. Holt, then McEwan. I'm not really sure now, it was either – it might have been Gough Whitlam. There were six of them anyhow. Then Billy McMahon, Bob Hawke.

Marg: Keating?

Greg: Keating and I left, my time ran out when – who came in?

Marg: Bob Hawke was still there remember, we've got a lovely picture of you and Bob together.

Greg: Oh yes, he gave me a send off you know?

Bob: You have a photo with Bob Hawke?

Marg: Yes.

Greg: The first time a Prime Minister- They knew and they were very sad when I was leaving, you know; "A good man gone to the bush."

Bob: So you actually got to meet these Prime Ministers?

Greg: Oh well I didn't actually meet them, but I worked for or under them.

Bob: Saw them up close?

Greg: Yes. Malcolm Fraser was one. I won't go any further than that.

Bob: Greg, what did Hall look like in those days?

Greg: There weren't as many people then as there are today. It's a funny thing you know, in a small community, you practically knew everybody, but now there are a lot of villagers you don't know.

Bob: Was the service station here then?

Greg: Yes. I forget, Peter somebody ran it and he had himself plus a man and my brother in law came out here to work. I was saying to him, "You should go out there and help them out sometimes." Anyhow, he did, he came out and Peter offered us the garage. When he took over, he had about six blokes working for him.

Marg: That was Brian O'Connor's dad, Gus.

Greg: Yes, Gus O'Connor.

Bob: So the garage was where it is now or down on the corner?

Greg: No, where it is now. It hasn't shifted.

Bob: Do you remember when it was on the corner?

Greg: It never was on the corner.

Marg: Yes, there was one on the corner.

Greg: Which one are you referring to?

Bob: I don't know, that's why I'm asking.

Greg: Yes, there was a temporary one down a bit further, plus a shop at the same time.

Bob: So it was temporary, the one on the corner?

Greg: Yes.

Bob: But this one that's here now has always been there?

Greg: The original.

Bob: And Rochford owned it at one stage?

Greg: He did own it.

Marg: Ross Brown.

Greg: No, he didn't. He bought it off – If Jim was here, he could tell you more about it. Yes, Jim bought it from these people and he bought it all prior to going to war. He hadn't long had the shop and he was called up and he spent time in the services. He told me that he had to borrow the money to buy the place and then he went to the Air Force. I don't know how many years he was there, but he came home and scratched around a bit.

The original one was a little old slab place; you had to bend your head to get into it. He built that new one, the garage that's there now.

Bob: Greg, do you have brothers or sisters?

Greg: I have four sisters and two brothers.

Bob: Are they still alive?

Greg: No, I've lost two girls, my eldest and the second eldest.

Bob: What were their names?

Greg: Jean and Marie. Jean Bush and Marie O'Connor.

Bob: Who have we still got?

Greg: I've got Lorna, Betty and Lorna.

Bob: They live where?

Greg: Betty lives in Young and my sister Lorna lives in Canberra. I have got a brother living still in Young and I've got another brother Keith living down the coast.

Bob: Are you the oldest?

Greg: Eldest boy, yes.

Bob: Oldest boy, there's an older girl?

Marg: There were two older sisters.

Bob: Marg, have you got brothers and sisters?

Marg: Yes, I've got three sisters and one brother, younger.

Bob: Names?

Marg: Maureen, Terese, Judith and Lance.

Bob: All still alive?

Marg: All still alive.

Bob: They live nearby?

Marg: They all live in Canberra, every one of them.

Bob: Isn't that wonderful?

Marg: Yes, it's great.

Greg: On the old dunghill.

Bob: Can we stop just for a minute? Would anyone like a cup of tea or coffee?

Greg, I'm going to ask you about your shearing days. Did you ever hand shear?

Greg: Yes, I learnt by the shears. My dad used to shear a few little backyard sheep. Whilst he was shearing sheep, I'd belly wool one for him, you see, and then he'd take over and I'd do another one. Yes, I did learn on the blades. I had a go on the machines after that and I think I might have only shorn one sheep at the time and then I went away – I worked in various places around Young and then I went down to Wagga and worked on a dairy there for a number of years.

I came home and I leased an apple orchard. I worked on it and pruned it and done everything and I had a bit of a selling of fruit and bless my soul, a bad southerly came up and blew nearly all of them off. Anyhow, that's part of life. It was a bit of a drought on, I had some sheep then I sold them and got out. I sheared everywhere then; I got into the game pretty well then.

Rosemary: Was that pretty hard on your back in those days? I don't know how you could keep doing it.

Greg: Yes. It's not good at the present time either. They do wear out, you know, but they didn't have a sling like they've got today. Those things must be a wonderful help because you've got three springs and you get tension in whatever balance you want them. It does save your back because when you're

leaning over sheep at that angle all day, they put a bit of weight on you as well.

Anyhow I didn't have a sling and I gave away the shearing in 1963, as I said.

Marg: How much did you earn?

Greg: When I first went out to shear, it was £5 a hundred and I think it was 60 cents a hundred for crutching. When I gave away shearing in '63, it was about £10 a hundred then. Now it's about \$260 a hundred, so a vast difference. If I were getting that money when I was shearing, as they get today, I'd have had a fairly good wallet. I'd be knocking a few over.

Bob: Did you work with a team?

Greg: Yes, the biggest part of the time was with a contractor.

Bob: What was the biggest shed you were in?

Greg: I think it was in Queensland... I can't think of the name of it.

Bob: How many stands?

Greg: 75 there were.

Bob: That is big. Were you ever the gun?

Greg: Popgun. Yes, I rang a few sheds.

Bob: Did you? What was your best score?

Greg: 200 odd.

Bob: That's pretty good isn't it?

Greg: Not every day, of course.

Bob: Of course not, 200 hey? Jesus. You'd know about it.

Rosemary: At least you'd have soft hands with all the lanolin.

Bob: Soft brain.

Greg: You do. Well that's part of it too. Yes, your hands would get very, very soft and they're caught in thistles. We used to get – oh dear, they were bad spear grass. They had a little thing on the top of them like that and on the end they had a little feather seed, whatever it was, and they poked into you and then they

serrated and you couldn't get it out. Dear God, your hands would be just absolutely riddled. I used to get big thistles in my legs. By the holy hell, it's not an easy job.

Rosemary: No, I'll say.

Greg: But it's part of life. The thing I always say is, "Shearing is piecework and if there was more piecework done today, we'd have a better country," because you only got paid for what you did. If you sat on your tail all day, you got nothing, but if you went out and shored, well, you got paid for it.

Rosemary: You learn to appreciate it then.

Greg: Well as I say, if they had more piecework, the country would be a lot better off. Oh you strike some tough sheep, by hell you do, and then of course you get some good ones.

Rosemary: I suppose they don't all take it lying down, do they?

Greg: They've got a temper of their own, you know? I was shearing in a shed of six stands once and my brother in law was shearing in front of me and then sheep kicked the hand piece out of my hand and onto the belly of the sheep that he was shearing, kicked it right off the end of the tube. No, it didn't cut him, fortunately.

Dear God, some of the accommodation was pretty rough. You had to bath in a tub and then you had to boil some water to get some water to have showers. They had a bucket and you put up on the ceiling and it had little rows underneath. You turned it on and you couldn't soap yourself up too much because you wouldn't have enough water to get it off.

Rosemary: The farmers that owned the sheep had to supply all the accommodation did they?

Greg: Yes, they did.

Marg: And the food.

Greg: Yes, there was supposed to be only two to a room, but some of those times out there accommodation was pretty tight and we used to sometimes have three or four in one room.

Bob: Too bad if you snored, Greg.

Greg: Yes, my brother in law was a cold man, he used to wake up in the middle of the night and say, "I'm cold" and wake the whole place up.

Rosemary: I'm sure that helped.

Greg: And then he used to get a wool pack, bring it down to the shed, the accommodation and he would put his mattress in and get in the bale with it. By hell, you know, those wool packs are pretty good blankets.

Rosemary: I reckon.

Greg: Yes. We had different means of things of course.

Bob: What about food, was it good food, tucker?

Greg: Oh yes, always good food. We had one fellow who came and cooked for us, he came from Albury, I can't think of his name now. Yes, Walt Redman was his name and he had been cooking in that one shed for 21 years.

Bob: He must have been good. They called them the 'babblers' didn't they?

Greg: Babbling brook, yes.

Bob: Babbling brook, the cook.

Greg: What's the big fireplace where you fill them up with wood?

Female: Like a camp oven?

Greg: No.

Marg: A fuel stove?

Greg: No. A brick oven and they used to put a fire in and it would be raging you know, roaring anyhow. You'd get up in the morning and they'd clean it out, take the ashes out, put your chops in there and your eggs in there, by the holy hell they didn't take long to cook. The heat that they retain is surprising.

Bob: The temperatures would be pretty high in summer anyway.

Greg: Oh dear God, yes. When I shored in Queensland up there, you'd shear just with your pants and boots on and you had a little breastplate there where you put the sheep's feet, you see. By morning teatime, or roughly around that time, you'd be wet to the knees with perspiration. The water would be running down your arms just like you'd come out of a shower. The sheep would nearly suffocate while you were shearing, plus their heat and your heat. You'd put them down the chute..

Bob: So what time in the morning would you start to shear?

Greg: 7:30.

Bob: So you were up for breakfast early?

Greg: You had to get up for breakfast and then get to the shed.

Bob: So 7:30 and when was your first break?

Greg: 9:30. Every two hours.

Bob: Every two hours you had what, five minutes?

Greg: Half an hour.

Bob: Half an hour every two hours.

Greg: For lunch you had an hour.

Bob: Did you always have a cup of tea or a smoke?

Greg: A cup of tea, yes, and then we used to shear then from half past 3 to half past five. 1 till 2 and 2:30 we started – no, anyhow, we had two hour breaks.

Bob: That was five or seven days a week?

Greg: Five. Sometimes early in the piece when I started to shear there were five and a half days and then they cut it out and I had two days off.

Bob: Greg, you have always been a churchman, were you a churchman in those days?

Greg: Yes, but you didn't always have the means of getting in there.

Bob: So you would miss church on Sundays?

Greg: Sometimes. Well, the biggest part of the time you would, yes.

Marg:: Did you have a car?

Greg: Yes. I had an old single seater Buick.

Bob: Single seated Buick?

Greg: Yes, '28 model. It was solid, by hell it was.

Bob: I wish you still had it.

Greg: Dear God, yes. I gave it to my brother and I don't know what happened to it after that.

Bob: So that's how you got around the country, in this old Buick?

Greg: Yes. Oh dear God.

Bob: How would you know where you were going? You knew the next shift?

Greg: You had a pretty good idea, of course. You knew other people and which way to go and which way not to go. We always found where we had to go.

Bob: Telephones, there were telephones then?

Greg: No. There were telephones in the homestead, but that's all, none of these ones you have in your pocket now.

Bob: So it would be word of mouth, you'd say, "We finish in two days, I'm going..." and you'd tell others where you were going?

Greg: The team would probably all go together. In exceptions where there was working for a farm or a cocky or something like that of course, then you broke up no doubt.

Bob: The ringer wasn't it, the boss?

Greg: No, the beaver was the boss. The ringer is the bloke who shored the most sheep for the shed.

Bob: Oh, I thought that was the gun.

Greg: Well, you get a gun too, a popgun.

Bob: A gun or a ringer. The boss of the team would decide where the team was going next.

Greg: Yes, but if he had a contract, he had what they call a run, you see, and you'd go one to the other.

Bob: A run with contracts.

Greg: We have often shorn over time to cut out a shed, then travelled overnight and been ready to start in the shed the next morning. But that didn't happen all the time, but it did happen.

Bob: They ran off their generators, didn't they?

Greg: No. They had petrol engines, diesel engines. In Queensland we had a steam engine. My brother in law, he cut a little bit of bag on the shaft above him and it created a little bit of air.

Bob: That's smart.

Greg: Yes and they all put it on and the old steam engine couldn't handle it. He had to take them off.

Bob: You do the season, how many would you shear a season, roughly?

Greg: I never ever counted.

Bob: It would be quite a few, wouldn't it? Thousands

Greg: Oh yes, my word.

Bob: When the season was over, what did you do?

Greg: I was living in – I worked around different places. When I came to Canberra here I shore but I used to drive Ross Brown's

truck. We used to cart hay from Young and all that sort of thing and then we'd circulate them round the city.

Bob: That was your off season job?

Greg: Yes.

Bob: That's good. We might go over to Marg again, what do you reckon Marg?

Marg: Good idea.

Bob: You have had very interesting occupations as well, are there any in particular you remember and you'd like to tell us about?

Marg: No, they were all good jobs and good people to work with. It was nice to have a change and to have the variety of jobs and people you work with. It gave you a lot of experience.

Bob: You have always been with the church as well haven't you?

Marg: Ah yes. When I was born we went to Uriarra for Mass but we only had it once a month because that was right out in the bush too.

Bob: Once a month only?

Marg: Once a month only. Then we moved to Yarralumla and then we could go to mass quite often.

Bob: Do you remember the priests? No?

Marg: No... Father Cusack wasn't it? Father Cusack was there first and then my mother and father also had a farm but out near the Mullion, near Yass. We had a farm as well but I never shored a sheep.

Bob: You ran sheep?

Marg: Yes, sheep.

Bob: You went to catholic school?

Marg: Went to catholic school at Manuka and was taught by the Good Samaritan nuns. Yes, they used to roll up their habit and play basketball with us. They were very, very strict though, extremely strict. We had to do as we were told.

Greg: That's a good habit.

Marg: They were strict all right. We travelled. When I first started off at school from Pierces Creek, we had to walk from Pierces Creek to the Cotter River, which was a long way for a little child to walk. But then eventually we did get a panel van to come up and pick us up and then we travelled in. We used to travel up by Kambah Lane and around and pick up the Maguires, who owned Melrose, onto the Canberra cemetery and then come to school.

Mr Pike was our bus driver.

Greg: There wouldn't be many down at the cemetery though would there?

Marg: We'd pick up the girl Lorna – oh, behave yourself Greg. No, there wouldn't be people at the cemetery getting on the bus, only one.

Bob: What age did you leave school?

Marg: 15.

Bob: That's when you went to your first job?

Marg: Yes.

Bob: Your first job, again, was –

Marg: At Foreign Affairs.

Bob: Straight from school to Foreign Affairs.

Marg: No, I did a shorthand typing course at the technical college.

Bob: That was quite a jump, Marg, wasn't it, straight into Foreign Affairs?

Marg: Yes. It was very good; they were really beautiful people to work with.

Bob: When you were married, were you married at the Hall church or not?

Marg: The first time I married, no, I was married at St. Christopher's the first time and then Greg and I were married in our house.

Bob: Oh that's right. You and Greg were married in the house here. Do you remember the priest who it was? Do you remember, Greg?

Marg: We didn't have a priest because –

Bob: Oh, because you'd been married before.

Marg: We couldn't be married in the church, you see. I tried to, that's why it took us so long.

Greg: I'd forgotten all that.

Bob: So you've been involved forever with the church?

Marg: Oh gosh, yes. Ursula Murphy, she was up there one day scrubbing something and she said, "You can take over here because I've had enough." I have been very involved with it ever since and we had a lovely 100 year celebration. The church was 100. It's lovely to be so involved in it.

Bob: Who was the woman who said you could take over?

Marg: Ursula Murphy who lived up here in Victoria Street.

Bob: Did she?

Marg: Yes, and Mavis Kaveney who lived down Kaveney's Road. They were pioneers of the district weren't they, Greg?

Greg: Who, Kaveney's? Yes-

Marg: And Murphys were?

Greg: No, he wasn't, but she was.

Marg: She was a Hibberson.

Greg: They had Glenwood down here, which has all been cut up now. You go down Church Lane to get there.

Bob: I suppose she would have been doing the church service for years and years?

Marg: Oh she would have been.

Bob: When you arrived, she –

Marg: Yes, she said, "You can take over."

Bob: "Here, take the mop. It's yours."

Marg: "Take the mop and bucket and go with it."

Bob: And you've been doing it ever since?

Marg: Yes.

Bob: You also run this lovely Christmas thing, how long have you been doing that?

Marg: Oh, about five years.

Bob: That was a lovely idea, you thought of doing that.

Marg: It was just beautiful.

Bob: What made you think of that, Marg?

Marg: Well I just thought there were little children in the community and coming to Mass and I just thought, "Wouldn't it be nice if we did have a Christmas party?" Greg had the old ute and I thought, "If we can put the Santi on the back..." The trouble is, the children said, "I know who Santi is." So we had to give Greg away because they were saying who Santi was. Then we got other Santis and it's still great and it's lovely to have it and they look forward to it.

As soon as they see the old ute coming, and I've got a big school bell, they just get that excited; it's lovely.

Bob: So you became Mrs Santa?

Marg: I'm Mrs Santi yes; I had the hat and the apron on. I've got to do the work. I know the children probably better than the Santi does, you see.

Bob: Were there more children in those days when we had the school or not?

Marg: No. They have grown a little bit over the years. I think we had 40 children last Christmas.

Bob: Really? That is all from this congregation?

Marg: Yes.

Bob: It's quite big isn't it?

Marg: It is big, but that includes Spring Range Road and Murrumbateman, you know, we get a few people.

Bob: The Hall district.

Marg: Yes. We have a few coming. Even some of the grandparents bring their little children along too.

Bob: That's lovely. What are some of the big changes that have taken place since you've come to Hall?

Marg: All the extra houses, like when we first came here there was an old weatherboard home, where the old people live on the corner, with a verandah on it and that's gone.

Bob: Can you remember who lived there?

Greg: Athol Coleman used to live there; he had it one stage, yes. Prior to that, between there and the shop, they built a new house there. Poor old Bob Southwell lived in it for a few years. I don't know how long that was there, but they demolished it anyhow.

Bob: When did this rural centre open? Not the one on the corner in Gladstone but the one on the corner in Victoria, is that fairly new?

Greg: Yes, now, going back a long way, Norman Coulton married Jim Rochford's sister Zena and he had a little shop there and he used to sell sheep dips and salt licks and this and that and all that sort of thing. It grew bigger and bigger and he used to buy a lot of skins and things like that. It has changed hands and they built it a bit bigger and of course there have been a number of people who have gone through it; I can't remember their names. But they built it up into a pretty good business.

Bob: It's been there some time then.

Greg: Oh yes. I was very disappointed when the present people pulled out; they've left a vacancy in the street.

Bob: The one on the Gladstone Street side, has that been there the same amount of time?

Greg: Originally that was behind the shop that's there now and then they built that big one down there, yes.

Marg: Did Ross run that, Ross Brown, in the first place?

Greg: Yes, Ross ran it behind the shop there and of course then it went down where it is now and Harvey took over.

Marg: Harvey Brown.

Greg: He was a good man, so was his father, all the family are really.

Marg: Chris Coulton's got it now.

Bob: You would both remember the Bevis' business wouldn't you, the trucks?

Greg: Oh yes.

Marg: Oh gosh, yes.

Greg: I drove them.

Bob: Was that big?

Marg: Oh yes, that was a big business, Canberra Carways. It's a bigger business now because they've even gone into Brisbane.

Bob: So there were always a lot of vehicles here in the village?

Marg: Oh yes.

Greg: Not necessarily. They came and went. They didn't actually unload them here; they didn't have the grounds for them. Although they did have little backyards where they could deposit a few of them at times.

Bob: Do you remember the water being put on, or was that before you?

Greg: I can remember it, Marg wasn't here then. Jim Rochford done all that work.

Bob: Did he?

Greg: My word he did.

Bob: Jim built the bridge as well didn't he, leading into the town?

Greg: I couldn't answer that. I wouldn't know.

Bob: But he definitely did the –

Marg: He was the instigator of the Memorial Grove down here.

Bob: He did the water and sewerage stuff too?

Marg: Yes.

Greg: He did the sewerage, yes. I think he also... He got the electricity and the water and he was instigating something else, but I can't remember what it was.

Bob: Do you remember the roads being sealed?

Greg: Around the streets we did.

Bob: Yes, that made quite a difference, from people I have spoken to, because all the streets were gravel.

Greg: Well, not only that, they'd go past and dust would blow all over your house. You were forever getting dust out of your gutters. Before they sealed our little bit, I used to put the hose on it to keep the dust down, but it didn't last long. It soon dried out.

Bob: What year were the sealings, were they '60s or before that?

Greg: I don't know.

Bob: We've probably got a record of that somewhere else.

Greg: There would be, yes.

Bob: You would remember when this was the highway, would you?

Greg: Oh yes. they used to roar through the street here. Now when I had 'Sunnyside' down there, there were not as many acres there and I was working there. I had sheep there, I had cattle, I

had an orchard and I used to have chooks and a nice garden. A chap came out when I was pruning the fruit trees and he was there talking for a while and he said, "You know we're going to convert all this freehold land back into lease." And they did.

After that of course they put the bypass in. That's why they got all the land while it was – if they'd have bought it while it was freehold they'd have had to pay more money for it, so they did the switch. They knew what they were doing.

Bob: They're one step ahead, Greg, all the time.

Greg: That's their business.

Bob: Isn't it? Do you remember the property across from the Catholic Church? It's been marked on the map as 'Nova Scotia', but apparently that's not its name. Its name is – go on.

Greg: No, you'd have to go - John Friend was the last man to live in the old cottage there.

Marg: Doughty owned it. Who owned it before him?

Bob: Kilby.

Greg: As far as I know – I don't know who owns it now.

Marg: Doughty owns it now.

Greg: Oh, yes, that's right. If you want any particulars, you'd have to go back to Wes Kilby because he can fill you in in all that respect.

Bob: I asked the question in the last 'Fringe' and I've got some good answers, so you will read about them. Elizabeth Kilby came and saw me and set me straight. She was not angry but she wanted to clear it. You will find out the history of it in the next 'Fringe'.

Marg: That'd be great, Bob. It is important to get it right isn't it?

Greg: It's a shame the old place hasn't been looked after better. The man there now just feeds his horses, he's got chaff and stuff in there.

Bob: Yes, that's Andrew. Andrew is only renting, Doughty still owns it, as far as I understand. John Starr says he remembers him when he came in the 1970 and that he was a butcher and that he actually had stock. He was using the old house as a stockyard. Anyway, Elizabeth Kilby didn't agree with that.

Greg: No, I can't recall that either.

Bob: She said, "No, there were never any pigs running around in there." We will see what emerges. It was Doughty who named it 'Nova Scotia' and it isn't 'Nova Scotia'.

Greg: No.

Bob: It's Igganogga, Eggnog , Enogg ('Eneagh) Hill'.

Greg: Where the cottage is now, or the house is there, it's got a beautiful view over the river.

Bob: It's gorgeous isn't it?

Greg: It is. What's the lady down in the winery down at Murrumbateman?

Marg: That wanted to buy it?

Greg: Yes.

Marg: Lady Murray.

Greg: Yes, Lady Murray wanted to buy it and he wouldn't sell.

Bob: What a shame, it would be nice.

Greg: He said, "You can come down after Mass and have a cup of tea with me", but it didn't eventuate.

Bob: It's a lovely spot.

Marg: He wouldn't sell it.

Greg: Beautiful and that big water hole they've got there now.

Bob: We'll stop for a second.

Greg: He] went over the bridge and the bridge was almost near the  
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Bob: Do you remember the Show here?

Greg: Yes.

Bob: Let's turn this back on then. Greg, do you remember the Show in Hall at all?

Greg: I certainly do. I used to put a few entries in down there, one thing or another. I used to grow some beautiful peaches; they were called JHO. I have picked them up to a pound in weight. I always put in two entries. I've only got first and second, so I didn't do too badly did I?

Bob: What years are we talking, Greg?

Greg: That would be in the early '60s.

Bob: Early '60s? The show goes back further than that though doesn't it?

Greg: Oh yes. I think I read somewhere about it just recently, where it started and when it started.

Bob: Hall, yes.

Greg: Of course then it went from here, which was unfortunate. I reckon the setting here would have been absolutely magnificent and with the big pipes we've got today, they could have piped that creek and still had the beautiful setting. But they went into Canberra and they had all – well, not all, but the majority of shiny pants in there running the show, whereas here, they had all country people.

Well they designed it in there and they built it and the trotting track for one thing was too small. They trotted all right but the

horse couldn't gather his full speed because the gig that they were driving the horse round was like a dust cloud, spurting dirt out from the side. Not only did they do that but they built a big mound, so you'd have to get on top of the mound to see what was going on. They've just demolished all that and they've got what they've got today, which is very, very good.

But I still go back; they should never, ever have left here, because it's out of town a bit and a beautiful setting. You can imagine all those trees there.

Bob: There has been an approach made to the Progress Association to have a two-day harness event here, horse drawn harness events. So we may see that come back, which would –

Greg: I reckon they should all the go they can get.

Bob: Yes, I hope so. We'll see.

Greg: But they did have trots here too, you know.

Bob: Greg, in the '60s when you were entering your exhibits, can you remember what sort of events they would have had?

Greg: Something under the same style as today, but they couldn't have big ones because it wasn't big enough of course.

Bob: But they had the horses and cattle and sheep?

Greg: Oh yes. I can remember a chap here judging sheep and cattle one day and I was there watching them and he said, "This beast is a nice beast but it's got too much light under it." I wondered what he was talking about. He was too lanky; he wasn't close enough to the ground. He used the words, "Too much light under him." But as you go through life, you learn a lot of things don't you, the sayings?

Bob: Okay. Thank you. We can always do another one; we'll see how this one goes.

END AUDIO

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