

MICHAEL SULLIVAN ORAL INTERVIEW WITH ROBERT SCOTT ON 4 OCTOBER 2023

MS Can you give me your name and when you were born?

RS My name is Robert Scott and I was born in 1951 and now live in Eagle Vale since 87 with my now wife and I have two wonderful step daughters and everything's very good with us. First I moved to Menangle to the Rotolactor in late 67. I couldn't stand being left home. I was in an orphanage from the age of 18 months to the mid 15 years of age.

MS Oh that's a long time.

RS Yes, in those days if your parents split up or unless you've got money you went into an orphanage or something like that. I first met my mother when I was 21. My father probably when I was 12 at the orphanage. I thought wow I've got a father I've never had one before.

MS What was that like meeting for the first time?

RS I said to the other kids in the school I've got a father! Wow, something different.

MS Coz 18 months you wouldn't have remembered much.

RS I cannot remember anything at all. The first I remember of anything is moving into St Michael's Boys Home at Baulkham Hills and getting out of a car and walking into a dark area underneath the building and upstairs into a huge big kitchen. Probably the kitchen is only small now but as a child it was huge.

MS When did you move into the Macarthur area? Was it because of the Rotolactor?

RS Yes, I couldn't stand my father and his wife. My sister was working for Sir Denzel Macarthur-Onslow at Camden Park House as an ironing lady, cleaning lady. She said I'll get you a job at the Rotolactor they were looking for people then. I ended up going out there. I was a very small skinny little kid with blonde hair and moved in there in late 67. I would get up at four o'clock in the morning walk across the road to the cows and take them up into the Rotolactor and milk them. It was dark but the cows knew.

MS The cows knew their way.

RS Yes, they knew what to do. There was I think four herds A, B, C, D. A herd would be the oldest cows.

MS How many in the herd roughly?

RS There were a thousand cows so you would divide that by four roughly 250 something like that. A bit under depending, they might have the little ones in D herd which was the youngest ones. There might only be 50 in there. They were

the trouble ones because they didn't like the noise. But when they went in they got fed, got milked and back outside into the feed lots.

MS So was it a happy life for them do you reckon?

RS No, there was no grass, no its all feed lots now. They got all of their food in troughs where they got milked. They got concentrated inside in the Rotolactor itself what they called concentrated beads of food and then when they went out they had concentrated hay and other material that they fed – sorghum. They would just feed them in the troughs.

MS In photos there seems to be a lot of grass around.

RS That was all show. That's the cream room that actually burnt down about a month and a half ago. I just happen to be going out there to have a look at what Menangle was and there was a Channel 7 crew doing that story. I slowly pulled up quiet while they were talking and I said what happened? They said we had a fire in the creamery. Oh my goodness I used to work there in the late 60s. Can we have an interview please? So I was interviewed for about three minutes and on the TV for a good five seconds.

MS What did they have you saying?

5 mins

RS Anything about the Rotolactor. We milked a thousand cows twice a day and it was a wonderful place to work, lovely people all the time. You needed everybody to work together to keep it going, which they did.

MS That was seven days a week.

RS That was seven days a week. My weekend was a Wednesday, so you got one day off. It was big money in those days too. I was getting \$17.57. It was a lot more than I was getting in Flemings Fabulous Foods in the city of \$15.10. That was for a five and a half day because we worked Saturday morning and an hour's overtime on Monday morning to get things ready.

MS Was it hard work?

RS Yes, in the winter time it was freezing and in the summer time it was hot.

MS Was it always four o'clock?

RS It varied depending. That was the time we would get up mostly. When daylight saving came the clocks would be different and the cows would say no it's not the right time. They lost milk because the cow would be upset as to what's happening. Why are we going an hour earlier? Then when the daylight saving ended they would say excuse me I'm tapping my wrist why aren't we down there now. Because they went back on to the daylight saving hour. Six months later we changed their clocks. The cows didn't like it?

MS They're intelligent creatures aren't they?

RS Oh yes.

MS Did you have favourites?

RS Oh yes, I have photograph somewhere in the house of me holding Christine Keeler's head. Some of us had names for them. That was one specific cow and that was from the Profumo Affair in England.

MS Was there any particular reason that you named her?

RS She was always jumping other cows. That's an indication that that cow is on season and ready to be artificially inseminated. Some cows were put to the bulls not too many but most of them were artificial.

MS You would need to keep that milk flowing.

RS Yes, if the cows aren't pregnant you don't get milk and they are not worth having. So what they do when the cow is pregnant they're sent back to the other side of the railway line to give birth to their calf and stay there for a few weeks. The calf is taken off them and weaned on to another type of milk and then the cow can come back.

MS What happened to the calves?

RS They grew up, that was on the other side and they may come back to us later. Every so often you would end up with new heifers as they are called because for the first time they only have a small amount of milk but the older the cows the more milk.

MS Did you have to gauge how much milk they were giving?

RS Oh yes, every month they would be tested as to how much each one would be giving. They could work it out, management did that. I'm stuck outside.

MS It's quite sophisticated isn't it?

RS Yes it was and considering it was out in the bush.

MS Because there were other dairy farms around. Were they jealous of your system?

RS No they weren't because they were part of the system. Camden Park Estate started from calves in 1803 I think or 1805 when he was given 5,000 acres of land by Lord Camden that's where we have Camden from. Camden Park

MS You know your history.

RS Then he bought more land and then I think he ended up with something like 34,000 acres going from about Picton to North Camden out to Appin.

MS That's a huge stretch.

RS It was a big area. There were nine dairies at one stage.

MS And all of them feed into this system?

10 mins

RS All of them fed into originally it was at most of the creamery was sent to Belgenny Farm and then when they built the Menangle one they put the creamery there right on the railway station. They put a station there especially for the Macarthurs and they sent the milk to Sydney.

MS A whole train line just for this.

RS However many carriages they would take, they would be looking at least 20,000 gallons of milk possibly a day.

MS Do you know where it all went did it all go to Sydney?

RS It went into Sydney then they put it into milk or butter or cheeses.

MS You had lots of tourists come in didn't you?

RS The tourist thing you would have busloads of say kids and the oldies who would come all looking there and you bought the milk shake there. It was the best milk shake of all.

MS Was it pasteurised?

RS It was pasteurised only not homogenised, that didn't come in

MS So it had all the cream in there?

RS Yes and the milk was called the gold top milk. So if you had a bottle of milk and it had a gold top it was the best milk because it was thick with cream.

MS I remember we only ever got silver and red. Was gold expensive?

RS Oh yes it was because it was the best.

MS I saw a picture of the Rotolactor and it was in a very bad state.

RS It was going to be developed into something a venue a conference centre but for some reason or other it got burnt down. I lived in the boarding house across the road on Menangle Road and I could just walk out the front door and across the road and then start herding up the odd cows that didn't want to move.

MS How did you get them there?

RS You just walk behind them saying come on, come on move it go on keep going.

MS So just dawdlers?

RS Yes just stragglers oh alright then I've got to get down there. But they knew they had to go and you'd be sending the first herd through, open up the gates they knew where to go and what to do. They went into the Rotolactor one at a time.

MS How did that work? I wasn't quite sure if the whole Rotolactor floor rotated.

RS The inside of it rotated. Inside the machine rotated this is what the Rotolactor looks like now. That was a beautiful building but it's now been knocked down. Silos...Now we are looking at what is called the races one race went up on the left hand side, the cows went around as you can see here. The second race went

right around they had been milked washed and fed. Others would be washed to be checked for mastitis then if everything looked good the cup would be put on them and they would slowly go around while they're going around being milked they are having concentrated food. They're happy they are getting food at the same time.

MS So it was quite a pleasant experience for them in there.

RS Oh yes once they got used to doing the same thing every day they just did it.

MS What was your job whilst this was happening, to get the cows in there?

RS My job was out in the yard. First they put me inside. The cows said we don't like this little guy and they would kick me. I was a skinny little runt. So they put me outside, I enjoyed it out there and they left me out there. The great outdoors in the summer it was stinking hot. I would put a pair of overalls on to keep the sun off me and big wide hat and in the winter time a couple of pairs of socks gumboots jacket and overalls just to keep warm.

MS Thermals

RS Didn't have those in those days. This one race in the centre would go to another shed just about here which was the AI shed. They would be artificially inseminated and then put back with the herd later by the vet. It's totally different they apparently did change it because at one stage before they would actually go inside. For some reason or other they filled it all in and they just moved them out a different way.

15 mins

MS Oh so it changed over time.

RS Yes in the early 80s.

MS Yes because someone else bought it later on didn't they?

RS Yes they were using it as a dairy but it didn't work for something or other.

MS Wow that's a lovely old photo. It's just of a horse and a carriage, Camden Valley Milk.

RS Camden Valley Inn used to be a milk bar, a drive through milk bar and during the war they had all the generals out there drinking milk.

MS Were they stocked?

RS Oh yes, all the Macarthurs were in the military.

MS They were all happy with the milk.

RS Yes, they thought it was the best milk there was. I loved that shop because you went through this, the kangaroo and the emu.

MS The Coat of Arms.

RS The Coat of Arms.

MS I hadn't noticed that. I have seen that photograph before and I didn't notice.

RS You can see a couple of tourists there. The power in those days was very erratic because we were in the country. For some reason or another we looked like we were having a storm. We'd have stoppers ready to go onto the big milk vats. As each section went around it was divided into maybe ten cows and the milk from those cows would go up into one vat and there might be ten vats to go round. It wasn't pumped straight out it was sucked into a vat put a big stopper on it put a bit of weight in case power went out.

MS Oh it would have run out if the power went out.

RS It relied on vacuum to keep the milk in the tank. As it went around to an area where it would collect the milk there was a very wide maybe two metres wide collector stainless steel collector. As the vat went around to that it would trigger a release of the vacuum and the milk would pour down into a tank and that would then be pumped across into the creamery.

MS How many tankers would it take to get the milk away?

RS I don't know how many tankers, I know there were a lot because the milk would also be taken from the other dairies by the road tankers, big stainless steel road tankers straight to the creamery and pumped into there pasteurised then put into big tanks and then transferred into the railway tankers and then taken to Sydney.

MS It's a big process isn't it?

RS Yes

MS How many people were there?

RS I reckon we had at least ten workers. You had the bosses a couple of people washing the cows others going around to take the cups off and the people outside. You'd have a drover come in once a month or so to take cows away. They would mark them and they would be put into another pen to be taken away and then new ones would be brought across from the other side of the bridge and then into the Rotolactor area.

MS Were there any characters amongst them?

RS The only one I really knew of was Old Jack. In the boarding house there was about 15 different rooms. Some were two people in a room and others were one and I stayed in one room with Old Jack. He used the irrigate. He would go round the farms area and he would change the water lines to keep the irrigation of the feed crops. There was corn grown there was maize (same thing) just different things that would be grown and once a year if there was plenty of food they would bury it underground, yeah bury the sorghum and then cover it up to be taken out later when it was needed. It was always used. He was the one who took me into the GI Hotel at 19 cents a schooner and 20 cents for a raffle ticket.

MS So you had the day off on Wednesdays. What did you do with that day? Did you come into Campbelltown sometimes?

20 mins

RS I would sometimes go into Campbelltown or Camden and visit my sister at Camden Park House. She lived in a cottage at the back with her husband Harry Warner Jr because there were two Harry Warners. They came down from Queensland and moved into the Macarthur properties in about the 50s. Harry Warner Jr was a young boy and then he started to work for the Macarthurs at the age of 14. My sister moved out to there because she was a nurse at Camden Hospital because there was no hospital in Campbelltown. She met this guy Harry Warner and they just got on ok and they married and then it was 1965/66 she got engaged and late 67 I moved out into the boarding house. I had been in Sydney with my father. My sister got me the job and I have been out here ever since then.

MS It must be nice to have been close to some of your family.

RS Yes it was because we met at the orphanages very surprisingly I have more photographs there than what my wife has of her family because the Brothers there had cameras.

MS Did you have a relationship with your father later on?

RS Eventually we got back to talking and seeing one another. I used to go in there maybe on a Wednesday in Sydney. Catch the steam train into Sydney. That was the Southern Highlands Express. You would go to the ticket office you would buy a ticket to Sydney and back. It was on a piece of paper all printed out. One return ticket to Sydney from Menangle.

MS How would you get to the train station?

RS I would walk from the boarding house straight up to the Rotolactor to the other side only about a ten minute walk. And you're on the property so nobody questioned you.

MS You would have been pretty fit anyway wouldn't you?

RS Mostly it was walking, walking with the cows, so that was the only exercise I got. So I might go in to see my father in the city or later on I ended up buying myself a motor bike a Honda step through 50 big stuff in those days. I could drive into the city and then come home at night and I put a high beam on at the Crossroads along Campbelltown Road especially at 9 or 10 o'clock at night and you might turn it down once. Then you could see Campbelltown from the top of the Army camp because you could see a couple of orange lights and that was the centre of Campbelltown.

MS You knew you weren't far away.

RS Yes so I drove through Campbelltown over the bridges where Tim's Garden Centre is, that was a wooden bridge.

MS Did they let you in because I've heard that there was a gate around there?

RS No there were no gates. This was the main road, Campbelltown Road.

MS So you didn't have to cross the railway line.

RS Yes we did at Tim's. You have a new bridge there now it must be 40 years or more but in the old days it was very dogleg straight over not at an angle and you turned right into Queen Street go to the very end and go past the Golf Club onto Menangle Road and straight out to Menangle. Later on I ended up with a bigger bike Honda cp175 with a lot more power.

MS How long would it have taken you for the old bike to get home from Sydney?

RS I reckon an hour at the most. Don't forget there were no highways. The Hume Highway which is now Camden Valley Way. You would turn off at The Crossroads Hotel and that is virtually the start of the country. Campbelltown was on the northern side of the Nepean River so it was classed as city but you got country prices because it was further to travel to get groceries out there.

25 mins

MS Not for telephones though for some weird reason.

RS It was the era because it was a countrified area, the government got money out of it because it was city wrong side of the bridge.

MS Was it very expensive?

RS I would say nowhere near what it is now. Everything is so pricey now. In those days it was not too bad when you get \$17.50 a week cash. The train ticket would be maybe \$1.50 or something from there into the city and back. My photographs I used to take every so often with the slide film was \$2.50 sent by mail and back. I got myself a little slide projector and I would just oh I can take a photograph of that. I've been taking photographs from then with an SLR. These days it's all by phone. You don't see a lot of photographs anymore because of that.

MS How did you get your licence?

RS I had a motor bike licence and I was living at Douglas Park. I had moved away from the Rotolactor and I got a job at Dalhanty Engineers in Blaxland Road, Campbelltown. There were two big steel fabrication places there, Harco Steel and Dalhanty Engineers.

MS My dad worked at Crompton Parkinson.

RS That was further down the road. Crompton Parkinson was the first building there and employed a lot of people. It was close to the railway line so they could get their stuff in and out. But you didn't go into that roadway unless you were a worker there.

MS There was no other reason to be there was there?

RS No, no other reason to go there. Went for my car licence I ended up buying a Mini 850 and I went to Picton Police Station because I lived in Douglas Park and Sergeant Slattery took me around and I had to do a U-turn, parkings and questions sitting under the shade of a tree because it was a hot day and answered the questions and was given my licence.

MS That sounds quite idyllic.

RS Yes, a paper licence a piece of paper.

MS Did you make any mistakes?

RS I don't think so because I ended up with my licence straightaway. I do remember being pulled over by the police one day just for a check and they said why have you got P plates on for. I said that's what I thought I had to do. They said you've got a full licence because I had the motor bike first then the car. So I got rid of my P plates and being a rev-head in and 850 Mini. Probably do a maximum of 70 miles an hour. I don't think I ever got up to there. I do remember one day the road to Melbourne was cut by the big floods and I went across from Douglas Park. I had to go via Appin and by Morgan Bridge and Sergeant Slattery saw me coming towards him and pulled me over and wrote me a note. And said give this to the police officer on the other side, that was their communications. So I handed the note to the police officer and he looked at me and said what are you slowing down for. I said I've got a note from Sergeant Slattery, OK drive on.

MS That was nice.

30 mins

RS I thought Oh wow I've done something for the Police Especially for a young man like me in those days, you respected the police in those days. I've been in the Campbelltown, Menangle, and Camden area since '67. I moved to Brisbane when I was about 23 and I stayed up there for about a year and then moved down to Wollongong.

MS Is that where you met your wife?

RS Yes, that is where I met my first wife, we're divorced now. Then I ended up getting into the building trade and moving around. I bought a unit at Cabramatta. I ended up selling the unit.

MS It's very different now.

RS You go to different suburbs in Sydney and you get different ethnic backgrounds. I ended up selling my unit and with my now wife Julia we moved to Eagle Vale with the money I got from that and her little bit of money that she had from her husband who had passed away and we just stayed in Eagle Vale.

MS In what year did you move to Eagle Vale?

RS I think it was about 86. But I have been around in and out of Campbelltown back down to my sister's house, she had a house at Camden Park Estate.

MS Is she still there now?

RS I think it's about two years ago now that she finished working there for them. She's still quite happy but can still go out to Camden Park and the Macarthurs love her to be out there. She can talk to John Macarthur now as if he's just another person, not a boss.

MS There was a dog in the boarding house wasn't there?

RS Yes, there was a dog a brown border collie Doris. Doris the dog. It had puppies there. The manager of the Rotolactor didn't like the dog on there. The dog would round up the cows and maybe nip on the heels of the cows. So we didn't like having Doris up in the Rotolactor area. She was on concrete and if the cows moved too quick they could slip over and injure themselves.

MS Were you ever in danger?

RS I think I would be more in danger inside when I first started because I didn't know what to do. The cows just said "you're not doing it right" and then they would kick me. They had it in for me. I would also have to feed the two bulls. They had two bulls in two pens separate and separated by very high corrugated steel fence so that the bulls couldn't see one another, they couldn't get up high enough to see one another.

MS Were they aggressive?

RS Yes they probably would be to one another or if there was a cow brought in on heat they would both be trying to get to that cow. But I would actually go in there and rub them down with a scrubbing brush and I had no worries with them. They didn't have any big horns.

MS They probably sensed that you were OK.

RS I would give them food and make sure that their water was working. I would approach them from the side or the front, never approach them from the back, cows kick.

35 mins

MS We're nearly finished now but can you tell me a little bit about the places you went to in Campbelltown. What were they like? You went to the GI, did you go anywhere else?

RS There was Downes Plaza, you would get everything from there. I went to Woolworths, Nock and Kirby's. I went to Woollies one day and bought myself a new rifle, a single shot 22. I sold another gun I had bought from someone else at the Rotolactor boarding house. That was a 410 over and under 22 mag. I sold that to my brother-in-law, he would use the big shot gun to get rid of rats in the chook house at Camden Park. We would go out rabbiting and he would say that's a good one, that's a bad one that's got mixi in it.

MS How would he know?

RS He knew, he had been on the farm since he was a boy. Even up in Queensland he was a farm boy. When we shot it he would say that's no good.

MS Were you after the pelts?

RS Mainly it was the rabbit itself. He would skin it and he would do something with the pelts and then we would have a rabbit stew, it tastes like chicken.

MS What other foods did you eat back then?

RS Whatever was put out at the boarding house. The boarding house itself was divided into three areas. Mrs Broughton I think lived in one side of it. Then there was the main dining room with TV in it and then there were the rooms with the showers and so forth for the workers at the Rotolactor. There was a laundry out the back, you did your own laundry. You could do that on any day because you would get up and milk the cows in the morning and scrub the building down inside, then you would go back in the afternoon and do the afternoon milking.

MS So you would have the middle of the day free.

RS Yes you would have maybe four hours free. You could do whatever you wanted. I would sometimes walk across to Camden Park and my sister would drive me back for the afternoon milking. Just to fill in time you could do whatever you wanted to do.

MS Did you watch much TV?

RS No, not really. There were three stations I think, 9, 7 and ABC. On Saturday or Sunday I forget which day did it there was world championship wrestling. While you were having lunch you would be watching the wrestling. You would go to bed early at night because you were up early in the morning.

MS What time did you go to bed?

RS By the time that we finished it would be dark early so maybe 7 or 8 o'clock at the latest. You never really noticed the time much in those days.

MS Was it a more relaxed time?

RS Yes it was very relaxed because you didn't have to go far to do things. If you wanted to go and get something to eat or do something different there was the Menangle Store. If you wanted to send a letter somewhere it was the Menangle Store.

MS An all-purpose store.

RS Yes, when I had my motor bike I would go to the Menangle Store to get petrol, out front there were two pumps. You would fill up at 36 cents a gallon.

MS Was there ever a queue?

RS No not in those days.

RS I also remember when we had fires around the area. After a certain time you would go out with the fire crews which was mostly with people from the Rotolactor and Australian areas in an old blitz truck.

MS What's an old blitz truck?

RS World War II, that type of blitz truck. It had three on the floor no synchro. Going up was OK but going down you would have to triple shuffle but I learnt to drive that.

MS Was that a volunteer thing the bush fire brigade?

RS They would just say we need extra people to go out to put out a fire down the road.

MS Were you scared of the fires?

RS I suppose we would be yes but we were just doing what the management said. You didn't get paid for it but we would go out and put out the fire then they would bring you back, maybe have a sausage sizzle or something. The girls would have cakes or something, sandwiches for the firemen when they came back. We just wore the same clothing that we wore in the Rotolactor, overalls.

MS It sounded a real nice time I wish I could go back to it. Do you have fond memories of it or do you think it is better now?

40 mins

RS I enjoyed it then. I enjoyed it because it was less stress. Even now I've always got to make sure that I've got enough money to pay the power bill and the gas bill.

MS The bills are relentless aren't they? They come at you over the internet, over the email.

RS I get most of my bills by the internet and emails and I go and fix them up. But in those days everything was cash.

MS Did you bank?

RS We had a bank in the shop at Menangle. I don't remember actually going into Campbelltown to bank. I'd just in there for the sake of it. I would just go in to meet people there – girls. Ah disgusting! You wouldn't drive into Campbelltown on a Saturday morning. The traffic was too heavy. There was one pedestrian crossing just outside Downes. The people would just wander over like sheep. They had a police officer there for a couple of hours on a Saturday morning controlling the pedestrians and traffic.

MS When was this?

RS In the late 60s early 70s. There would be one police officer go down there, he would stop the pedestrians and let the cars through then let the pedestrians. After midday the shops were all closed there were less people in the shopping centres.

MS You would just avoid Saturday mornings if you could. Where did you buy your first car?

RS My first car was a Mini 850. I bought it in Campbelltown somewhere. I updated to a Ford Cortina that was from Rod Lawrence Campbelltown.

MS From Rod Lawrence himself?

RS Yes from Rod Lawrence himself. He had a small car sales yard in Chamberlain Street behind the service station. They eventually built the huge big Rod Lawrence further down the street towards Tim's and now he is across the road He's now Macarthur Ford. I think a few months ago Campbelltown put up a photograph looking for what was this building did anybody know about it. I saw it on Facebook and I said I know that saw toothed building that was the Hunt Engineers being built before I got there. I could tell by the shape. AC sheeting asbestos cement. When it was pulled down I don't know what they did in those days.

MS They probably just watered it down.

45 mins

RS They didn't know about the asbestos in those days. These days it's asbestos my goodness you covered it up. In those days they probably just smashed it pulled it down and put a new building in. We used to put some of the fibro in the fire and watch it explode as a kid.

MS Some of those pubs in Railway Street they were just knocking them down with bulldozers and people were just scurrying over the tops of it. They were using sledge hammers and didn't have any safety equipment.

RS Of course I didn't get here until after 67 but there was a train track coming from Camden to Campbelltown, the Pansy. I do remember the track still being there when I used to go from Camden to Campbelltown. There was a track on one side and chicken sheds on the other side.

MS Did you walk along there?

RS No I drove. No, it was too far to walk then.

MS You can still see a little bit on Google maps.

RS There's also a bridge still there at Elderslie.

MS Did you ever go on the Pansy?

RS No it went five years before my time. It was gone before I got here. Maldon Suspension Bridge that's the bridge that connected Sydney to Melbourne one lane. They tried to do something about it close it down to walk across not for vehicles crossing. That was the only way that you could get to Melbourne at one stage. It is a suspension bridge and it's only one lane so you would have to stop on one side and let the vehicles cross and then you could go across. That was how they got the coal down sometimes to the gulf.

MS Kangaroo Valley has the same system but that's a long bridge.

RS It's only one lane and one truck at a time.

50 mins

RS They're the nurses at Camden Hospital. When the nurses actually did nursing not from the university but from the hospitals. And just one - my sister.

MS There weren't too many hospitals about then were there?

RS No, if you had a baby you had to go there. That was taken inside the library at Camden Park House. There she is the two of them in the library enjoying themselves because they can. They are part of the Macarthur family. Harry started working as a 14 year old in the very early 60s and it's only in the last two years that they stopped working. She still goes there now and again. This is the first year we haven't been there as volunteers on open day.

MS Did Covid affect that much?

RS Covid affected the opening of Camden Park for a couple of years but now they're doing it a different way. One tour guide will take the whole person right through what they can do. Whereas before you would have different tour guides in different rooms. They would put me in the dungeons as I call them and I would show people different things. I would have a jacket on even though it's 40 degrees outside it's still cool underneath and this is where they put all their food.

MS It was like a natural refrigerator.

RS Yes, it was a natural refrigerator. If it got too cool they put a small bar in one big area and heat it up a fraction so it didn't get too cold.

MS It's a lovely building.

RS There's the creamery, the Rotolactor.

MS It's so space age looking.

RS There's a before, there's three herds and another one getting ready to go. This one here is ready to go out. As you can see this is how they bring them in. This block would then be brought into this area. This was taken long before '65 because over here is a massive big barn and just there were the two pens for the bulls.

MS That's where the bulls lived.

RS All the wastewater from there and the newer water from the pens was pumped out onto the paddocks over to the far right.

MS So it was used for irrigation

RS Yes, it was used for irrigation.

MS What did it smell like?

RS Terrible especially when you come back on your first day. This is Camden there is the creamery there. So the milk from Camden would go to there by truck and then my train carriage to Campbelltown.

MS I've seen photos of the train at Campbelltown with all the urns of milk waiting to be loaded on. Have you given any of these photos to the Historical Society?

RS No they have probably got them. I'm on the website and I put up my collection and show people.

MS I thought that was Campbelltown but it's not it's Camden.

RS There's Narellan and Kenny Hill.

MS There was a train station at Kenny Hill. I've seen photos of the train going over Kenny Hill but there doesn't seem any evidence of it.

50 Mins

RS If you remember now when you look at photographs of Narellan Road it was two lanes.

MS What was Smiley's Cottage?

RS Smiley's Cottage was named after the movie Smiley with Chips Rafferty and a few other old Australians. They used that as Smiley's Cottage in the movie just the outside of it. Frances and Harry lived in there as a young couple. So it was called Smiley's Cottage. Each house might have been called something. Because of something happening they would say oh that's Smiley's Cottage. They filmed out there for Smiley and Smiley Gets A Gun with Chips Rafferty and a few others. The director of the movie actually lived in Camden Park House with the Macarthurs while he was filming. Belgenny Farm was turned into the local township and Harry Junior was seen running around barefoot with Smiley in the movie. They did a lot of movies out at Camden Park.

MS Even to this day.

RS I've sent that to my granddaughter who lives at Currans Hill and that is the railway station. It's that bit of timber.

MS It's so overgrown so this is when it was a station.

RS Steam train the Southern Highlands Express. It's off your system.

MS That's a nice train trip.

RS Yes my nephew he was the first male nurse in Campbelltown in Camden.

MS That's something to be proud of isn't it.

RS Yes, he is also now the general manager of Bowral Hospital. So he's gone up from then a little nurse right up to being general manager. This is the inside. This is where the path goes round and round. The cow goes to the hitching rail and if they went to the loo it would fall through there get washed away and go down

into a big sump pump in the centre and that would then be pumped out into the street.

MS Did it work?

RS Yes it worked. You couldn't keep it all in one hit otherwise you couldn't keep one section. There's the Rotolactor behind me the AI shed. That's the boarding house.

MS So not too far away.

RS You can see the brown areas, that's where the cows were all crammed in together.

MS All very eager. The people there they were all working at the Rotolactor.

RS Yes, they all had something to do with the Rotolactor. This was Clive Prices house he was one of the daytime managers. Anything in Menangle was the Rotolactor or Camden Park Estate.

MS It was a huge concern wasn't it?

RS Yes, they were off Facebook.

MS How do you feel about seeing it like that now?

RS I loved it, I don't like it now.

MS So many people when you talk about the Rotolactor say I went there as a kid.

RS Yes as a kid and I always say to people did you ever take a photograph, if you did can you send it to Camden Library because then they would put it on the system and you would be able to get a hold of it as well.

MS Are you there?

55 mins

RS I'm at the State Library of New South Wales. I was there for 17 years 3 months 2 weeks and 4 days. I was security officer. I'd been doing night shift, day shift, afternoon shift. Sometimes I'd be acting senior supervisor. I worked there for all that time and they said we are going to outsource it. Within three months they had a break in, in the middle of the day in the afternoon. The night time security when they locked up didn't go in and check things which they were meant to do. There was glass on the floor. Nobody walked through at nighttime like they were meant to. The next day the boss was walking through like he normally does at 9 o'clock night and morning. He opens up and goes for a walk, I used to do that just to make sure that everything is open. He sees glass on the floor. Out comes the police, out comes the investigators and they traced it back to the day before. The security guard was not doing his job right, in the office. They broke in through this door here which has got an alarm on it. This is the strong room you put your swiper on it and a key not just one it opens up, I know who came in here. He set

them up and didn't give a stuff, four million dollars worth of Governor Macquarie's coins. Not just any coins but Governor Macquarie's.

MS Were they ever recovered?

RS Never

MS The GI did everyone call it the GI?

RS It was called the GI.

MS I hadn't heard that. I've heard it described a few times.

RS It was the Good Intent so Australians cut things down - the Good Intent GI. The dirt car park over to the left. Men in the front in the circle women in the back.

MS Oh it was segregated then.

RS You couldn't have a woman inside a men's bar - that would be disgusting.

MS Wow, it's such a shame that it went because it's kind of really attractive isn't it?

RS At the back of that is a big swale of land – cows.

MS Thank you very much for your time today and showing me these lovely photos too.