

17/10/1983 - MR. CYRIL & MRS. JEAN STAFFORD

Q. Cyril, if you start off telling me about when you first had the shop and your wife can join in.

A. Well, we came to Alphington in 1911. We lived in Como Street and I lived there for about two years, I think. About 1913 my mother bought the Alphington lolly shop from a Mrs. Bott.

Mrs. Bott was the late Amos Nicholl's mother. That's right, Amos Nicholls was the taylor; and we had it until 1920 when my wif's mother bought it from my mother and they had it for seven years.

Q. Now who had it in the first place, do you remember who built the shop?

A. No, I don't know who built the shop but I believe, as you know, that it was at one time a wine shop - where they sell the wine. The grapes were grown locally all along the Darebin Creek was the vineyards, from what was the Rockbeare Estate (today), it was called The Grove because it was planted with olives. I think the trees are still there, and where they grew the grapes followed the creek right around to the stone bridge which is across the main road now, that's where it stopped.

Q. in Alphington, yes, what about that?

A. The Alphington Hotel was the stopping place, and had stables, for the people who came down from the gold areas of Warrandyte and up past what was called Queenstown, which is now St. Andrews, and they used to stop there. They had a coaching place and stables at the back.

Q. Did you say that it had a balcony?

A. Yes, it had a balcony at the front overlooking the street. And, of course, all the hotels in those days had a great big horse trough in front of them. We had three hotels in Alphington. We had the Alphington Hotel, the Tower Hotel and then down on the stone bridge was Tom Dight's Hotel which is the Darebin and then, of course, Ivanhoe claimed that, it's in their territory. But that was the only one that was delicensed. It was delicensed many long years ago. I'd like to say probably 60 years ago. It is now a research place for the Alphington Paper Mills. Well that was behind Smith Street, on the banks of the Darebin - there was a little bluestone cottage with a slate roof, which was known as Harding's farm when I was a boy. They had a few sheep but mostly goats. But there was no bridge there across the creek. If you wanted to get across the Darebin Creek you got across the best way you could. But as kids, we would never go there because we were always frightened of the goats, the billy goats used to chase us.

Q. What year was that?

A. Oh, about 1916 that would be.

When we used to play up in that area, the Racecourse was at the top end of Smith Street, nearly over the Grange Road, and it was marked out with a stone wall all round the Course; and the Course was still there because there were no buildings when we were kids. But we used to walk round the old Racecourse, known as Miller's Racecourse, which I believe today is the people who have the Miller's Guide; they are some connection with it.

Q. Oh, "Money Miller" he was known as wasn't he?

A. I don't know but I believe that Miller's Guide is some connection with the people who had Miller's Racecourse.

(Jean) - My mother paid two hundred pounds for it.

Q. For that little lolly shop?

(Cyril) - I don't know how much my mother paid for it, I couldn't tell you, I'd be telling lies if I said - but I don't know what she paid for it.

(Jean) - And we ran it - or my parents did, as a lolly shop, what they called the Alphington lolly shop.

(Cyril) - We used to make our own icecream in those days. We used to churn our own icecream, because you couldn't buy icecream in those days. Sennett's were the only people who made icecream and that was for picture theatres.

Q. Did you hire a refrigerator from Sennett's or something like that?

A. No, we had our own churn and we used to just get the ice, pack it round the churn and (saltpetre used to be packed in it to preserve the ice) we used to churn all our own icecream.

Q. Tell me about the sweets in the shop.

A. Silver sticks, nulla nulla's, silver sammy's.

Q. Was there a box they called a halfpenny box?

A. In a halfpenny box you would probably get as much for a halfpenny as you would get for 50 cents now. You know, you'd get - there weren't really, they were halfpenny lollies, some of them, but they were big; they weren't like today. If you got the same thing today - if you got a cake of 'Old Gold' chocolate it was sixpence. And a box of 'Violet Milk' used to be 1/6d. (15 cents). And Capstan cigarettes were sixpence a packet (5¢) - all cigarettes, I suppose, were sixpence a packet. The cigars that my dad used to smoke were sixpence a packet - you could buy a box of ten for five shillings (50¢).

Q. Would you have any idea what the wages were then?

A. Not really. I could only go off part of work in the hats.
We were all piece workers. But the basic wage, in those days, for what they called assistants or labourers was three pounds (\$6). That would be back in, say, 1928.

Q. Which hat factory did you work in?

A. I worked at the Lincoln Hat Mills first then I went to Denton - which was the Fairfield Hat Mills.

Q. Can you tell me anything about your work there at the Fairfield Hat Mills?
What did you do?

A. Well that wouldn't be anything to do with the Alphington or Northcote history.

Doesn't matter, it's Northcote history.

A I was apprentice to the hat trade and went to work at the Lincoln Hat Mills in North Carlton, which was eventually taken over by the Combine, and I finished my apprenticeship at the Fairfield Hat Mills on Heidelberg Road. When I finished my apprenticeship I went to Abbotsford to the Denton Hat Mills which was then renamed Fairfield; And I worked in the hats for 32 years until they closed down, which was brought about by the killing-off of all the rabbits because hats were made from rabbit fur and we couldn't get rabbits - rabbit skins. That was how the closing of the Hat Mills came about.

..... after I left the shop we used to go down and catch these fish and they'd be fish somewhere round about 12" long and we always called them trout. But they weren't trout, they were murray cod. We didn't know at the time, until somebody enlightened us that we were catching under-sized murray cod. Because a cod had to be about 14" before you could take it in those days, but that's what they were and the river really was full of fish. After that they introduced the trout to the stream and also, at that time, they had a lot of redfin and there are still today murray cod to be caught in the Yarra, they're still catching them. One of them was caught up at Templestowe not so long back.

..... this was built by voluntary labour.

We're talking about the old Alphington Swimming Pool in the Yarra River.

A. Yes, it was built by voluntary labour. Anyone who could swing a pick or a shovel or cart dirt was on that job, mostly weekends.

- Q. How many would turn up?
- A. Well, all the kids in Alphington for one thing would turn up. I don't know how many that would be. But it was eventually dug out by a Mr. Allen who had a horse and a scoop, and he scooped it out. What was his name? Charlie Allen. He was a furniture removalist, and he did that with a scoop. There was no mechanical machinery in those days and what wasn't scooped out was pick-and-shovelled out until they had a very, very thin piece of land between the river and the pool. The pool was all concreted in, then they eventually knocked the outside wall down and let the river in and that was done by voluntary labour. I don't know dates, I couldn't tell you.
- Q. How long did it take them - how many weeks or months do you think they were working on it?
- A. I don't know - I'd be guessing; I'd like to give everything accurate, not guess it thanks.
- Q. So now the lolly shop on the corner of Yarralea Street and Heidelberg Road - who was the earliest you knew had it?
- A. Well as far as I can go back - it was bought by my (Cyril's) mother from Mrs. Bott.
- Q. Now that's Bott, Stafford, Nicholas, Flannagan - and when did Kelly's?
- A. Kelly after the Flannagan's. And then I don't know who after that, they were - oh, wait on
- Q. Oh, before Bott's had it it was the wine store.
- A. It could have been, I don't know.
- Q. And then we think that there was somebody named Smythe? Mrs. Adams had the shop, which was Mrs. Smythe's sister.
- A. We just played for fun. We had a couple of golf balls and a couple of golf sticks and we used to play on the river - on the river flats.

Q. Who were you - tell me the ones who were ?

A. My wife and myself, Doug Askew and Anne Patterson, and then Irene Moore played with us. And one day when we were playing there there was a golf course opposite on the Kew side and the chap said "What golf course is that" and we said "it's not a golf course at all, it's just our own little playground" and so they said "where is it situated" and we told them and the next week they came down and they interviewed Jimmy Dean, who had a dairy farm there, they interviewed Jimmy Dean and that was the start of the Latrobe Golf Course, because he sold out to these people and they eventually put a 9-hole golf course down there and Jim Dean went to live up at Rocklea - no he was there, he must have been there Cyril because Harding's lived there when we were there - Harding's had a farm, they had Jimmy Dean's farm, and then they built this 9-hole golf course and eventually they approached Percy Leahy about the lucerne farm and they made it into an 18-hole golf course, and that's the way Latrobe started.

..... estate -

Q. Which estate?

A. I don't know the name of the estate but it's bounded by Yarana Road to Fulham Road and up as high as Smith Street. When that was cut up into building blocks the first house that was built in Kelvin Road is the house with the attic on the top.

Q. It's still there, is it?

A. It's still there, yes. The last tenant that I knew was Harold Possums and his wife, I don't know who owns it now.

Q. And what used you do there did you say?

A. We used to go over after their finches, trapping the finches, the gold finches.

Q. And what did you do with them?

A. We just kept them for our own use - cage birds, and they used to breed with them and that was a great area for finching over there, with the traps of course.

Q. What sort of traps did you use?

A. Nets. Some had call birds and some didn't. Some just had the, put the net in amongst the thistles and when they used to get on the thistles we'd pull the nets and get them that way. We never hurt any of the birds of course.

Q. a person used to come on the train, did they?

A. Yes - come up there - come finching.

Q. How many people would be occupied in doing all that?

A. You'd probably find about half a dozen netters in a weekend - a Saturday afternoon mostly - and steam trains were every hour. I don't know what date it was but when they put the electricity through to Alphington everybody met on Heidelberg Road to see the lights go up - the street lights. That was when they put the electricity through. And then, of course, they extended that down the streets and you had to put on to the houses, of course, then.

Q. Tell me a bit about the Bowling Club, the Alphington Bowling Club, were you a member of that?

A. No, my (Cyril's) father was a member of it. I don't know what year it opened but that's the

Q. And, of course, in the early days there were no lady bowlers?

A. No lady bowlers at all, just the - they extended the Bowling Club as they went along, as it became more financial, they eventually extended to the size it is now and a grant of land again they got and put a new winter green in at the top end of the part and then when they did that, they extended it to the ladies as well. But don't ask me dates.

(Jean) - climbed up on the fence, had his two hands on ready to pull himself up - what was it, plums you were after, some plums, and as he had his two hands on the fence two hands clamped over the top of him.

(Cyril), yes clamped over the top of me and I couldn't get away.

(Jean) And he said if you want some plums you come in and ask me, you can get as many as you like - he said come in now and get some.

(Cyril) - I think I got three and went for my life.

..... Salvation Army used to come and congregate round the lamp post by Page's old Timber Mill on the corner of Yarra Street and Heidelberg Road, every Friday night they used to come and then they'd come around collecting for the Salvation Army.

Sunday School - The Sunday School I first went to was in Clive Street, the Presbyterian Sunday School, and that was pulled down. That was sold for a block of land, a house building lot, and then from there I went to St. Jude's.

Q. Start again, the Alphington

A. Alphington was situated on the corner of Coate Street and in Yarra Street, which was the back of Page's Timber Mill and the Minister there, when we first went there, was a Mr. Knox.

Q. And what did he have, a big long beard?

A. He had a big long beard, yes, and a white-haired man and after a couple of years they decided that they'd move the Church from there to Lowther Street and they built a new Church there in Lowther Street.

Q. So they didn't actually move the Church. They built another Church did they?

A. Yes, built a big Church.

Q. And what happened of the original Church?

A. The original Church was removed to some other place, as a Church, but after Knox left there Rev. P. C. Lee took the Church over and he revived the First Alphington Scouts, of which we had about ten members, and I was the only Wolf Cub, and that went for a few years and eventually, when Lee went from the Church the Scout Movement died and then when they went to the new Church in Lowther Street, after they built another hall alongside of it, P. W. Robinson came then from St. Mary's, Caulfield, and he had a big Scout Troup there, and he started to revive the Scout Troup again, and we finished up with a Scout Troup around 53 strong which was one of the biggest in the district at the time. And that kept going until Robinson left and then I think the man who took over after Robinson was one of the Crosley's. But Crosley wasn't a boy's man and the Scout Troup just died away. That was the history of the Troup and how it started.

But there was a Scout Troup in Alphington around the turn of the century, in the late 1890's there was a Scout Troup, but nobody seems to know much about it. You can't pick up any threads.

Q. How do you know about it?

A. I've only been told there was a Scout Troup before that, but actually the one that started at St. Jude's in Lowther Street was the Third First Alphington - not the Second. But it all belonged to the one Church. Nobody seems to be able to pinpoint where the first one, or who belonged to the first one.

..... Heidelberg Road. When the road was first put through there it came along from Fairfield along Heidelberg Road to Como Street. You went down Como Street to the first street on the left, which was Constance Street, down to Lucerne Crescent, along Lucerne Crescent to the point where they call it Palm Road, and then cut across the paddocks and forded the creek. It went up the side of the creek and round a hill and when it got back to the creek again, it forded the creek again and crossed the property which is now the property, which is now the catholic school and forded across the creek again on the other side, and went up until it joined the Boulevard and Heidelberg Road. And that piece of road is still there today. That was Old, the first original Heidelberg Road.

Now, to cut out that fording of the creek three times, they brought the road down alongside the Tower Hotel, down to the bottom to the last ford and crossed there and just went up onto where the Boulevard is now, which cut out about a mile away. That's the history of the Old Heidelberg Road. Did you know that, did you?

..... was on the corner

Q. Start again, the Council..... ?

A. The Council yard was on the corner of Yarra Street and Heidelberg Road where the 7-Eleven store is today and further down as you go round past the Tower Hotel, on the corner of the street there, before you cross the bridge, there used to be the Gasometer. You know about the gasometer, did you? Well that's all I know about that. Oh, this might be interesting. Where the Alphington school stands today was the Alphington cricket ground. And, opposite there is a little road that runs through into View Street from Yarralea Street. There was a house on the corner known as Taylor's house. That was the cab stand.

Q. The cab stand?

A. The cab stand. There was a man had a cab and used to run people from there to anywhere they wanted to go. It was just an ordinary cab, and a horse and cab.

Q. A hansom cab?

A. No I don't think it was the hansom cab, but it was a cab, it had the cab stand there and that information came from one of the old cricketers when we were talking one night, and it was old, who we used to call daddy Witcher. He was the one who told us about that.

..... building at Alphington pool boatshed.

Q. Now Mrs. Kennedy's grocer's shop was?

A. At the corner of Heidelberg Road and Yarralea Street opposite the lolly shop. There's a little old shop there with a, a wooden shop with a slate roof, and she had a little grocery store there - Mrs. Kennedy.

Q. And then where was the billiard salloon?

A. Built on that corner. They pulled the shop down and they built the shop on the corner which was a hairdresser's and a fellow named Albert Letof. Albert Letof started the hairdresser's business and when he left Les Burgess took it over and I don't know who took it over after that. But it was eventually, ah, became the corner where the bank was on the corner there. There used to be a billiard salloon at the back and that was run by Herman Rust. Rust also had a newsagency; Rust the newsagent. He built the whole block in the first place. Sort of the Alphington Hotel ah, like, on the west side, was Alphington Cottage, which had a bakery at the back - it was the old Alphington Bakery - Oak's Bakery. When Oak left it it became Chittick's and when Chittick's left it it became Martin's Bakery.

Q. Tell me about that?

A. Um, there's three lots of Chinese gardens in Alphington. On the property of Percy Leahy just below Lucerne Crescent, which is now the Latrobe Golf Links; the other one was situated just off Heidelberg Road which is now the Sparks Reserve; and the other one is on the opposite side of the road behind Dight's Hotel, where the tennis courts are today - that was the third Chinese one.

Q. Tell me a bit about Williams' Jam Factory.

A. Well I can't tell you the name of Mr. Williams, but he had two sons that were in the business with him. He lived in Parkview Road and, at the back of his house, he started making, in an old tin shed, jams and preserves and what have you and eventually built the jam factory which had a frontage to Heidelberg Road. He built a big factory there, employed quite a few people and had two or three vans taking the stuff out. But that's where they used to sell the bulk jams; that's where you said the habberdashery shop was, that was opened as a dairy produce shop and they used to have the big jars of jam.

Yes, well on that property today is the Mill. The Mill eventually took that property over; pulled the factory down and built the Mill right up to Parkview Road.

Ah, Ned Kelly Charlie Walker might, if you can go and attack Mrs. Hamilton (Mrs. Jessie Hamilton), in Willis Street, maybe she might know something, but there were parts of a Ned Kelly film that was shot at Alphington. That's as much as I can tell you. They were asking about it on Channel 10. If anybody knew of the old film that was shot at Heidelberg. But whether it was shot at Heidelberg I don't know, but some of it was shot at Alphington - I do know that.

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17TH OCTOBER, 1983

This is Mr. & Mrs. Stafford (Cyril and Jean).

Cyril if you start off telling me about when you first had the shop and your wife can join in.

Well, we came to Alphington in 1911. We lived in Como Street. We lived there for about two years, I think. About 1913 we, my mother bought the Alphington lolly shop from a Mrs. Bott and Mrs. Bott was the late Amos Nichol's mother. That's right. Amos Nichols was the tailor, and we had it until 1920 when my wife's mother bought it from my mother and they had it for, how long, 28, hang on, about seven years.

Who had it in the first place, do you remember who built the shop?

No, I don't know who built the shop but I believe, as you know, that it was, at one time, a wine shop where they sold the wine. The grapes were grown locally. All along the Darebin Creek was the vineyards from the, what was it, the Rockbeare Estate today. It was called The Grove because it was planted with olives. I think the trees are still there, and the, where they grew the grapes, followed the creek right round to the stone bridge which is across the main road now, that's where it stopped.

In Alphington yeah, what about that?

The Alphington Hotel was the stopping place for the, and had stables, for the people who came down from the gold areas of Warrandyte and up past what was called Queenstown, which is now St. Andrews, and they used to stop there. They had a coaching place and stables at the back.

Did you say that it had balconies?

Yes, it had a balcony at the front overlooking the street and, of course, all the hotels in those days had a great big horse trough in front of them. We had three hotels in Alphington. We had the Alphington Hotel, the Tower Hotel and then down on the stone bridge was Tom Dight's Hotel, which is the Darebin and then, of course, Ivanhoe claimed that as their territory, but that was the only one that was delicensed. That was delicensed many long years ago, I'd like to say probably 60 years ago it was delicensed. It's now a research place for the Alphington ~~PAPER MILL~~. Well that was at the top of, it would be on Smith Street on the banks of the Darebin there's a little bluestone cottage which was known as Harding's farm when I was a boy, they had a few sheep and mostly goats, but there was no bridge there across the river, if you wanted to get across the river, the creek, the Darebin Creek, yes, you got across the best way you could but, as kids, we would never go there because we were always frightened of the goats, the billy goats used to chase us.

What year was that?

Oh.

About 1916?

About 1916 that would be, yes. When we used to play up in that area, there was the racecourse was at the top end of Smith Street, nearly over to Grange Road, and it was marked out with a stone wall all round the course, and the course was still there because there was no buildings when we were kids. But we used to walk round the old racecourse known as Miller's Racecourse which I believe, today, is the people who have the Miller's Guide. They are some connection with it.

Money Miller he was known as wasn't he?

I don't know, but I believe that Miller's Guide is some connection with the people who had Miller's Racecourse.

Jean - My mother paid 200 pounds for it.

For that little lolly shop?

Yes.

Cyril - I don't know what my mother paid for it, I couldn't tell you, I'd be telling lies if I said, but I don't know what she paid for it.

Jean - And, we ran it as, you know, well my mother, parents, did as a lolly shop, what they call the Alphington lolly shop and

Cyril - We used to make our own icecream in those days.

You used to make your own?

Making our own icecream - yes, we used to chirn our own icecream, because you couldn't buy icecream in those days. Sennits was the only people who made icecream, and that was for picture theatres.

Did you hire a refrigerator from Sennits or something like that?

No, we had our own ^uchirn and we used to just get the ice, pack it round the chirn and then chirn the - saltpeter used to be packed in it - that was to preserve the ice to stop it melting too quickly, and we used to chirn all our own icecream.

Tell me about the sweets in the shop.

Silver sticks, nulla nulla's, silver sammys.

And tell me, didn't there, was there a box they called a halfpenny box?

A halfpenny box - you would probably get as much for a halfpenny as you would get for 50 cents now. You know, you'd get really - they were really halfpenny lollies, some of them, but they were a big halfpenny box - they weren't like today, if you got the same thing today - Old Gold chocolate - a cake of Old Gold chocolate was sixpence - sixpence, yes, and a box of Violet Milk used to be 1/6d, for a box of Violet Milk chocolates. And Capstan cigarettes were 6d. a packet - all cigarettes, I suppose, were 6d. a packet. cigars were 6d. My dad used to smoke - you could buy a box of ten for 5/-

Would you have any idea what the wages were then?

Um, not really. Uh, I could only go off part of work in the house. We were all piece workers but the basic wage, in those days, for what they call the assistants, or labourers, was three pounds.

So that was six dollars - equivalent to six dollars?

Yes, six dollars - that would be back, when did I start, 1928 I think it was.

Which hat factory did you work at?

I worked for the Lincoln Hat Mills first, then I went to the Denton, which was the Fairfield Hat Mills.

Can you tell me anything about your work there at the Fairfield Hat Mills, what did you do?

Well that wouldn't be anything to do with the Alphington.

It doesn't matter, Northcote history.

Well - Northcote history - when I went to, I was apprentice to the hat trade and went to work at the Lincoln Hat Mills in North Carlton, which was eventually taken over by the Combine, and I finished my apprenticeship at the Fairfield Hat Mills on Heidelberg Road, and when I finished my apprenticeship I went to Abbotsford to a Hat Mills, which was then re-named Fairfield and I worked in the hats for 32 years until they closed down, which was brought about by the killing-off of all the rabbits because hats were made from rabbit fur, we couldn't get rabbits - rabbit skins; that was how that came about, the closing of the Hat Mills.

After I left the shop we used to go down and catch these fish and they'd be fish somewhere round about 12" long and we always called them trout, but they weren't trout they were murray cod. We didn't know at the time, until somebody enlightened us that we were catching under-sized murray cod, because a cod had to be about 14" before you could take it in those days. But that's what they were and the river really was full of fish. After that they introduced the trout to the stream which also, at that time, had a lot of redfin and there are still, today, murray cod to be caught in the Yarra. You still catch them, in fact, one was caught up at Templestowe not so long ago.

This is, or was, built by voluntary labour of the townspeople.

We're talking about the old Alphington Swimming Pool in the Yarra River?

That's right.

It was built by voluntary labour. Anyone who could swing a pick or a shovel or cart dirt was on that job, mostly weekends.

How many would turn up?

Well, all the kids in Alphington, for one thing, would turn up. I don't know how many that would be, but it was eventually dug out by a Mr. ~~Person~~ who had a horse and a scoop and he scooped it out. What was his name? Charlie Allen. He was a furniture removalist, and he did that with a scoop, there was no mechanical machinery in those days, and what wasn't scooped out was just pick and shovelled out. Until they had a very, very thin piece of land between the River and the pool was all concreted in, then they eventually knocked the outside wall down and left the River and that was done by voluntary labour. I don't know dates, I couldn't tell you.

How long did it take them, how many weeks or months do you think they were working on it?

I don't know, I'd only be guessing. I'd be guessing, I'd like to give everything accurate, not guess it, thanks.

So now the lolly shop on the corner of Yarralea Street and Heidelberg Road that was - who was the first, earliest you knew that had it?

Well as far as I can gather it was bought by my (Cyril's) mother from Mrs. Bott.

Now ~~that's Stafford, Bott?~~

No, Bott, Stafford, ^{NICKLESS} ~~Nicholas~~, and then it became Flanagan.

And when did Kelly's?

Kelly after Flanagan. And then I don't know who after that, they were different - oh, wait on - was it

Oh, before Bott's had it it was the wine store?

It could have been, I don't know.

And then we think that there was somebody named Smythe?

Smythe - yes. Oh no, wait on - no, I'm wrong.

You're wrong - Mrs. Adams had the shop which was Mrs. Smythe's sister?

Sister - yes.

We just used to play just for the fun of it.

We just played for fun, we had a couple of golf balls and a couple of golf sticks and we used to play on the River, that is, on the river flats.

Who were you - tell me the ones?

Ah - my wife and myself and Doug Askew and Anne Patterson, and then Eileen Moore played with us, and one day when we were playing there, there was a golf course opposite on the Kew side and the chap said "what golf course is that" and we said "it's not a golf course at all, it's just our own little playground, so they said "where is it situated" and we told them, and the next week they came down and they interviewed Jimmy Dean, who had a dairy farm there, they interviewed Jimmy Dean and that was the start of the Latrobe Golf Course, because he sold out to these people and they eventually put a 9-Hole Golf Course down there and Jim Dean went to live up at Rockleigh, up on the top of the -

No, he must have been there, Cyril, because Hardings lived there when we were there. Hardings had a farm, did they, well, that was Jimmy Dean's farm at the time, and then they built this 9-Hole Golf Course and eventually they approached Percy Ley who had the lucerne farm and they made it into an 18-Hole Golf Course, and that's the way Latrobe started.

Which Estate?

I don't know the name of the Estate, but the Estate, it's bounded by Yarana Road, is it, to Fulham Road and up as high as Smith Street when that was cut up into building blocks. The first house that was built in Kelvin Road is the house with the attic on the top.

It's still there, is it?

It's still there. It's still there, yes. The last tenant that I knew was Harold ^{PURSTANCE} and his wife, but I don't know who owns it now.

And what used you do there, did you say?

We used to go over there ^{FINCHING} ~~fencing~~, that was where we used to go after trapping the finches, the gold finches.

And what used you do with them?

Oh, we just kept them for our own use - yes, cage birds, yes, and we used to breed with them and that was a great area for finching over there, with the traps, of course.

What sort of traps did you use?

Nets. We used the nets. And some had call birds and some didn't. Some just had the, ah, put the net in amongst the thistles and when they used to get on the thistles we'd pull the nets and get them that way, never hurt any of the birds, of course.

..... used to come on the train, did they?

Yes. They'd come up there, they'd come up and go finching, yes.

How many people would be occupied in doing all that?

You'd probably find about half a dozen netters in a weekend, or a Saturday afternoon mostly, and

(Jean) Steam trains were every hour.

Steam trains?

Yes. Steam trains. I don't know what date it was, but when they put the electricity through to Alphington, everybody met on Heidelberg Road to see the lights go up, the street lights. That was when they put the electricity through. And then, of course, they extended that to every, down the streets and, you know, to put on to the houses.

Tell me a bit about the Bowling Club, the Alphington Bowling Club, were you a member of that?

(Cyril) No, my father was a member of it. My father was a member of the Bowling Club, yes. I don't know what year it opened, but that was the

And, of course, in the early days, there were no lady bowlers?

(Cyril) No lady bowlers at all, no, just the - they extended the Bowling Club as they went along as it became more financial, they eventually extended to the size it is now and - a grant of land again, they put a new Winter Green in at the top end of the park and then when they did that, they extended it to the ladies as well, but don't ask me dates.

(Jean) Climbed up on the fence, had his two hands on ready to pull himself up - what was it, plums you were after?

(Cyril) Yes, plums.

(Jean) Plums, and as he had his two hands on the fence, two hands clamped over the and he said "what are you doing".

(Cyril) I couldn't get away.

(Jean) And he said "if you want some plums, you come in and ask".

(Cyril) "Come and ask" he said, you can get as many as you like, he said "come in now and get some". I think I got free and run for my life.

(Jean) The Salvation Army used to come and congregate around the lamp post by Page's old timber mill, on the corner of Yarra Street and Heidelberg Road, every Friday night they used to come and then they'd come round collecting for, you know, for the Salvation Army. And Sunday School - the Sunday School I first went to was in Clyde Street, a Presbyterian Sunday School, and that was pulled down and that was sold for a block of land, for a house building lot, and then from there I went to St. Jude's

Start again, the Alphington?

PINNING FRUIT

The Church of England in Alphington was situated in, on the corner of Folks Street and Yarra Street which is at the back of Pages Timber and the Minister there when we first went there was um, was a Mr. Knox.

And What did he have a big long beard?

He had a big long beard, yeah. He was a white haired man um, and ah, after a couple of years they decided that they'd move the church from there to Louder Street and ah, they built a new church there.

So they didn't actually move the church, they built another church did they?

Yeah, they built another church.

What happened to the original church?

The original church was sold, I think, we moved to some other place as a church but after Knox left there ~~um, Rev. and ?~~ took the church over and he revived the Alphington's first Scouts with which we had about ah, ten members and I was the only wolf cub ~~and um~~ that went for a few years and eventually when Lee went from the church the scout movement died and then when they went to the new church in Louder Street after they built another hall along the side of it ~~and ah, ah~~ ^{P.C. Robinson} came from St. Mary's Caulfield and he had a big church going there and he started to revive the scout group again and ah, we finished up with a scout troupe of about 53 strong which is one of the biggest in the districts at the time and that kept going until Robinson left and then I think the man who took over after Robinson was Crossley but he wasn't a boy's man and the scout group just died away that was the history of how it got started but there was a scout troupe in Alphington round the turn of the century in the late 1890's there was a scout troupe but nobody seems to know much about it. I can't pick up any threads off it.

How do you know about it?

Well, I have only been told. I have only been told there was a scout troupe before that at actually the was that was started in St. Judes in Louder Street was the third in Alphington not the second one. It all belonged to the one church.

The second one in Alphington would have been the one you were a cub.

That's right, but nobody seems to be able to pinpoint where the first or who belonged to the first one.

When the road was first put through there it came along from Fairfield along Heidelberg Road to Como Street it went down Como Street to the first street on the left which is Constane Street down to Lucerne Crescent along Lucerne Crescent to the point where they call it Farm Road and then cut across the paddocks and toward the creek it went up the side of the creek and met on the hill and ah, when it got back to the creek again it again and crossed the property which is now the property ah which is now the catholic school and forwarded along across the creek again on the other side and went up the road and went up until it joined the Boulevard and Heidelberg Road ~~and Fulham Road~~ and that piece of road is still there today. That was old first original heidelberg road. Now to cut out that ~~.....~~ ^{FERRIDING} in the creek three times they brought the road down alongside the Tower Hotel, down to the bottom to the last ~~.....~~ ^{FERRIDING} and crossed there and just went up on to where The Boulevard is now, which cut out about a mile of growth - that is the history of Old Heidelberg Road.

Start again the Council Yard.

The Council Yard was on the corner of Yarra Street and Heidelberg Road where the ah, Seven Eleven Store is today - Yes - and ah, further down the ah, as you go around the ah, pass the Tower Hotel ah, on the corner of the street there its where you cross the bridge there used to the ~~gas holder~~. *SOMEWHERE*

Yes I know that.

Oh, this might be interesting. Where the Alphington School stands today it was the Alphington Cricket Ground.

Oh, was it?

Yes, and ah opposite there, there is a little road that runs through into View Street from ah, Yarralea Street there was a house on the corner known as Taylors house - that was ~~cabs~~ there. *A CAB STAND*

The cabs there.

The cabs there. There was a and he used to run people from there to ~~any~~ to anywhere they wanted to go. It was just an ordinary cab not horse and cab.

A handsome cab.

No I don't think it was a handsome cab, but it was a cab down there ~~and~~, that came, that information came from ah, one of the old cricketers when we were talking one night and it was old he was the one that told us about that.

Now, Mrs. Kennedy's Grocery Shop was at the corner of Heidelberg Road and Yarralea Street where the ah.

Opposite your lolly shop.

Opposite the lolly shop yeah, a little old shop there a wooden shop with a, and ah, she had a little grocery shop there, Mrs. Kennedy.

And then where was the billiard salloon?

On that corner, when they pulled that shop down. They built that there and ah, they build the shop on the corner which was the hairdressers. By someone named Albert Letov started the hairdressers business and when he left Less Burgess took it over and I don't know who took it over after that. But it was eventually ah, became the corner where was the bank on the corner, the bank was on the corner there. There used to be a billiard salloon on the back and that was run by Hermin Rust. Rust also had a newsagency - Rust the newsagent Rust, Rust the billiard salloon he built the ah the whole ah block. Next door to the Alphington Hotel was Alphington Cottage which had a bakery at the back it was the Alphington Bakery - Oaks Bakery and then Oaks left it and it become Chittick and when Chittick left, it became ah, - Whose Bakery Jane? - Martins, Martins Bakery, Chittick, got that.

Tell me about that.

Three lots of chinese gardens in Alphington. One was on the property of just below that Lucerne Crescent which is now the Latrobe Golf Links ah, the other one was um, situated just off Heidelberg Road which is now the Reserve ~~um~~, which is now Sparkes Reserve and the other one is on the opposite side of the road behind Dights Hotel where the tennis courts are today - that was the third chinese.

Tell me a bit about Williams *Williams*

Well, I can't remember the name Mr. Williams ah, but he had, he had two sons that were in the, in the business with him. He lived in ah, Parkview road and was at the back of his, of ah, at the back of his house, he started making, in an old tin shed, he started making jams, and preserves and what have you and eventually built the jam factory which had a frontage to Heidelberg Road. He built a big factory there employed quite a few people and had two or three vans taking the, but that he used to sell bulk jams thats where you said that thats what they used to that was open as a dairy shop and they used to have jars of jam.

Yes, well on that property today ~~is the ah, is the ah, is the ah~~ is the Mill eventually took over that propertybrought the Mill right up to Parkview Road and Charley Walker. If you can contact Mrs. Hammel, Mrs. Jessie Hammel of Little Street maybe she might know something that there was parts of a Ned Kelly film that was shot at Alphington - thats as I can tell you

They were asking about it on channel 7 if any knew of anybody of the old film that was shot in Heidelberg but whether it is Heidelberg I don't know - some of it was shot at Alphington - I do know that.