

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH CHERYL REYNOLDS ON 22 JUNE 2023 AT H J DALEY LIBRARY

AA Cheryl hello how are you?

CR I'm very well, very happy to be here in my father's library.

AA Can you tell me when you were born and whereabouts you were born?

CR I was born at Paddington Hospital in 1948, then we came to live in Campbelltown in Dumaresq Street in the home built by Bill Bursill. I don't know whether that rings a bell.

AA Yes it does.

CR I was a baby, I can't remember the actual number but we lived in a house in Dumaresq Street built by Bill Bursill. Now from what my sister tells me, we lived there while our home in Lindesay Street was being built. Then we moved to Lindesay Street on the corner of Lindesay and Lilian Street in a lovely home there. That's where my life was that I can actually remember. So we wouldn't have been in Dumaresq Street for that long.

AA Was that on the top side of Queen Street or the railway side of Queen Street?

CR The top side. From what I understand it was down from the primary school opposite the primary school.

AA Is it still there do you know?

CR No

AA Well most of the houses in that area have gone haven't they?

CR To tell you the truth now that you say that I don't actually know because I don't know what number it was.

AA Ok, but you weren't there for very long.

CR I mustn't have been because I have no recollection. My sister has but I have no recollection of actually being there. After I was born mum got very sick and my sister who was 14 was left in charge of me. She remembers a lot, more than I do. My sister was born in Milgate Cottage.

AA So how many were there in your family. How many brothers and sisters?

CR Just my sister and I. She was pre-war, I was post-war.

AA But you were born in Paddington.

CR My parents lived in Rose Bay, then they moved to Ingleburn. Mum lived there with her mother, not her mother because her mother had died by then, with her sister and brother. They lived in Jaclyn House. Dad lived there too, she must have had her mother there because she cared for her mother.

AA Your dad Harley was with the Ingleburn Council before it amalgamated with Campbelltown Council is that right?

CR Ok, he went to Colo Shire Council at the age of 14, he worked there. Then he came to Ingleburn Council and he was appointed Town Clerk at Ingleburn Council. He was the youngest Town Clerk to have been appointed at that stage.

AA The youngest in New South Wales?

CR Yes

AA Right

4 mins

CR Ingleburn amalgamated and he was moved to Campbelltown. I can't remember the date.

AA That's alright. We probably have some record of the dates anyway. So, you have good memories of the house in Lilian Street, that's where you grew up.

CR Yes, that's where I grew up and then mum and dad built a house next door because they had the block of land next door and they built another house next door and that's where they lived. By that stage I was nursing I think so I wasn't there for the building of it. I lived there, but I wasn't there for the actual construction of that house. So my memories are of the other place on the corner of Lindesay and Lilian Street.

AA Lilian Street was a fairly new street wasn't it? So what things did you get up to in your childhood? Your sister was fairly older than you wasn't she.

CR She is 14 years older than me. My sister had a hairdressing salon in the building where Mort Clissold lived and Chenery's dentist was there. Mort Clissold had his barber shop and my sister had a hairdressing salon there. It was pretty much the only hairdressing salon in the area at that stage. I can remember my mother helped out in the hairdressing salon so after school, because I attended school at Campbelltown Central, I would go up to the hairdressing salon. I was given money to go to Bagley's to buy lollies. I remember that.

AA Was that when Bagley's was up towards Lack's Hotel, because it moved I believe? Bagley's Newsagency.

CR So it was on the other side of the road, it was down from Lack's in the middle I suppose.

AA That building where your sister had her hairdressers, I think it was called Athelstow the building. It was similar size to the Commonwealth Bank, to what is there now.

CR The Commonwealth Bank was put there was it? Is that where the building was?

AA I thought so but not being around then I am not 100% certain. I just thought that the Commonwealth Bank building that is there now replaced the one where your sister had the hairdressers. But I might be wrong about that.

CR Yes, I guess when you think about it. It was a beautiful old stone building. I can remember the beautiful stone. I think it was knocked down for the original Commonwealth Bank.

AA I think you could be right.

9 mins

CR So I have a lot of memories about Campbelltown growing up as you can imagine. Every Saturday dad and I would have father and daughter day. Dad always needed to go to the Council chambers because he would have to catch up on something. That was the routine. So I felt very important because I was given Joyce Vardy's typewriter to type on. So I would sit and type whatever while dad did whatever he had to do for business. That was our routine. Then we would often go to the Macquarie Cinema, mum and dad and myself with our rug to keep us warm.

AA It was cold inside was it?

CR It was freezing inside. Dad loved the western movies so we always went to the western movies. It wasn't my type of movie but I went along. I attended kindergarten in the little cottage that was behind St Peter's Church there. There was a little stone cottage there.

AA About where the bypass goes through now do you mean?

CR Yes, in the little stone cottage there. I went to pre-school there and still keep in touch with a lot of those friends that went to pre-school with me. From there I went to Campbelltown Central and vivid memories that a lot of people have of collecting the milk that had been left out by the gate for half a day, all morning and stunk. Mum would give me a special straw that had chocolate in it. So when I drank the milk it tasted like chocolate. I was in the band there, I played the flute. I really wanted to play the drums but they wouldn't let me play the drums I had to play the flute. I was also involved in St Peter's Church and I went to Sunday school there in a little cottage behind the Church. Then I was in the GFS, I was in the choir and I was in the youth group. There used to be a home for children in Bradbury called Raith and we used to go up there and I have so many fond memories of this. We would go up there and we would help the children, play with them and do activities with them and I have very fond memories of that time because the kids loved it, they just loved it. I was also in something they don't have now, called the Smith Family Younger Set. It was obviously run by the Smith Family and we had some really good times with that group too. Getting back to Campbelltown Central by my late husband Lindesay, we went to school together.

AA Was he the same age?

13 mins

CR Yes a few months difference. We went to school together and it was at the Smith Family Younger Set thing that he asked me to come to a beach party. I got sick and I couldn't go so he went with somebody else instead.

AA Did you have feelings for each other at school? Did it start at school? Were you an item at school, were you together or not?

CR Yes and no. They split the school into boys and girls. We were in the same class for a short time, but they split the school, and we weren't in the same class. I have very fond memories of Campbelltown Central too. Mr Burt was the Principal.

AA Did you have a favourite teacher?

CR Not really, I can remember being in Macarthur Square not long ago actually and this lady came up to me and she said you're Cheryl Daley aren't you? Yes, I was, she said I was your kindergarten teacher. That was a few years ago but I remember that and I remember her too she was a lovely teacher.

AA The school was knocked down. Was it demolished in the 60s, the one that you went to? Was that in Lithgow Street? Wasn't it knocked down in the 1960s and they rebuilt it?

CR I know what you're talking about, I think there were two classrooms that they there. But not the whole school.

AA Not the whole school.

CR No, not the whole school was knocked down. Definitely not while I was there. Otherwise where would I have gone to school? With the school we had to go to learn to swim classes at Menangle River. There was a huge rock. You had to jump off the rock even if you were totally petrified, jump off this rock and tread water and swim for your life to the bank. There was nobody there to catch you. I have very vivid memories of that, very vivid memories and that's how you learnt to swim and that rock is still there.

AA Did anyone struggle?

CR Oh yes, quite a few struggled when they jumped off the rock and couldn't tread water. Obviously a teacher would come and help them out but there was no-one directly in the water to help. In those days you just did it I suppose. I was petrified.

AA I would have been too.

CR I remember going out to the Rotolactor at Menangle. Mum and dad would go out there and we would have a milkshake which was what a lot of people did in those days because they had the best milkshakes.

AA So I've heard.

19 mins

CR I remember shops – Miss MacPherson's and she had the haberdashery shop. It was on the other side too, down from where Carolyn's dress shop was. She had a black cat and it used to sleep on the chair. She had totally everything in that shop and it went to the ceiling. She would climb this ladder, I remember her climbing the ladder to get things from the top shelf and she wasn't a young woman then. She used to ride her bicycle to work, I remember Miss MacPherson. I remember Ray Veness's pharmacy where we would get our medications from. There was a fruit and veggie shop that dad always to for our vegies and fruit. Mrs Fairburn and Andy Romalis had the deli.

AA He had a fish and chip shop too.

CR Yes and that's where we would get our takeaway.

AA Did you ever go to the Balalaika Café?

CR Yes, the Balalaika, I remember the Balalaika we would often go there. The doctor was Dr Bowenby and then Dr Parnell. I remember Dr Parnell was just do house calls and I remember in the middle of the night, you would just leave your front door unlocked, he was such a dedicated man and you could hear at midnight knock, knock on the door, it's just me I'm coming to see whoever was sick usually mum. You would just leave your front door open for him.

AA What a different world we live in now.

CR That happened quite often, Dr Parnell. I was in the theatre group, Campbelltown Theatre Group and performed in a lot of Roger and Hammerstein, not in the lead parts I'm telling you. I was in the chorus and the Legacy ball of course. Many of my friends were debs at the Legacy ball and our clothes were made by May Clissold. Most of us had our dresses made by May Clissold and Mrs McCord would be the one who would teach us the dance Pride of Erin.

AA Did you enjoy that? Did you like dancing?

CR Actually I did ballroom dancing down in a little hall in Iolanthe Street. That used to be the Masonic Lodge.

AA Do you mean Browne Street?

CR Browne Street yes. I used to go to ballroom dancing. I distinctly remember but I can't think of her name but oh God she was strict. Of course I was a Miss Spirit in the Fisher's Ghost Festival. I was a Miss Swimming Club and at that stage John Marsden was the President of the club and we raised enough money, almost enough money to build the public pool at Bradbury Swimming Centre. That was a good time. I distinctly remember the opening of the Art Show and I had to make a speech and I was petrified and I got up there and I thought I remembered all my speech and I got up and said ladies and gentlemen three times and my father was just looking at me thinking to himself what are you doing. Fortunately, I had flipped my notes on the chair so I was able to read it. I vividly remember that. They were good times.

23 mins

Oh this is something I must tell you, Everett Langdon was so kind to our family. We had great times with Everett and he said to me Cheryl if you're going to learn to drive you're going to learn to drive in my Dodge truck with a clutch gear box. Okay Everett, so off we go and I remember we would go down to Menangle around the bridge down there with a clutch gear box. That what we did every weekend he would come and take me and off I'd go in this Dodge truck.

AA How did you go with it? Was it hard?

CR Extremely, double shuffle, he was determined I was going to learn how to drive. Then his sister Muriel when I eventually got my licence would lend us her Ford Prefect to go to Maroubra to the beach. They were just the kindest people.

AA I've heard a lot about Muriel and Everett. He was a bit of a character.

CR Dad had both his legs amputated and Everett was the kindest person who would come and take him out for a day. He was just there for the family. The other person I will mention too that was very kind to dad was Frank Ward. He would visit frequently and he remained a very close friend of the family.

AA Frank is still alive, he's in his 90s now and still going strong.

CR I've been a member of the View Club now for 48 years. My mother started the club, she was very involved in the View Club. She was President of the day club and I was President of the evening club and I am still on the committee after 48 years I've been on committees.

AA Did you know Clive Tregear very well?

CR Oh yes Clive I knew very well. When the Snowy Mountains were being constructed the Aldermen and dad would have conferences down there with the idea of just seeing how this place was being constructed. It was a very rare occasion and I suppose it was because of the snow I was allowed to go. We were booked into this accommodation but the Aldermen were absolute characters. You would wake up of a morning and open your door and they had put beer cans on all the doors along the row and you would hear this clunk, clunk, clunk all the way down the hall. Mum and dad used to go to a lot of conferences, Town Clerk conferences they were called in those days so I used to stay with Pat and Mate Sedgwick. He used to spoil me rotten, I loved those days, I have very fond memories of Pat and Mate.

AA Arch Walker, you would have known him.

CR Arch Walker yes, he lived up Kenny Hill. Arch Walker and Cec Mulholland.

30 mins

AA He had the Balalaika didn't he?

CR Yes, he got cancer. I remember him with cancer. I was really sad, in those days it was not rare for somebody but it wasn't all that well known. Yes I remember Cec Mulholland.

AA Jim Kremmer was that who you were thinking of?

CR I don't think he was on Council when dad was there.

AA Right, he might have been a bit later I think.

CR Yes, he was later. After dad left Council he went to work for Neeta Homes in Parramatta. They took him on because of his knowledge of where to get land in Campbelltown and we actually built our first home through Neeta Homes in Leumeah at that stage. I distinctly remember and obviously you've got all this information with when we were made a city and electrification and the library was opened. Mum and I were so proud when this was named after him.

AA That would have been proud.

CR I was too and my sister. My sister lived in Canberra when I was quite young and she was hairdressing in Canberra.

AA What was the thing that your father was most proud of that he did for Campbelltown? Was there something that stood out that made him really proud?

CR Sherwood Hills – hang on I will rephrase that. Dad was obviously Mr Campbelltown and everything revolved around Campbelltown and dad could have an argument a full on argument with somebody today, tomorrow would be manana. He used to say to me Cheryl tomorrow its manana. He would put that aside and not hold grudges. It's something I've always held I felt. I don't hold grudges, life is too short. Obviously, Campbelltown was his baby. I can remember when Sherwood Hills was opened up he was standing with // Payne who lived in Broughton Street. He was just over the moon because it was an extension and it was housing for people to move to Campbelltown. Everybody knew him in the office and he would walk around. People would tell me that he would walk around and acknowledge everyone who was in Council. From what I can remember he was proud of all his employees and what they did. It was his baby he just loved Campbelltown. I think too because of being a prisoner of war. Dad never spoke about it.

AA Didn't he I was going to ask you if he did.

32 mins

CR He never spoke about it ever. He spoke more to Lindesay my husband about it because Lindesay knew the questions to ask about the time but he never spoke about it. It wasn't until we got this diary that we knew the extent of what he went through. My sister said when war was over dad wouldn't come home. Dad didn't come home straight away because he didn't want his family seeing the emancipated state he was in. So he stayed in Singapore until he could build up his body enough to come home to look decent enough. Del can remember that, obviously I wasn't born but she can remember that he wouldn't come home.

AA Where did he go to after the war ended? Where did he first go to recover?

CR I don't know. Dad was a champion tennis player. They wanted him to play for the Davis Cup.

AA He was that good.

CR He was. He played with Jack Bromwich and I can't think of the other man's name. Council wouldn't let him, they wouldn't give him the time off to go and play. He could have played for the Davis Cup, but Council wouldn't let him, they wouldn't give him the time off to go and play.

AA Did he have nightmares Cheryl after he returned from the war?

CR I wasn't born.

AA Later on though. Did he have nightmares in the years after his return?

CR I had no memory of it. He was involved in sporting, he played cricket, he played golf, he was on the Hospital Board, he was on the RSL Board. I think because he put himself into all these organisations, the list goes on I can't remember half of them but maybe that was his way of coping when he came back, to be involved in things to shut out those memories. You could never shut them out, nothing could shut them out that's a fact.

AA Did your mum ever say that he would tell her stories about what happened? Did he talk to your mum about it?

36 mins

CR No, mum didn't actually know that he was a prisoner of war for quite a while from what Del tells me. Mum worked at Mark Foy's with Bryan Brown's mother. It's only since we found his diary, we always knew it was there but it was gestetner copies. It's only been since this has been presented to me that I really found out what he went through. I guess I really didn't understand. I was young, I was a child I didn't understand what he would have gone through. I had no idea what war was about because I was too young. Lindesay loved anything to do with war so he knew all about it. Even my youngest son Michael they're going overseas this year, he has organised a flight that will stop at Singapore for a certain time so that he can do a tour of Changi prison because he and dad were very close. So he has organised a tour.

AA So he would write it every day and hide it from the Japanese then would he?

CR Apparently, that's what Del told me. I'm pretty certain he didn't talk to Del about it either. She would have been young too. They just didn't talk about it. Maybe he was so happy to be home he didn't want to upset the family which a lot of them didn't want to either, what they had been through.

AA It was like the First World War, the Second World War, and the Vietnam War they were all the same.

CR I have friends who went to Vietnam who have never spoken about it. I've got here, that was his toothbrush. That was his pipe, this is his hairbrush.

AA If he had a lot of hair he would have had a bit of a struggle wouldn't he.

CR I've got a lot of newspaper cuttings that you might be interested in.

AA Yes, definitely I would love to have a look at them.

CR I went nursing when I was, how old was I, 18. So I was away for a few years, but I would come home when I had time off, not that we had much time off. I had so many happy memories of Campbelltown and as I was saying I've got photos of people that I keep in contact with because that's what we did then. There was a group of us, and we would go to Andy's Café, Andy's Coffee Shop and we would meet there, a whole group of us. We would take up the whole shop and that was a routine thing because we were all friends. We would order a spider; oh, I remember the spiders with ice cream in them. But they were such happy times and of course there are a lot of buildings that I remember. There's lots of shop owners that I remember. What I've already talked about, dad going to Bagley's to get his newspaper and he would always go and choose the fruit and veggies I remember that.

AA Not that you would have drunk at the pubs but do you remember The Good Intent.

43 mins

CR Back then I knew a lot of people at The Good Intent hotel.

AA Was that where your father drank?

CR Between Lack's and The Good Intent. Obviously, we weren't allowed in there then.

AA How did he feel about them all being demolished? They would have been knocked down just before he passed away wouldn't they. Was he sad about seeing all those pubs go?

CR Oh yes, especially when, which went first Lack's, I think.

AA The Good Intent went first, then Lack's I think is how it went and then The Royal near the railway station after that.

CR There was The Railway Hotel as well wasn't there?

AA That was The Royal. A lot of people think it's The Railway Hotel, but it was The Royal Hotel. That went in 86 and I think your dad passed in 87.

CR I can remember buying clothes from Alice from Carolyn's Frock Salon which most of us did. Alice Gee would say take whatever you want, take it home, try it on if you like it just put it on your account. That was the normal thing, you just went in there took it home and put it on your account.

AA Did you go to Marie Kelly?

CR Oh my goodness she had everything in there too. She was there for years and years. Marie Kelly I can still see her face. I've just added this because I only found this when I was down at my sister's. It's a bit of family history. Dad is a descendant of the Rose family, Thomas Rose. It wasn't until Del gave me this piece to read. It turns out that the Rose family have a cottage Rose Cottage in Windsor. Now they have a huge reunion because the Rose family is huge. In Wilberforce, that's where dad's parents were there are a few streets and things that were named after the family but they have a Rose Cottage in Windsor. They have these bricks with names on them, obviously the family buy them but they've got all these bricks with the descendants' names on them. What I found was that this man in 1819 was granted 300 acres on the Main Southern End Road east of Campbelltown. About the same time he bought a 400 acre farm on the Appin Road named Mount Gilead. I didn't know this. He was buried at Mount Gilead but was taken to St Peters.

47 mins

AA Yes that's right, he was very prominent with water storage. He built dams on the property at Mount Gilead and around Campbelltown.

CR He built this tower thing out of timber and it had a winch thing.

AA You mean the windmill.

CR I don't remember it. The windmill is up there but that's not the same windmill I don't think. I live at Mount Gilead and I thought this is an interesting document.

AA That's interesting that you are descended from Thomas Rose and it's also a Campbelltown thing too.

CR No, dad never told me anything about this. It was just that Del gave me this. He was given land at Mount Gilead. But his remains have now been transferred to St Peters. Their family all came from the Wilberforce/Windsor area.

AA One of his daughters married a Payten. So the Payten family are related to the Rose family too.

CR Of course Fisher's Ghost you can go and sit on the bridge and wait for his ghost to come out.

AA So you did that.

CR We did that religiously every year for years that I can remember. I think it was a social event more than actually waiting for the ghost who never really came.

AA That's so funny.

CR We would sit on the fence and he would never appear, very sad.

AA So you were involved with the street parades when you lived here.

CR Dad was involved through Council. Before I worked with Council with the Theatre Group, so I was on a few floats. Mum and Dad were quite involved with the actual

– with a man named Puterford, I am trying to think of his first name, and they were very involved. They were on the committee and I can remember they were very involved in the Fisher's Ghost Festival. We had these lovely white dresses and got to sit on these sports cars to go down the main street. It was a big thing and everyone would meet in Mawson Park and wait for the announcement of who won. It was such a big thing. It was a community thing, the community was so involved in the organisation and also that they wanted to know who the winner of the Miss Spirit was.

AA You can tell that from the newspapers, because we have the old newspapers. The first few pages would be just dedicated to the Festival and the Princess so you can sense that.

CR Yes as I say it was a community thing and so many different groups would have their Miss Spirit. We used to raise an incredible amount of money back on those days to support whatever they were doing.

AA It build the Ambulance Station didn't it?

CR It did, my word I remember that too, the tower as they called it I remember that being built too.

55 mins

AA Did you go to the Woolwash? I know you said you went to Menangle to learn to swim. Were you a swimmer did you go to the Woolwash?

CR That was another thing yes the Woolwash. Where else did you swim? There was Menangle River but most of us went to the Woolwash. Lindesay remembers too the last day of the Intermediate Certificate and he would often tell me about how a group of them would go to the Woolwash to celebrate. Again it was a great meeting place for people to go down there and swim. There was nowhere else.

AA Did you walk out there?

CR That's a point.

AA I think most kids did.

CR I would have I couldn't drive. I had a pushbike I used to ride to school every day. I remember my first pushbike I was so excited. I could go on with memories. I was lucky because Dad was the Town Clerk Mum and I were in the spotlight you know what I mean. Mum didn't enjoy being in the spotlight because she didn't like being out there and I guess I'm a bit the same. People were always watching you to see what you were doing. In saying that they were happy times. Dad was a good father like just because he was involved in so many outside activities and community things his family was extremely important to him and his grandchildren. He loved his grandchildren.

AA You had a good relationship with your mother, you got on well with your mother.

CR My mother yeah, she lived to 102. Mum and I had an extreme close relationship. She decided when Dad died, they lived in Innes Street in a villa there. When Dad died she decided to move to Camden House. But then she moved to Carrington. Mum wasn't young at that stage and she continued to do things like she set up a little shop there so people could come and buy goods. So she would go in her car and buy stock for the shop, I remember that. She would say to me they have got to have dinner at five o'clock at night, that's not for me that's for the old people. So she would go and collect her meal and take it back to her room and have it but while she was there she helped the older people with their meals. That was Mum, she was always caring, always put everyone else first, she was last always. Even when she was in the nursing home she did not expect me to do anything but be there all the time. She was as I say a very caring person. I can remember when her neighbour had breast cancer and Mum would drive her into Sydney to one of the big hospitals every day for treatment. That was one thing I distinctly remember. She would help everyone that was the type of person she was.

57 mins

AA Both your parents were very caring loving parents then.

CR Dad was too. Dad cared about a lot of people. He would come home with stories about so and so being whatever. He was too, a very caring person. But see Mum didn't like a lot of the limelight. Again I think it was the fact that being in the limelight meant that people focussed on you and she didn't like the focus because that wasn't her. She was more looking after other people not having it focussed on her. That was how I always saw it. I'm not saying she didn't enjoy it, she did enjoy it and she enjoyed a lot of the friendships that she made, long time friendships. But it was just the limelight that she didn't like.

AA It was very similar, I interviewed Barbara Fetterplace a few years ago and she was the same. Gordon was always in the limelight and she didn't really that she wanted to stay in the background a bit. It's probably similar to your Mum.

CR That's right and I think because Mum didn't grow up in a family that were in the limelight. That comes back to the caring. Mum cared for her mother and grandmother. She was young and that was what she did.

AA She was a Derriman?

CR Yes she was a Derriman. They're up in St John's cemetery at Camden, her father is and she is.

AA What did her father do? What work did he do?

CR My Mum's father was a builder. He was a very loving man too. He was a builder.

AA Ok Cheryl, we covered a fair few topics didn't we? Did you enjoy your time with the child care? You were there for a long time.

CR I worked for Council for thirty years in child care. I started off at Airds at Amarina and I was there for 25 years and then I was transferred to Wombat Willows which

is at Macquarie Fields. Something I forgot to say Lindesay and I were married in St Peters Church.

AA I was doing research on something else and your wedding details came up.

CR He worked for Council for over 20 years as the paymaster.

AA He was a bus driver too wasn't he?

CR He was retrenched with a whole restructure and he took retrenchment and he got the job as a bus driver.

61 mins

AA OK well thanks very much for having a chat today, it was good.

CR Thank you, it's been lovely. It's good to have it in this building which is the H J Daley Library.

AA Very appropriate. Thanks very much Cheryl.

CR Thank you for having me.