

This is MR WALTER PIZZEY, of 4 Stafford Court, East Ivanhoe, and it is 7th February, 1983.

Right, go ahead Mr. Pizzey.

What have I got to say.

Just start telling me about when you were living in Fairfield, or wherever it was.

Now, I was born in Diamond Creek, 24th July, 1896, the fifth of a family of nine. At that time my father was president of the Shire of Heidelberg and his business was in Fitzroy, where he stayed all week excepting Saturday when he arrived home about 8.00 p.m., and left again on Monday morning at 4.00 a.m., so that he could have the business opened up by 8.00 a.m.

I am interested in why your father stayed away all week.

It was because he had his business there. Now I don't suppose you want the story altogether. Went down to 17 pounds per week and he had to pay rent of the shop and rent of his house, run a pony and cart for the business, and he had a journeyman, that is a business employee and a boy and had to keep his father's family as well.

Did he travel back and forth from Diamond Creek to Fitzroy with his horse and cart. Of course, it would have been too far for him to travel every day to the business. Yes, I see.

Not only that, he couldn't spare the time because he used to work from 6 in the morning until 11 at night, and I said to him "Dad, why do you stop at 11". He said, "I used to chase the mail cart up to Fitzroy Post Office and drop my letters in his bag". At this time there was grass in the streets, whole terraces.

In Fitzroy?

Yes, I'm talking of Fitzroy. They used to pay the man, say 1 and 6, to save the place from being ruined.

Vandalism was bad in those days.

Worse.

Was that because of unemployment, do you think?

Yes, nobody had a job. They were all unemployed. Married couples would go to the country and take a job at 2 and sixpence a week, but weren't they lucky. Because they got 2 and sixpence plus bed and tucker. Now the poor beggars left behind had nothing. Those that two and sixpence and a job were the wealthy ones.

1/6
(15^c)

Was this the original leather.

Yes

Now tell me a little bit about that.

George Pizzey was a Crimean War veteran in about the 50's,
and he was an invalid at home from the Crimean War.

Was this your father you're speaking of?

No I'm talking of George Pizzey, my grandfather. My father was Alfred, and the conditions out at Crimea were so shocking that, no doubt, we all know of what Florence Nightingale did. My grandfather told me, although he didn't meet her, he knew of the work she was doing because there was nothing in the medical way. No help whatever. A man had his leg crushed or shot off - they sawed it off. Four men held him down and then and then they dipped the rest in tar. There was no attempt at medical attention and more lost their lives through disease and illness than killed in mortal combat.

Well, tell me about how the leather business got started.

George Pizzey went home - he was a Sergeant Saddler in the Crimean War.

Saddler, yes.

harness

Sergeant Saddler - making ~~arms~~. At the war the British Government, for reasons we will never know, supplied them, when they needed them with supposedly horses, but they weren't. They were wild, untrained asses. Grandfather being the saddler, they used to put the mule in a crush and get the harness on somehow and let it go. He said they used to kick and kick for hours until it came off and Grandpa said, "I've seen heaps of wonderful *.harness...*". That's the British Government for you.

Heaps of wonderful harness, what? What happened to the harnesses?

Burned! They could'nt possible mend it. That shows you the stupidity of them. Grandpa was invalided at home and when he met his father at Portsmouth, apparently he was so ill that the father said to him, "Have you seen George Pizzey?". George Pizzey had to tell his father who he was, and then he settled down with his father again in the saddlery business that his father had in eastern London. Then he told us that he couldn't stand sitting behind the bench and something made him move to Australia about the early 50's. The strange thing about it was his wife-to-be was living in the Channel Islands with Mum and five girls. One of those five girls became Mrs. Pizzey eventually. They came to Australia. Mrs. Ben Dickson, mother of those five girls, my great grandmother, lost her husband, and how I'll never know, for

some reason or another, she moved from the Channel Islands over to Portsmouth. In those days being immigrants on the lowest fare, nothing was supplied except a box or cabinet.

You were telling me about how the business got started in Fitzroy.

Yes. Grandpa, about the mid 50's - 1850 - started business in Fitzroy, and then went to Geelong where he had business with Cobb and Co. coaches. He moved to Ballarat and built his business up considerably, and then reasons best known to him, he moved back to Fitzroy and founded the business of George Pizzey. Later on my father joined him and they became George Pizzey and Son Limited. After my father had the property and home and orchard at Diamond Creek, for 11 years, we then moved in 1904 to "Lura", Clarke Street, Northcote, near the corner of High Street - the area being called Ruckers Hill. At this time, the Mayor of Northcote was Mr. Plant, and there was Plant's Hotel a little way along High Street, Northcote, near the Methodist Church. At this time, there were seven in the family, and then I came along. 1906 and then Freda came along, now Mrs. Bond, of Stratford, England. I went to Northcote State School for one year.

Northcote State School?

Yes, Northcote State School, for one year and then, with my brothers were sent to the Fairfield School, because Mrs. Bridebard, the wife of Reverend Bridebard, told my mother that we should be sent to Fairfield because Mr. Severe was such a good man. For the whole of that period, the only thing he did was to bash, especially the little ones, with a four foot STRAP. Not a sign of any christian feeling. In 1908 we moved to Darebin Road, Northcote.

What's the name?

Benvenuta. A very big home, beautifully

BENVENUTA
Will you tell me what it was built like. What number was it in Darebin Road?

It never had a number.

It didn't have a number?

Nobody had numbers in those days.

Well, tell me about the architecture of it and what it was like.

That's what I'm trying to tell you. The mantelpieces throughout were not only marble, the top shelf was that thick and that deep, some in white, some in black and so on - marble. Some in brindle, you know, half way between.

That house was built by your parents?

No, it was built about 1880, and my father bought it from Mr. Trescott, Mr. Charles Trescott, for 1,800 pounds.

That was a lot of money then.

You wouldn't get one fireplace for that now.

Well, boys will be boys. We were sent to school, and then entered into all the usual things - cricket, football, bike riding, everything that boys do, ate a few quinces when we shouldn't have. Funny thing, they never gave me a tummy ache.

Can you tell me about it around that area - whether there were any orchards.

In Benbenuta, Northcote - no. Mr. Archbold lived opposite, later to become the Mayor of Northcote, but in those days I never knew of any numbers because the houses were few and far between. They may have had numbers. Then there was a neighbour called Mr. Smith, and my brother, Boyce, married Edie, and our neighbour just mentioned, Mr. Archbold, had a lovely daughter and I married her. My brother, Tom, took a liking to Miss Britton, another neighbour and he married her. I'll show you them all in a minute. Having a tennis court at home, we found no .

Did a lot of the neighbours used to come and play tennis?

Yes, most of them.

What about some of the shops? What was in High Street then?

In High Street, most of the shops around about the Methodist Church, and Bastings Street and Plant's Hotel, and the Town Hall, that's about it.

They were all around.

There were flats in what they call Thornbury now. There was a football ground there too. They used to call themselves the Rose of Northcote.

Did you know anything about that football team? You didn't belong?

No, yes, we took an interest in it, but we were not players. It doesn't matter much, but I was walking down with others, probably my wife-to-be, just down the street, and there was the big football ground over there, and the boys would be practicing apparently, and with still 100 yards to go we could smell the eucalyptus. This was 1912. Of course, we moved to Benbenuta in 1908. R. B. Laurence, the dyer, bought "Lura" from dad. When I first talked to you about the former, it was right in the almost centre of the 1890 Depression. What we have today is not a depression, it is heaven. People just streamed out. They had nothing, and there were no doles or anything - no help whatever. If you starved, then that was your bad luck. But there was just nothing. And as for why my dad took a family up to Diamond Creek, where they could live off the land hopefully, I can remember him coming home Saturday night, one night was very rainy, fortunately

trap in. He had one of these oil skins, and as he stepped out he left a trail. But he stuck at it for 11 years - summer, winter or spring. The 1890 Depression, so far as I can describe it, there had never been one like it and there has never been one like it since. There was always the boom burst. See, Melbourne ran into a sort of a boom, when everything went up in price and then came to a stop, and went down terrifically - crashed, absolutely crashed. But people had to fend for themselves and they did a lot better than they do today - they don't have to fend for themselves, they get the dole.

PIZZEY.

Mr. Claude ~~Pizzey~~^{Pizzey}, my uncle, married Ada Hurst, and her grandpa was the one Hurst, of Hurstbridge, who was shot by the bush rangers. Otherwise, I can't remember much about that. You must remember that I left there in 1904, I was eight years old. So what I'm telling you happened before I was eight years old. But I have vivid memories. Because of the terrific depression at that time, there was a stable for sale. Now, a church for sale, and that is a rather big building, had it dragged all the way from up there and cost, in position, big enough for four stalls, harness room, and the man's room in the loft upstairs, came to 50 pounds.

To have it removed and put on site.

Buying it and having it removed, set on the blocks and everything, I don't think you could have it set on one block today for 50 pounds.

No way.

From the corner of Clarke Street and High Street, looking towards Fairfield, the whole area was volcanic - big black stones - and in winter time, it flooded for anything up to 18 inches deep. There was no Dennis Station, no houses, no anything there, but the little old steam engines. Of course, they always put the good carriages going out to Toorak. But in dear old Heidelberg they literally called them dog boxes. It was like the tray of a big lorry - four wheels and a bit of something up top. We all called them dog boxes. The little old engines were always passed on to the Heidelberg line, so that Toorak could have the best. These were little "E" engines, and they had two little front wheels and four driving wheels and two little wheels - not like all the other engines, they didn't have a tender behind. The tender was incorporated, and the water tanks were alongside and they used to have to fill them. Well, I wouldn't know, but I would say that at that time the little engines were at least twenty years old, and as time went on we got nice lovely, big, long carriages and leather seating, arm rests. The whole of that area I told you

padlocks.

about - the flats between High Street and the Fairfield Station -^s were not only practically uninhabited, but they would be as far as Dundas Street, away up the top of Northcote. An enormous area. Millions of stones, anything up to that size, I would say there would be 10 or 12 in the area of this room. Volcanic - how they got mucked up all over the country, I don't know.

Any orchards?

No - cows.

Cows. Lots of cows?

Yes - no sheep, just cows.

Do you know the names of any of the farmers around about?

We had nine children without any doctors. We had the one mid-wife, Mrs. Huntley, who had one leg and an ugly old wooden crutch, and she bought us all into the world without any trouble. Mother wouldn't have a doctor, in fact, I told you about Hurst, didn't I? Now, Claude married Ada, and I was speaking to his daughter just recently, she is a relative of mine - Ada Bart. Now, the nights something weren't doing, Mum sent me from Benvenuta down to Bastings Street to ask Uncle Claude how things were doing. When I got to the door he was in a terrible state and mumbled something, and you know, a little kid about nine, I ran all the way back, but too late. By the time Mum got there, Ada had died.

Mrs. Huntley was the mid-wife?

One leg and a rough old crutch. I mean, if you went down the street and bought a bit for this and you cut a little bit and fitted that, it was exactly there, probably cost two and threepence, and she used that all the time.

Now, I will tell you an interesting little story. Val came after me, and Herb came next, and then ~~Olive~~ and Freda. At the time Val was born, that was the only gap, something happened in between but I don't know what, and Val, in due course, came into the world and everything beautiful. She used to live there for about three weeks.

The mid-wife?

Yes the mid-wife.

I have heard this before. I didn't realise that that ever happened.

Well, Val came along, now Herb was to come. One day I saw the mid-wife and she went in, apparently examined everything, and came out, and I rushed in and said, "Where's the baby?".

Did she just stay there in the hours for three weeks.

And she always made the ~~grel~~ for mother.

gruel

And what else did she do? Did she look after the baby?

Everything like that, but nothing whatever to do. We always had help. You see, believe it or not, Lew Shan Hun in the family, still there, at two and sixpence a week. Now mum only had two pounds a week with a family of seven, and we had everything.

We fed well, but you couldn't buy anything in the packets. If you wanted a pound of butter, you wanted a pound of sugar. When the baby was coming along, say six or seven months, Dad always gave her a beautiful dressing gown, or wrapper, a lovely girdle with bobbles on it and Mum used to look great.

2/6
25c

£2
(\$4)

Mother

Mother

Your mother was a hard worker, I suppose?

Never stopped. Harder than that. To give you an idea, now she knitted our socks or stockings, she knitted our singlets, she made our shirts, she made our pants.

Did she have home help, you said?

I told you, she had Lew Shan Hun, a Chinese lady. Lew Shan Hun - the family is still there.

Lew Shan Hun's family still live at Diamond Creek.

I play bowls with one of them.

Who is that relation to the one that lived in at your place - home help - would that be the great grandparents.

Yes, either great or great great.

I've got a little bit about the ANA on another tape, so you can tell me something about that.

Very well known names like George Reeves, ask me later about those, I'll think back. George Reeves was a well-known politician having a meeting in Fitzroy, at the hustings.

Where?

Hustings.

Hustings?

That's the way you say political meetings. It really means saying at the hustings having a meeting, and you don't have to say anything else. One chap down the back of the hall kept saying "You're a two-faced coward", and George Reeves stood it for a while, I would think he was the top politician of Australia and he looked at him and said, "Easy seeing you're not two-faced, you left that one at home".

I would say that was said about 1890.

So they abused one another then.

I would say, in general, that it was pretty bad, because the politician, Cook, was a Liberal, and the opposition, I can see it now, their office in High Street, Northcote, had a caricature of Cook. He had a long nose and this face with a long nose and the body of a greyhound.

How on earth can people do that? I don't care what side he's on.

Dad was president and, of course, in those days it was "D" Association and was very popular. Apart from that, I don't know.

They had a very big membership, didn't they.

Today you have hundreds of them and none worthwhile. It was first set up in Fitzroy, and we used to go shooting on the Collingwood flats, it was all under water a good part of the year. I shot many, many ducks there.

You used to go duck shooting?

Pa took his first miner's selection up at Diamond Creek. He told me on two or three occasions that he saw aborigines, three or four at a time, with their boomerangs, or something, but he never had personal contact - but he saw them.

They were still around there then? That would be, what, 1850?

I can give you the exact year. 1860.

About 1860?

My granddad stayed up there. No, my mistake, 1880. When Dad stayed up at Diamond Creek, my dad made a speech about his wonderful father, and all that, and meet again in the 90's. Grandpa got up and said, "I know what friends mean".

MY MEMOIRS

PART 2

1924
I return
from N.Z.

After living in Auckland for a little over four years and becoming somewhat homesick, Eva, Ron and I returned to Melbourne about the end of February, 1924. We had a very good steamer crossing to Sydney where Dad met and accompanied us on the train trip to Spencer Street. Mother and members of my family and Eva's were waiting to greet us. Ron was a very lovely baby of two and was the centre of interest in our little welcoming party.

In those days business was very tough with Geo. Pizzev & Son Ltd. and I soon found that my new job at Fitzroy was to be very arduous and exacting and remained so right up to the beginning of the 1939 war. During all this period it was most difficult to make money, and for many of these years G.P. & S. paid no ordinary dividends. We soon became very busy with war contracts etc., and although prices were fixed our turnover increased rapidly and the small profits amounted to sufficient to allow the payment of small dividends which were increased from time to time right up to the present 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ %.

29/3/1924

Vaal and Edna were married on 29th March, 1924, in the Prince of Wales Park Methodist Church, Northcote.

1924 - We
build in
Park Street

Eva and I decided to build a little four roomed house at 20 Park Street (now Latham Street) Ivanhoe, and while waiting for this to be completed we lived in Uncle Charlie's house opposite the Ivanhoe Station, as Uncle and Aunt were away on a trip to U.K. and Europe. Later we moved to "Rockbare", Uncle Frank's house, for a few weeks while the F.P's were absent on a month's holiday.

1925 - We
move into
20 Park St.

I think it was about January, 1925, when we moved into our new home in Park Street, and Eva made it very nice and comfortable inside.

I tried, without very much success, to make a garden which included laying concrete paths and drive, over which I built a pergola which still stands today - 45 years later.

When Ron was about five we sent him to Ivanhoe Grammar which was just a stone's throw away. One of Ron's little friends here was John Scott.

About this period pneumatic tyres were first introduced to heavy motor trucks and buses. Geo. Pizzey & Son then had a very heavy war time Leyland truck with solid tyres. Tom told me that the representative of the Dunlop Company who took our order for the change over to pneumatics, guaranteed that the truck would be worn out before the tyres. This is just what occurred, and soon few solid tyres were to be seen. Actually pneumatics proved to be cheaper and much longer lasting than the others.

Marjorie

In 1927 Marjorie was born. She was a lovely little girl and usually very happy. Eva and I were proud of our two children and derived a great deal of pleasure from seeing them making their little ways in the world. About 1930 Freda very kindly came to 20 Park Street and took a movie film of our home and family. Just recently (1/4/1970) I showed this film at Marjorie's home. Her wonderful girls loved seeing their mother when she was about two years old.

All too soon this very happy state came to a sudden end. Eva had not been well for some years and in 1932 Dr. Charles Littlejohn decided on a bowel operation which, although successful at first, was the cause of her death on 28th July, 1932.

Eva died
1932

The whole bottom dropped out of our happy little world and we three were terribly sad and broken hearted.

Tom and Ivy were very kind and insisted on us going to live with them at their lovely home in the Pyrie, Baginbun. Ron had a great time here and learnt to ride the ponies. In my mind's eye I can see him riding his mount flat out over the paddocks. Ivy was very very good to my children and I have repeatedly said that if there was any difference in her care of the two families, it was in favour of Ron and Marj.

Freda
married

Freda and John Bond were married at Mont Clare in 1932.

Aldie

Before Eva's death I had not known Aldie Scott but she knew Eva and at this sad time she wrote me a sincere letter of condolence, which I have kept until this day. In 1928 Aldie had lost her husband (Ray), so it was not to be unexpected that Aldie and I should come together, especially as this was encouraged quite openly by Tom and Ivy who knew that Aldie was living in loneliness along with John. We were married in 1934 and we five lived in Aldie's nice house at 88 Waterdale Road until a year or so later when we built a larger residence at the corner of Waterdale Road and Latham Street, Ipswich. This was in 1937 and little did we know of the approach of the terrible second world war of 1939-45 which was soon to engulf us.

1937

John and Ron were now going to Wesley and Marjorie to M.L.C., and all too soon again our happiness was to be shattered when first Ron and then John joined the A.I.F. Several years were to elapse before we saw them safely home again. What a waste of young Australian life; what carnage resulted from this dreadful war. Poor old England's young men were slaughtered in thousands and her wealth and trade were ruined. If victory had not come to the Allies, all would soon have been in a shocking state if Hitler had been able to enforce his crazy ideologies upon us all.

1937

Irv. and Stella were married in 1937. Irv. was very ill about this time and Stella has had, on and off, a very sick husband right up to the present.

1942
Father died

On 28th August, 1942, my father died aged 78 years and 8 months after a long, cruel illness. He suffered greatly with atrophy of the muscles which gradually completely paralyzed him and brought about his death. Near the end his throat was so affected that he could not swallow any nourishment and, as he could not speak, he was unable to communicate with his dear ones. What a wonderful father he had been to us all.

1943
Mother died

On 6th May, 1943, Mother died - only about eight months after Father's death. Mother had suffered for some years from diabetes, which was the cause of her death a few days after her 77th birthday. A very kind, capable and loving mother to all of us.

1944
Thackray
Street

In 1944, feeling that 84 Waterdale Road was too big for us, we took up our temporary abode in Thackray Street, North Balwyn, while waiting for the wartime building restrictions to ease and allow us to build in Summit Drive. Marjorie did not like the house in Thackray Street one little bit; in fact she called it "Stinkydora" - whatever that meant.

Marjorie
1944

After Marjorie left M.L.C. in 1944 she enrolled at the Royal Melbourne Technical College (later to become the R.M.I.T.) to do a course as an Occupational Therapy Technical Assistant. In 1947 she taught handcraft at Ormiston C. of E. Girls' Grammar School, Mont Albert, and also at the Royal Children's Hospital as voluntary assistant to the school teacher who taught craft work to the children. At the same time Marjorie spent some months part time at Rockingham Hospital for Returned Soldiers as a Red Cross Aide. 1948 found her busy as a dental nurse for Mr. Stoney, plus more teaching at Ormiston and afterwards at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital where she took charge of the pottery shop.

1945
Ron & John
home from
the war

Ron and John returned home from the War about 1945 and certainly we were then overcrowded at Thackray Street, although the position was relieved a little when Ron and Pat were married on 19th October, 1946 at Wealey Chapel.

Soon after this Mother and Marjorie went looking for something better in the way of a house and found a nice place in Castle Street, Heidelberg, which we moved into in 1947.

1948
Janette

On 8th August, 1948, Janette, our first of seven grandchildren, was born. She was a lovely baby and grew into a very fine young lady to make a beautiful bride on 31st January, 1970, when she and Richard Day were married.

1950
Marjorie
married

Marjorie and Pi were married from Castle Street on 19th April, 1950, at Melbourne Grammar Chapel. I have a nice colour film of this taken by Boyce. We should soon look again at this wonderful record of a very pretty wedding.

1950
8 Summit Drive

While at Castle Street Mother and I planned a beautiful new home, and in 1950 when the wartime building restrictions were lifted, this was built at 8 Summit Drive, Eaglemont, on a fine block which Aldie had purchased a year or two earlier.

1951
Sally born

On 7th December, 1951, Marjorie's first daughter, Sally Anne, was born and we have very proudly watched her successful progress right through her schooling and into her nursing career. Mother and I both feel she will become very dedicated to her profession.

1952
John and Judy
married

John lived with us at Summit Drive for approximately six months, and on 24th May, 1952, Judy and John were very happily married at Ballarat. For several years they resided in Mountain View Parade, Rosanna, in a house Mother helped to provide for them. They now have a beautiful home in Grandview Grove, Rosanna.

Amanda
8/8/53

Amanda put in her welcome appearance at this period, and now, 17 years later we find her always so very loving to Mother and me. Recently she mentioned that later she may attend the R.M.I.T. where I feel sure she will do very well.

Debra
4/12/53

Debra was born on 4th December, 1953. I have found her to be always very bright and friendly and she is fast growing into a fine lady. Ron and Pat should be justly proud of her.

Creina
19/11/55

Creina came along on 19th November, 1955, and she is developing splendidly. We all love her.

Gary
31/12/55

Gary, born 31st December, 1955, is now doing well at Ivanhoe Grammar School, and as the future unfolds I believe he will go on to become a successful and worthy citizen of Melbourne. He is growing rapidly from month to month, and Pi is now the only one of our fifteen taller than Gary.

1956

In 1956 Aldie and I with Vaal and Edna spent six months overseas on a world tour, and for those interested my diary covering our wanderings may be had at Stafford Court.

Wendy
27/8/1958

On 27th August, 1958, Wendy was born. She is progressing very well at school and next year I believe she is to attend the Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School. She is always a sweet and happy little girl and will no doubt continue to do very well at her studies.

Stafford
Court

After eleven years at Summit Drive we decided to make another move, and on selling at a very nice figure we bought our present block at No. 4 Stafford Court. After spending about twelve months in Doncaster Road while our new home was being built, we moved in early in November, 1962. We like this home and garden and have now spent nearly eight happy years here.

1965

Rus Scott died on 9th February, 1965, after a very severe heart attack, when he was only 63 years of age.

1967

At the end of August, 1967, I retired from Geo. Pissey & Son Ltd after 51 years of service and many happy associations with the

Company and staff. All these years were filled with constant, exacting and splendid employment. As I began working in 1911 I actually spent 58 years in earning my living, which, I am glad to say, was not without a great deal of happiness.

Finale

Finally of all those dear to me, now with us and those who have passed on, I wish to record that their goodness and mercy have been lavishly bestowed on me all the days of my life, for which I am deeply grateful. For over 36 years Aldie has been a very loving wife and she has always spent herself most willingly and capably in making a wonderful home for me. Her kindness and love have been generously and continuously bestowed on all the grandchildren who have always responded to this by showing their deep affection for her.

29th August, 1967.

ON MY RESIGNATION FROM G. P. & S. LTD.

It is not without regret that I find myself attending my last directors meeting; after being, for over 51 years, with the Company and for the last 25 of these having had the privilege of being a director and, as well, I have for various periods held seven directorships in our subsidiary companies.

I am tremendously thankful to the company for this period of splendid employment during which I have seen Geo. Pizzey & Son Ltd. grow into a fine company held in highest regard in all its business connections. I think the hardest years were those in the early thirties when we struggled through the very severe depression of that period. Difficult years but we got through them without losing money.

In these hard times good welt shoes could be purchased from Ivor Trescowthick at 11/6d. a pair and from Joyce & Howe at 12/6d. - similar footwear today at \$18 or \$19 a pair is no better.

It is my wish at this time to make special mention of my late father (Mr. A.E. Pizzey) who you will acknowledge pioneered and laid the firm foundations of this company from which we are, all now enjoying substantial benefits. Our New Zealand and Sydney businesses also were commenced by him.

I am particularly grateful to my fellow directors and staff, past and present, who through all these years have given me kindly and courteous consideration. I can think of several who have been my companions for nearly as long as I have been here but not one remains of those who were here when I commenced as cashier for the company. My brother Geoff taught me that job but left for Sydney in 1926. When I started, our travellers used horses and buggies and all our deliveries were made by horse drawn vehicles.

I have seen many changes in what is regarded as "conventional" shoe manufacturing. Now we have plastic and extruded footwear. Soling and upper materials other than leather are being used in ever increasing quantities and the footwear industry is passing through a period of considerable change. However, our diversifications, away from leather, so wisely entered into by our directors, past and present, are now standing us in very good stead.

Great names in the shoe trade were:--

Pitman.
Spicer.
Hellings.
A. Williams.
Sharwood.
Marshall.
Trescowthick.
Hansen.
Llewellyn.
Harkness.

Parker and many others all of whom have gone having been replaced by abler and more vigorous footwear manufacturers.

I can recall away back in the early years of this century the two small shops with residences, Nos. 344 and 346 Brunswick St., where G.F. & S. was founded in 1884. My brother Geoff was born at No. 346 in 1886.

About 1905 two quite large "lockup" shops Nos. 338 and 340 next door but one, were rented and within a very few years the third and larger shop, No. 342 was occupied.

The business grew so rapidly that before long these premises were literally bursting at the seams and in 1914 the present Warehouse (not including the Argyle Street building) was erected at the cost of £4500. Grandpa (Geo. Pizzev) remarked at the time "this building should be large enough for all time". Yet in 1920 the floor area was doubled by the addition of the Argyle Street premises.

All our other Departments and Subsidiaries were added since 1908 when Dan Top started our Leather goods Department and what a money spinner this has been for nearly 60 years? A few years later the Felting and Stuffcutting Departments were launched by Tom and these too made very large contributions to our profits right up to the present.

About 1913 my father in partnership with Mr. Cansick took over the Bermondsey Tannery which later was acquired by the Company. For many years this was our main earning department.

I am looking forward to the expansion of Mobilco Ltd. as it may well become our most important subsidiary.

Please forgive me if you have been bored with these details but I could, if I had the ability, write a book about the many interesting happenings in the life of our company.

And now good-bye to you all and may the years ahead bring great prosperity to Geo. Pizzev & Son Ltd.

FACT SHEET:

"VICTORIA AND ITS PEOPLE".

(Published 1938)

FIZZ Y, George, Fitzroy, is a native of England, who arrived in Australia July 1856 and in 1861 started the saddlery business in Brunswick Street, employing only one boy. In 1864, he went to Ballarat for three years, then returned and located himself in Johnston Street, where he remained for two years. He next went to Geelong, where he was in business for nine years; the cause of this trip was (re Bailiffs and Northcote Bridge) then returned to Melbourne and opened his present business at 240 Brunswick Street, where he carries on general harness-making and a wholesale leather and grindery trade.
