

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT

MEMORIES OF MAYLANDS

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FG We're talking to Len McWhin-ney isn't it Len?

McWHINNEY McWhinney, yes.

FG McWhinney an old resident of Maylands. Whenabouts did you come to Maylands Len?

McWHINNEY When?

FG Yes about?

McWHINNEY I was born in Maylands.

FG Born in Maylands.

McWHINNEY Yes in 1900 and... I just don't remember being born.

FG [laughs] No – don't remember being born.

McWHINNEY Wait a moment, 9th March 1913.

FG 1913. By gee hey. Can you remember what nursing home
[unclear]

McWHINNEY Nurse Weavers, up there in Kirkabilly[?].

FG Yes Kirkabill Terrace, yes. Do you know there's a lady
belongs to the Historical Society that now owns that?

McWHINNEY Oh yes.

FG And wants to talk to people that...

McWHINNEY Were born there.

FG ...were born there but anyone that's got a photograph or
anything of it.

McWHINNEY Can't help her.

FG No well a lot of people say they were born there and then
they you know they don't... they just always knew about it and that sort of thing
but... So we've asked Len to... We'll get his full history of Maylands. And
whereabouts early days were you living then? Whereabouts? Your parents lived
here obviously.

McWHINNEY Seventh Avenue.

FG Seventh Avenue.

McWHINNEY Yes. I can't give you the number but three houses down from
the school towards East Street.

FG Oh yes. And did your father work in Maylands or does he...

McWHINNEY PMG.

FG Oh the PMG – what the Post Office?

McWHINNEY No telegraph.

FG In the telegraph - in Perth itself?

McWHINNEY Yes, and then of course he opened up – in latter years – opened up the exchange up there at Coode Street.

FG Oh go on, oh that's interesting isn't it. And so they lived there what all your... you lived here and worked from here did you or?

McWHINNEY Yes. The exact dates I don't remember but I started school at Marble Bar. He was at Marble Bar by the Telegraph crowd, and he had the job of driving a couple of [unclear] from Marble Bar down Nullagine and all that inspecting the telephone line because the natives used to pinch the copper wire for their spears.

FG Oh did they?

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG Gosh. And so he would go along the line.

McWHINNEY He'd be away for a couple of months about every six months or whatever they got...

FG On that line, on the line through Nullagine, Marble Bar.

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG And you actually lived up there at that time did you?

McWHINNEY I lived up there for three years.

FG Oh yes.

McWHINNEY I was about oh six I think.

FG Six. Oh go on, yes.

McWHINNEY We were up there for three years. Came down from there. My grandmother lived in No. 99, Ninth Avenue, Maylands. We lived with her for a little while and father bought a house in 41 Kennedy Street.

FG Oh go on.

McWHINNEY Isn't that your number?

FG No, 41. No. Here you mean? No we're No. 21, 21 Hubert Road.

McWHINNEY We were 41.

FG Yes you were 41 Kennedy Street.

McWHINNEY That's right.

FG And then he still worked in at [unclear]

McWHINNEY PMG.

FG Oh I see.

McWHINNEY He was there until he retired.

FG All his life, hey. And then when you grew up you went to school in Maylands?

McWHINNEY I first started school in a little church at the bottom of the corner of Kennedy Street and York Street.

FG Oh yes.

McWHINNEY That was a church there. They had first, second - the infant school.

FG Oh yes. What was it Roman Catholic School or?

McWHINNEY No.

FG Just ordinary school.

McWHINNEY No, I don't know what denomination.

FG Can't remember what it was?

McWHINNEY No it wasn't Roman Catholic but I don't remember what denomination.

FG That was the corner of Kennedy Street and?

McWHINNEY York Street.

FG And York Street. And not a very big school just two or three grades?

McWHINNEY That's right, infants. First, second, third. First bubs those days, second and then third. Then when I reached the elevated position of second standard I went to the Maylands State School.

FG Oh yes that's the one up on Guildford Road.

McWHINNEY That's right.

FG Yes. It was known as Guildford Primary. I think it still is known as Guildford Primary.

McWHINNEY I don't know. Maylands State School.

FG Maylands States School, yes. Well will you remember Stan Power.

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG You remember the Powers?

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG Well he went to that school. He lives in Bayswater now and he remembers about the district too but we'll be talking to Stan another day. Then so okay you lived there until you started to work? Well you went to school until what you were 14 or what?

McWHINNEY I went to it until I was about 15, 16.

FG Sixteen.

McWHINNEY Then I got a job as a butcher. Pushing a push-bike round serving all the Peninsula and all around here at a butcher's shop that was just... It went up... We'd be the first or I was, and the boss of course by the name of Turner.

FG Oh yes.

McWHINNEY William Welman Turner.

FG Welman Turner.

McWHINNEY Yes. And that was very nearly on the corner of Peninsula Road and East Street.

FG Oh East Street, oh yes.

McWHINNEY Yes it's there at present, you know that corner?

FG Yes I know that corner, it's where the roundabout is.

McWHINNEY That's right.

FG So there's a shop now on the corner and there's those shops opposite.

McWHINNEY Well those days when they opened that there was diagonally opposite there was one on either side. There was one that the original one is still there but the other one has been pulled down and there was a garage went up and oh [unclear]...

FG That's just gone, yes, that's right. That's just gone there. So that was where the butcher shop was. Wellman Turner.

McWHINNEY Yes. He was financed by the local newsagent who was opposite the station and his name was Lightly.

FG Lightly, oh yes. Oh we'll show this on this map here about where it was.

McWHINNEY Down there. Yes straight opposite.

FG Yes but we'll just get a few rough details. So that was the first butcher shop you worked in. You were doing an apprenticeship there were you?

McWHINNEY Well I never ever served an apprenticeship but I worked there until his son was old enough to take over the push-bike and then he kicked me out. And I decided I would start up myself and I bought a little shop not quite on the corner of Kennedy Street and Railway...

FG And Railway Parade?

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG Or this side of the station?

McWHINNEY No that's the other side. Where's the... Where are we? Here.
No that would be Railway...

FG Parade is over there. Over there. And can you remember
when you were working for this Wellman Turner.

McWHINNEY Yes. Bill Turner he was probably known as.

FG Bill Turner, yes. Do you remember how much he paid you?

McWHINNEY Yes oh yes.

FG How much?

McWHINNEY Well and truly – 12/6 a week and I was working 90 hours.

FG Ninety hours a week, 12/6 a week.

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG And about what year was that then? You were born in 1913.
How old were you, you were 14 were you?

McWHINNEY It would be about 1928, '7' '8.

FG Was it, 1927 or '8, yes. So 12/6 a week and no
apprenticeship. So then how long did you stay with him then?

McWHINNEY Oh about three, four years. I learnt the trade from him.

FG Oh yes you would. So you moved into your own shop when you were about 18 or something?

McWHINNEY Yes it was less than 18 I was 16.

FG Oh my gosh.

McWHINNEY Put it down as 18 – I might be slipping a bit there.

FG Well somebody helped you then?

McWHINNEY Yes. And there was a butcher shop owned by a fellow by the name of Chinnery. He was in there. And that was not quite opposite the crossing, a little bit further north.

FG This is over in Railway Parade?

McWHINNEY That's correct.

FG Corner of what Seventh Avenue crossing?

McWHINNEY No, no, Kennedy Street. There was a general, little general store on either side of Kennedy Street. One was owned by, well I don't know about owned, but the person in there was a Mrs Palfrey and the other side was Vic... I've forgotten his name. Alby will know him,.

FG Alby will know him, right.

McWHINNEY Vic... Huntley.

FG Huntley.

McWHINNEY That's right.

FG What was he doing?

McWHINNEY General store.

FG Oh general store.

McWHINNEY Yes, yes. And of course Port and Honey were there then, were the timber crowd.

FG Oh yes.

McWHINNEY They were there and then they had a big fire. And that's where... They had the timber yard see. Busy.

FG Busy little area.

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG So how long were you in that butcher shop then?

McWHINNEY I joined up in there.

FG You joined up from there.

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG So that must have been 1939?

McWHINNEY Ah yes until we started on to this is with meat. I had about five fellows working for me with motorbikes and sidecars and we delivered all of Maylands.

FG That's fair enough.

McWHINNEY Yes and that's how I got to know Maylands very well. Of course the station, what's the next station up? That wasn't there then.

FG On yes I know, the Mt Lawley down that way or you know a little siding up here.

McWHINNEY Yes. Anyhow there was nothing there but there was quite a lot of activity at the Maylands Goods Sheds. They had Goods sheds there then.

FG Yes that's in the railway...

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG I remember those actually myself.

McWHINNEY Do you?

FG Then the line used to run across the road didn't it to the...

McWHINNEY To the timber yards and then also across to HB [unclear]

FG That's right, yes.

McWHINNEY And on the corner of there on that corner, a lot of people would remember this possibly but there was another little general, little general store, and there was a big place near that was a Mrs Gilmore was in there.

FG Oh yes. Which street was that?

McWHINNEY Hey?

FG What street was that?

McWHINNEY Corner of...

FG Caledonian?

McWHINNEY Caledonian Avenue and the...

FG Whatley Crescent is it? This one?

McWHINNEY Yes the one this side.

FG Yes Whatley Crescent. So Caledonian and...

McWHINNEY That's right.

FG One of the first stores in Maylands was in Caledonian Avenue and it might even be that.

McWHINNEY What this one over here?

FG No, no, in Caledonian Avenue up close to the railway line.

McWHINNEY

Well that was Gilmores.

FG

Gilmores, yes.

McWHINNEY

There was no other one.

FG

No other, no. So you were in this butcher shop until you ...?

McWHINNEY

Oh they were... excuse me - could be wrong because one was the corner of Caledonian Avenue and Guildford Road, there was one there.

FG

Was there?

McWHINNEY

Fairly old one but I think Gilmores was the eldest.

FG

Was the eldest was it.

McWHINNEY

Yes. And next-door to Gilmore's was Hazelhurst the Wood Yard.

FG

Oh yes.

McWHINNEY

And I can go all the way along.

FG

In Caledonian Avenue you mean?

McWHINNEY

No, no, no, along the Terrace. Along the railway line.

FG

Oh railway line, right. Well we'll do that in a minute but just getting an overall story...

McWHINNEY It's difficult...

FG Yes, yes hang on a second.

McWHINNEY I joined up and I met the chap as a manager by the name of AG Dove, in the shop. I put him on a share basis and all the rest. Anyhow things were getting a bit tight I was over...

FG You joined the RAF did you?

McWHINNEY No I joined the RAAF.

FG Oh the airforce. I was in the airforce, yes.

McWHINNEY Were you?

FG Yes.

McWHINNEY I was supposed to have been shot down, believed killed and all that. Dove went up to my father's place and said he was going to walk out of the place if he didn't sell it to him, his figure. Well of course he sold it.

FG Oh I see.

McWHINNEY To his figure - which wasn't a very high one. That is why as soon as I got discharged I got back to Maylands as quick as I could and knowing all the people around Maylands I had a good tale to tell them and I picked up a good round and I was doing very well.

FG Did you. And where was your shop then? So you opened up the same shop or?

McWHINNEY No.

FG No, no.

McWHINNEY I bought out a shop, a double-storey place from a chap by the name of Dillons. That was in Guildford Road just around the corner from where the bank is now, the ANZ Bank.

FG Oh yes, I know, where that new shopping centre is now?

McWHINNEY That is where - yes it's a bank. And the previous owners of that was a chap by the name of Emery. I was out and I went down to discharge, I couldn't get in at Maylands I bought a little place in Nicholson Road, Subiaco and built that up and got rid of that. That's how I managed to have the coin then to buy Dillon's place out. Then I bought another chap out in Eighth Avenue by the name of Frank, Bill Franks. He had a delicatessen and butcher's shop next to it and I bought the butcher shop side out. Then I built a shop in Caledonian Avenue which has in the last few years, couple of years has been pulled down and a residential place put up on it.

FG That was opposite the... just down here was it?

McWHINNEY Opposite the newsagent.

FG Oh yes. So you had that for some years?

McWHINNEY Yes I got that built.

FG Oh did you, oh yes.

McWHINNEY I had a manager in there. In the time I had to spare I, at the back of the butcher's shop in Guildford Road I was always one for the water etc. I belonged to the Maylands Yacht Club and I raced yachts and all the rest of it. Then I built a crayboat and got a cray licence.

FG Did you?

McWHINNEY And went crayfishing. Sold out... when the Woolworths opened up I thought well this is no place to be in Maylands. I can't compete with Woolworths. I opened up there where Action went in there and now it's Foodland or something.

FG Yes, yes Supa Value.

McWHINNEY Supa Value. Well they opened there and I smartly sold out and got out of it. Kept on crayfishing which I retired from crayfishing when I [unclear]

FG What was the name of your boat in the crayfishing?

McWHINNEY Seavia. Sea-Via.

FG Seavia. Do you remember old Sam Miragotta[?]?

McWHINNEY Oh yes, yes.

FG Do you?

McWHINNEY Yes, yes, yes.

FG Well Sam and you guys were some of the pioneers of crayfishing.

McWHINNEY Yes we went in amongst it when they made crayfishing...

FG They controlled it you mean?

McWHINNEY Controlled, yes.

FG Hang on a second.

McWHINNEY The reason I built this crayboat was that I, during the war I was doing air/sea rescue and I was diving.

FG Oh yes.

McWHINNEY We were using the...

FG Aqualung or something?

McWHINNEY Well and hard hat on and that sort of business. And so I thought oh well I'll... so I bought out a diving company in Fremantle by the name of the Aqua Surveys. I carried on with them and I was doing the weirs and the dams and other water demolition. The fact is I had the job of blowing up the Belmont Bridge, the train bridge. There used to be a train bridge...

FG Yes across the... that's right yes.

McWHINNEY Do you remember that?

FG Yes.

McWHINNEY Well I had the job of... I could tell you a great tale about that it was rather humorous that one. And I would say I did 90 percent of the underwater work on the Narrows Bridge and I had the contract of doing most of the weirs and dams.

FG Oh good. This is still while you had the crayboat or?

McWHINNEY I worked that in so that in the flush of the season I was unavailable.

FG Oh I see.

McWHINNEY Most of the season I crayfished yes. I enjoyed every bit of it.

FG Yes of course you would.

McWHINNEY Until I got this cancer and I had to sell the boat.

FG Yes. No, well of course then they controlled you know quite... I'll tell you how I know old Sam and [unclear]

McWHINNEY [unclear] boat which...

FG There was a Miss Joyce, that was one of them.

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG No, Miss Joyce. Lady something.

McWHINNEY Yes that's right.

FG Yes I just forget the name. But then... Mick. Do you know the Lombardo's?

McWHINNEY Oh yes.

FG Oh well young Mick and old Vince.

McWHINNEY Yes Vince.

FG Vincey Lombardo. Because I put the first radios in.

McWHINNEY Oh yes.

FG In the Carmella.

McWHINNEY I know the Carmella. I did a diving job at...

FG Carnarvon? Can't think of it? For using the Carmella.

McWHINNEY It was opposite Hartog Island – Shark's Bay.

FG Did you.

McWHINNEY He knocked a propeller off on a reef or something.

FG Oh yes.

McWHINNEY Went up and took a... I did that for Carmella. She was a... had the wheelhouse aft.

FG Yes that's right. A wooden boat.

McWHINNEY A mast [unclear]

FG Two masts from memory.

McWHINNEY Yes, yes ketch [unclear]

FG Yes. No, well young Mick Lombardo he... I saw him. Well in fact I picked him up from school and took him down to the Carmella and showed him how to work the radio on the Carmella. Old Sam Miragotto showed all those guys.

McWHINNEY Well my radio was put in by some chap there round near Bullcreek. I can't think of his name.

FG Oh yes I know, I forget the name.

McWHINNEY [unclear]

FG He was doing it too. But anyhow just to continue. Oh so, oh you've had a varied experience then haven't you.

McWHINNEY Oh yes.

FG But you've always... then afterwards you came back and lived in Maylands after for a while.

McWHINNEY Well I bought the block where I am now in 1953.

FG What's the address of that again now?

McWHINNEY Nineteen Swanview Terrace.

FG Nineteen Swanview Terrace.

McWHINNEY Lot 500.

FG Lot 500. You've had that... well it was good buying wasn't it?
River view, river side.

McWHINNEY Oh beautiful.

FG Yes.

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG No well those days have gone.

McWHINNEY Nice sandy beach at the bottom.

FG That's right, yes. And of course in those days, those early
days all this [unclear]

McWHINNEY No other houses, no road, nothing there.

FG No, no. And they used to call this Cow Dung Flat.

McWHINNEY Cow Dung Flat, that's right. They used to paddle canoes
here as a kid.

FG Did you. The De Lacy girl told me that's where they learnt to swim. Apparently it used to fill up a bit.

McWHINNEY Oh yes about around your neck.

FG Would it.

McWHINNEY Of course that was before they drained it.

FG Yes. And they drained it down into the river. Down under...

McWHINNEY That's correct. Yes straight down to the other side of Caledonian Avenue.

FG Yes. And is there a drain there now still or?

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG Is there. Oh go on. On no well Cow Dung Flat everyone remembers Cow Dung Flat. Can you remember much about Peninsula Road? I believe it was sort of a plank road pretty well or a track?

McWHINNEY Yes, yes that's correct but that's going back a long way – a long while that because I can remember when they put the first lot of gravel over it.

FG Can you?

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG Well when you were a boy...

McWHINNEY Because that was the airport you see.

FG That's right, yes. Well when you were a boy which would be what, the 1920s...

McWHINNEY Oh I'm still a boy.

FG Still a boy. [chuckles] An old boy. When you were a young boy in the, as I say well in the 1920s you know mucking around and after you left school well of course in those days you went straight to work I guess?

McWHINNEY Well you did. I did whatever I could. I painted houses, mowed lawns and I did a lot of wood turning.

FG Oh go on.

McWHINNEY I used to push a bike out into the... I didn't have to go far for the bush then. I used to turn up the blackboy hearts.

FG Oh yes.

McWHINNEY You know the inside of the blackboys, not pithy on the big ones you get a wooden heart. And that used to turn up and I used to run them into Boans and sell them into Boans and anywhere.

FG Did you?

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG Into vases and things?

McWHINNEY Yes, yes.

FG Gosh, and of course the blackboys were quite close in those days.

McWHINNEY Well yes. Yes.

FG So you wouldn't have to go far.

McWHINNEY First job I had, was after school job, was as a lather boy and that was those days, you know, shave and a haircut for ninepence or whatever it might have been. That was in the corner of Dundas Road and Beaufort Street - you've got that clock.

FG Oh yes.

McWHINNEY It was underneath that.

FG Oh was it.

McWHINNEY Snooks was the name of the people.

FG The barber?

McWHINNEY No the barber was a chap by the name of Len Payne. He was first in there.

FG Oh and when you say a lather boy you used to...

McWHINNEY I would lather them up.

FG Lather up the faces?

McWHINNEY Oh yes then Len came along and shaved them.

FG And so you'd work sort of one ahead of him and lather up. He'd just call you, you'd be standing on the side?

McWHINNEY Oh yes as soon as they came in they'd want a shave. Well there was two chairs. They'd get that, lay back and you'd put the towels here around their neck and then lather them up.

FG You'd lather them up with a hot towel I suppose first?

McWHINNEY Yes. Yep, yes.

FG And then lather. And what would you have got for that – so much an hour or?

McWHINNEY Very little. Yes but it was just down the hill from my place then in 41 Kennedy Street, and it was just a knock off from school and go down there to this place and start down there.

FG After school?

McWHINNEY I forget what I was getting there but it wasn't very much but it helped.

FG Yes no, well you know in those days the kids would get to work as soon as they could wouldn't they or after school.

McWHINNEY Oh that's for sure, yes.

FG That's a very interesting thing I had forgotten about that because a lot of people you know in the town will always had their own shaves of you know the barbers was probably...

McWHINNEY They all had their own mugs. You'd get their mugs down. They'd have their own mug and brush. You'd get the mug down and there was an urn there and you'd fill it up with the hot water and start the ball going, yes.

FG And then how much did they charge for a shave? Would you remember?

McWHINNEY I can't remember, I think it was a shave and haircut, I think it was ninepence. I think it might have been a shave and a haircut. I don't know.

FG Yes it might have been. But they wouldn't have a haircut everyday would they, they would have a shave. Might have been sixpence or something. You know I guess when you've looked that up. What was the name of the barber there?

McWHINNEY Payne.

FG Payne.

McWHINNEY Len Payne.

FG Len Payne. Oh yes. Well that was interesting. And so it was after that you actually go into the butchers here in...

McWHINNEY Oh yes that's when I got the job there.

FG Well that's interesting. Well they're all parts of life you know.

McWHINNEY Yes , yes.

FG The way it happens, you know. You meet people and you...

McWHINNEY Oh just sort of a [unclear]. I had a job as what we used to call those days a 'swamper'. That was sitting next to the driver. The coal trucks that went through Maylands Goods Yards down to the Brickyards and a chap by the name of McGlenn had these... they had an old Thermicot truck with the hard tyres, not tubes or anything like that – Thermicot. And we used to load it up all by shovel of course in those days.

FG Load it up at Maylands...

McWHINNEY Yes and he went behind the corner of Seventh Avenue and East Street.

FG Oh yes.

McWHINNEY And he'd back down, run into the backyard of the shop that was there.

FG Oh go on.

McWHINNEY Then we'd also then cart, take a load of whatsaname down there of the coal. It was in coal chips and things – go round to the brickyards, pick up then...

FG [unclear] brick.

McWHINNEY Sometimes if we had the order – pick up a load of bricks and then take them out to wherever... I know one of them was up to Mundaring Weir. Then they get paid on the way back instead of being an empty truck back we got into a gravel pit on the road between the Mundaring Station and Mundaring Weir and we had to shovel up...

FG You were known as a swamper?

McWHINNEY Then it was they called it [unclear] yes. Well that was hard that.

FG Yes, hard yakka.

McWHINNEY Well it was. When I got to that I'd [unclear]. But it was...

FG So this is before you went butchering really?

McWHINNEY That's right. From there I went butchering.

FG And what type of truck was it – an old Thermicot?

McWHINNEY A Thermicot, yes a hard one.

FG Yes. Now so the brickyards would have only just then been opened. They were opened in about 1924.

McWHINNEY Oh yes well quite possibly, yes. They had another... there was another brickyard of course further down.

FG Yes. That was Smith's or something. We're about to find out about that on Sunday.

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG But was that running at that time?

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG Was it.

McWHINNEY Yes, I remember watching them make the bricks. They were all what they called wire cuts.

FG Yes, yes. Yes what the second one or the one that you used to take the coal to?

McWHINNEY No, no, the second one.

FG Was it.

McWHINNEY They also made pottery stuff. Gargoyles, tiles, and oh I don't know about tiles. But these gargoyles and all that.

FG It's beautiful clay there on the Peninsula, yes.

McWHINNEY It was, yes.

FG And can you remember when you carted coal into the [unclear] kilns, yes the brickyard. Were there one or two kilns there? You know that big kiln that's there now.

McWHINNEY Oh there was only one.

FG There was only one?

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG Because there has been two there.

McWHINNEY That's right.

FG Yes.

McWHINNEY There was only one.

FG Only one.

McWHINNEY Yes, yes.

FG And they just started, obviously just started to dig into what we called the North Pit then - they must have done.

McWHINNEY Well I can't remember exactly I know we used to look over the edge of the pits there. We went down to see the planes coming in – it was the Perth Airport then.

FG That's right. Maylands Airport.

McWHINNEY Yes I saw Kingsfordsmith in the Southern Cross, I saw him come in. I saw Hinkler.

FG Hinkler.

McWHINNEY Huxley Hinkler they used to call him.

FG Huxley Hinker, yes. Well that was in the twenties I think.

McWHINNEY That's right.

FG Well one of our next meetings we're going to have one of the early engineers a bloke called Frank Calhoun. He was there. Do you know Frank Calhoun?

McWHINNEY Well I know of him because he was down there... he was...

FG The engineer.

McWHINNEY Engineer of aircraft motors.

FG That's right, yes. Yes that's right you'd know him.

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG And is that how you got interested in the airforce by going ..?

McWHINNEY No, no, no. I was motorbike racing down at Claremont.

FG Oh yes.

McWHINNEY I was down there the day when the chap by the name of Cyril Flan was killed. Now he was one of the star boys. Always a bit mad. I thought I'd get in as a pilot. They let me in. I finished up as airgunner but I

couldn't get in as a pilot I was just a little fraction too old. I hadn't been to the... In those days you had to have a university...

FG Degree, yes. You weren't colour blind or anything?

McWHINNEY No.

FG No. So how old would you have been then when you joined up? – 20 – 13.

McWHINNEY Oh 28 or 29.

FG Yes that's right. Did they reckon it was too old?

McWHINNEY Yes they did those days.

FG Did you know anyone else on the airport with Frank Calhoun? Any of the early...

McWHINNEY Sam [unclear]

FG Yes. Do you remember Harry Beck?

McWHINNEY I think that rings a name.

FG Yes but he was one of the...

McWHINNEY I went to deliver meat from Turners when I was in there on push bike down to the Aeroclub, they had a canteen down there.

FG Oh yes. Well Harry Beck was an instructor down there.

McWHINNEY Yes I know the name.

FG This is pre-war, yes.

McWHINNEY I'm trying to think of the old...

FG Mmm?

McWHINNEY I was trying to think of the old caretaker. He lived in the house on the other side of the road. Oh it doesn't matter.

FG No that will come out when we study that.

McWHINNEY You'd know the name.

FG Oh yes, no most of the a lot of people remember different things you see. Well it's interesting your life as a butcher because you know the butchers and the way of course in those days they were delivering around the place.

McWHINNEY Oh yes.

FG That was what butchery was wasn't it.

McWHINNEY That's correct, yes. And old Bill Shelston down there, I delivered his first lot of meat when he was married and he had to tell his wife how to cook it.

END OF TAPE ONE SIDE A

This is side number two, we're talking to Len McWhinney. The date is 25th of November 1992. Len is old resident of Maylands.

FG Okay Len. Yes, well the river traffic what can you remember about that?

McWHINNEY Well I can remember there was two or three different barges used to ply up round up here to right up to the back of Swanview Terrace. The one to Swanview Terrace it was a man-handled dredge and it used to go from where the boatyards are now. They had this barge with a big scoop and a...

FG Gantry I suppose.

McWHINNEY Yes, well yes it was a...

FG A lift thing?

McWHINNEY Yes and they call them...

FG They call them gantries I think.

McWHINNEY Well this... yes.

FG What was it scooping up?

McWHINNEY Scooping up the river sand and he'd fill that up and he'd take that down as far as where the shipyards are now and it was dumped there and it was picked up from there and taken to Calyx factory in, just underneath the subway in Shenton Park.

FG What were they making over there?

McWHINNEY High class crockery.

FG Oh yes.

McWHINNEY Crockery, yes.

FG Out of the river bed in front, virtually in front of your place?

McWHINNEY Yes, yes, down here, yes.

FG Virtually in front of your place?

McWHINNEY That's right this barge used to... didn't have the motor in or if it did they never used it or couldn't afford to.

FG They'd pull it?

McWHINNEY No they'd wait for the tide.

FG Would they?

McWHINNEY Because tidal influence up there and they'd take it up to the bank in the high tide and they'd throw the pick in and then use this derrick.

FG Derrick, yes, yes.

McWHINNEY And it was a front end scoop and all done by hand.

FG And then put it on to the barge.

McWHINNEY And into the barge.

FG And a big pile of white sand you used to see from...

McWHINNEY Well it was a coarse grade river sand. Yes. Also then Bristles had a jetty which was almost directly opposite the shipyards but still stops at the thing there and one of the old barges are still there.

FG I saw that. And that's what the barge is.

McWHINNEY They used to have a line and a skip, you know, the little rudder set on rails and they used to be their bricks and all their fancy stuff from Bristles on to that.

FG Bristles in Belmont?

McWHINNEY Pardon?

FG Belmont where the race course is?

McWHINNEY Yes, Station Road.

FG Up to the river there?

McWHINNEY Up to there. Unload it on to the barges and of course they had a tug and they used to take that and load it straight on to the ships in Fremantle.

FG A little steam tug was it? I suppose, a little motor tug? Have to be...

McWHINNEY I wouldn't know. Oh well... oh it was motored, oh yes. A motor of some sort. Whether it was steam or in those days there wasn't too much diesel.

FG Oh so that's how they used to get the bricks.

McWHINNEY And they used to take them for overseas orders, yes. Not only bricks but most of it was fancy stuff like tiles and all these gargoyles that they used to put on the rooves. Yes they used to... And also at the back of the...

FG Airport.

McWHINNEY ...the other brickyards there was a landing there.

FG Was there?

McWHINNEY Yes. And I didn't see too much activity there at all. What went on there I don't know but they used to run things down the river from there.

FG Did they.

McWHINNEY Then the cement works, Welshpool they then dredged... we had quite a good load of oysters and they used to dredge those from oh back of the aerodrome and they were dredged down almost to the jetty. They were taken up to a jetty there in Welshpool and that went into the cement. That was another dredge.

FG Yes that was working at that time?

McWHINNEY

Yes.

FG

About the 1920s that would be.

McWHINNEY

Oh yes that worked up later too.

FG

Did it?

McWHINNEY

Yes. I think that was the last one to go

FG

Was it?

McWHINNEY

Mmm.

FG

Well this river sand is interesting because I hadn't realised you know they must have been digging fairly deep there.

McWHINNEY

Well it's fairly deep water down the back of my place.

FG

Is it. Yes. Course it would be all silted over now.

McWHINNEY

Well no.

FG

Isn't it?

McWHINNEY

No.

FG

Well cause you've got a bit of a beach you say. Yes. That's interesting. And did the barges go further up you know to Guildford or anywhere in those days or?

McWHINNEY I don't remember.

FG Because Guildford you see they used to truck wool and that down the river.

McWHINNEY That's right but that was before my time. I don't remember that.

FG No I think they probably would have stopped by then. Yes well how are you going for time?

McWHINNEY I'm doing all right.

FG You're doing all right. Yes, well okay well that was about the 1920s now getting back on to this Eighth Avenue just while we... so we can argue then tomorrow.

McWHINNEY Can I tell you the tale of...

FG Okay well we'll look at Eighth Avenue now and just see if you remember.

McWHINNEY That's the hotel.

FG Yes the Central Hotel. What was it known as in those days?
Central Hotel?

McWHINNEY I think so.

FG Was it Central Hotel?

McWHINNEY

I think so.

FG

And who belonged to that then?

McWHINNEY

I don't know but Mrs Barber was the Licensee.

FG

Mrs Barbo?

McWHINNEY

Barber.

FG

Barber. Oh so we'll just put that down there, Barber. And what year would that be?

McWHINNEY

Oh hell I don't know.

FG

Twenties?

McWHINNEY

Oh I don't know Mum used to get me by the hand and run me past there because, they're terrible there.

FG

[laughter] So she wouldn't let you hang around there too much.

McWHINNEY

Oh no.

FG

Well there is a lot down there next-door which is lot 34.

McWHINNEY

There was a lane and then there was this one.

FG Yes now that's... can you remember who was there and what [unclear]?

McWHINNEY Well yes at one stage... I can't go back too far with that but it used to be a dentist in there.

FG Oh it was a dentist?

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG Yes. So I'll just write dentist there. And what about the one next to that?

McWHINNEY Richmond the Bootmaker.

FG There's a bootmaker, yes.

McWHINNEY And the next one to him was the Church of Christ Church.

FG Oh was it. Church of Christ.

McWHINNEY Yes, yes they shifted opposite.

FG Oh right, yes.

McWHINNEY And the next one to that was, oh hell... Rossback.

FG Rossbacks, yes. That was where Inca...

McWHINNEY Yes Inca was there.

FG We're trying to get Inca up there on Sunday.

McWHINNEY Yes, yes, and Rossbacks. There's a couple of shops were up there.

FG There are two shops there now shown.

McWHINNEY They didn't do too much there. Too much good there. They were vegetables, mixed.

FG Mixed vegetables.

McWHINNEY But they weren't there for...

FG Mixed vegies there.

McWHINNEY Oh well next-door to that was a little house, little weatherboard house and a Mrs Jones lived there.

FG Mrs Jones.

McWHINNEY Then next-door to that was the open air Maylands Markets.

FG Oh this was the open markets was it?

McWHINNEY Well one of those two.

FG One of those two, yes.

McWHINNEY Yes Jonesy might have been in there. Mrs Jones. Open Air Markets. Then we had Lester's Lending Library.

FG Lester's Lending Library.

McWHINNEY Yes, next to that one. Now of course there's the doctors complexes are there now.

FG There now.

McWHINNEY I'm just trying to think.

FG Well about the chemist about where that was.

McWHINNEY Pardon?

FG The doctors place where the chemist is now.

McWHINNEY Well, yes well...

FG Or the bank – about there?

McWHINNEY Yes they weren't banks or chemist there then.

FG No, no.

McWHINNEY Alby could help us with that one.

FG Yes okay well up here. Okay a bit further up about where that...

McWHINNEY [unclear]

FG Who?

McWHINNEY [unclear] down here.

FG Down here.

McWHINNEY Well next-door to that was a grocer's shop. A greengrocer.

FG Was a greengrocer.

McWHINNEY Yes it was there. And then you had Farnhams.

FG Wait a minute, greengrocers. Farnhams - what were Farnhams?

McWHINNEY Oh general quite a big wholesale retail store. Then next to that was Fox Land Agent.

FG So this is coming this way?

McWHINNEY Yes this one here

FG So Fox. Fox Land Agent. Well that pretty fills them in.

McWHINNEY Yes well no not quite. Up here - that lane there and we're getting near to the school.

FG There's a dunny there.

McWHINNEY That's still there I believe.

FG Yes that's still there. What was that for then? That was at the back of some shop or?

McWHINNEY Yes. Alby Smith lived almost next to the dunny. He'll know.

FG He'll remember that.

McWHINNEY Now on the... Lionel Sargent was over this side and then he shifted over to there.

FG Sargent, what did he do?

McWHINNEY Chemist.

FG Oh Sargent the Chemist.

McWHINNEY Yes. And Sargent the Chemist he was there and then shifted across here. And next-door to Sargent on this side was McCapian the butcher.

FG Oh over here McCapian somewhere.

McWHINNEY Yes he was next to...

FG How do you spell that? M c... Capian

McWHINNEY Oh your guess is as good as mine.

FG Butcher.

McWHINNEY Mmm, and Sargent. Sargent was on the corner.

FG Sargent, yes. Let's come back down this way.

McWHINNEY Righto we'll go back up there. Now Marvels Wood Yard. A wood yard. Yes Marvels, M A R V E L S.

FG Marvels.

McWHINNEY Yes, quite old those people.

FG Yes.

McWHINNEY Croxford Bicycle Shop.

FG Oh Croxford.

McWHINNEY Yes C R O X F O R D.

FG Oh yes.

McWHINNEY They shifted over to Beaufort Street, Croxford. Oh I don't know one side or the other of Croxford there was a small goods place, ham and beef shop.

FG Oh yes like a deli.

McWHINNEY Yes, yes. One side or the other I'm not too sure. Then next to that...

FG Well one side there would have been a wood yard and the other side was a small goods do you think?

McWHINNEY Well it could be a small goods one and then Croxford. I'm not too sure which way they go. The one next to that then, Alby would know these ones. The one next to there was Baxter Hairdresser.

FG Hairdresser.

McWHINNEY That was the hairdresser but it was the old whatsaname shop, the betting shop.

FG Oh I see like SP betting.

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG Was that legal then or?

McWHINNEY No. Now next to Baxters, AV Rose Fashion Centre.

FG Oh was it?

McWHINNEY They used to have all clothes of all types. AV Rose.

FG R O S E?

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG Fashions?

McWHINNEY Fashion Centre, yes. He sold you know...

FG Oh yes.

McWHINNEY Then there was a, oh a coffee shop.

FG A coffee shop.

McWHINNEY I might not be dead right with these – we go back a year or two. And there's a coffee shop there. I forget her name but I'm sure Alby will know.

FG Yes coffee shop. You think we'll skip a couple or what? Was the theatre built in those days?

McWHINNEY Yes. Yes Snooks built that too.

FG Snooks. That was Snooks.

McWHINNEY No, well no least he was the builder.

FG Oh Snook was the builder.

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG Oh yes. Snook was the builder.

McWHINNEY That was the Lewick.

FG Yes and who owned the Lewick? I heard that name the other day. There was a guy that will tell us. Snook the builders.

McWHINNEY I know up the pub there, about there there is a billiard saloon.

FG Was there.

McWHINNEY I can't tell you.

FG Can't remember. Yes well...

McWHINNEY I don't know who it is.

FG Yes well wait a moment let's see what this bloke says.

McWHINNEY Henry Robinson.

FG Robinson. Oh no he had it later.

McWHINNEY Later was it?

FG Yes, he had it later. Yes this has been scribbled down but that's the lot.

McWHINNEY Yes [unclear]

FG Yes. Anyhow we'll work that out. What about on the corner? Well let's leave those, Alby might remember that.

McWHINNEY Yes he will.

FG Yes and we'll sort those out then. Now on this corner opposite the Central Hotel what was over there?

McWHINNEY I'm trying to think. Nickleladies. Nickleladies but there was somebody before them. Now Nickleadies was a general store.

FG Oh yes general store. But you don't know quite which one.

McWHINNEY Right on the corner. Ah hang on I'm with it. Yes we'll go back behind him. Hare, Arthur Hare was a furniture place right on the corner. H A R E.

FG H A R E Furniture.

McWHINNEY Yes. Now...

FG Where Lisa's is now what was there?

McWHINNEY Oh well whatsaname. Povera had a dentist place there but go back trying to get back beyond that. He didn't come along till...

FG No later.

McWHINNEY ...later. Anyhow put down dentist and somebody will say, "Oh no so and so was before him." Then here, McWurthers, McWurthers had a produce place.

FG Oh yes. So it was produce.

McWHINNEY When I say produce like [unclear]

FG Chook feed and that. And that bike shop been there a long time or not?

McWHINNEY No that's been built since. Oh wait a minute, whoa, phew yes. Yes Ritchie's Garage that was.

FG Oh yes.

McWHINNEY Ritchie's Garage.

FG There is still a garage there you know. I wonder if it's the same garage? Yes it's Max something now.

McWHINNEY Oh no that's McCauliffs.

FG McCauliffs.

McWHINNEY And Stoltz.

FG Yes.

McWHINNEY No, no, no.

FG But up here was Ritchie's Garage.

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG Oh yes.

McWHINNEY Ritchie's Garage, yes. Now McCauliffs came along later they were near the corner here though.

FG Yes.

McWHINNEY This was a little general store on the corner.

FG Corner of Seventh and Guildford Road.

McWHINNEY Yes. It was a general store. Dawes Corner they used to call it. Built by somebody by the name of Dawes which was a distant relation of mine.

FG Oh go on.

McWHINNEY Oh yes well now things are starting to fall in line. Dawes Corner. Next to that was a blacksmith – Collins.

FG Oh C...

McWHINNEY Collins, yes.

FG How C O L I N S?

McWHINNEY Double L yes.

FG C O L L I N S. Blacksmiths.

McWHINNEY Yes. Blacksmiths. Then there was next to that was a little weatherboard house.

FG House – we'll just put house there. Then there was a garage up here somewhere. Next to the house was a garage or one along?

McWHINNEY Ritchies was the only one when I was there.

FG Ritchie's garage.

McWHINNEY Richtie's Garage, yes.

FG Was that next to the house? We haven't got that down. Oh no here it is here down here. No it's down there, yes. There's two or three lots there in between. See this is a modern map where... I mean all these old buildings...

McWHINNEY No that could have been rezoned or anything at all. Righto do you want the other side of the road?

FG Yes this side of the road, yes.

McWHINNEY Straight up Seventh Avenue. Yes that should be Seventh shouldn't it?

FG Yes. Opposite the Dawes Corner.

McWHINNEY Mrs Watts. Now Watts' had a produce store in Eighth Avenue but prior to that she was here on the corner. And then, because I was, I suppose you could say conceived in Seventh Avenue, here, right in close to the school. She used to always come into the butcher shop and say she used to nurse me. I used to be embarrassed then. But still she said that they had the shop on the corner. Then Roy Mount had it then as a... [unclear]

FG Mount. What name shall I put there then?

McWHINNEY Hardware store.

FG Mount Hardware Store.

McWHINNEY Yes.

FG Anyhow maybe you've done enough for today.

McWHINNEY Yes I'm starting to get.. my brain...

FG Yes you do. So all right we'll leave it there at the moment.

END OF INTERVIEW

