

NSW DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

‘Millers Point Oral History Project’

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: **Harry Lapham**
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INTERVIEWER: Siobhán McHUGH
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00:04 TAPE MP-SMI SIDE A

00:05 Tape Identification

This is Dawes Point, they get confused.

Where does Dawes Point end and Millers Point begin then, what do you reckon?

00:38 Over on that corner, along that side of the street, up Lower Fort Street to the church and all this side that goes down here under the Bridge to where the Mining museum is, down past Metcalfe Bond, down here to Hickson Road, round Hickson Road and then around under the Bridge to the park at Dawes Point. Well, Hickson Road starts at George Street.

And that starts Millers Point?

01:25 All Millers Point is that side. Down Windmill Street on the right-hand side, that is Walsh Bay. All the houses on this side are in Millers Point.

Well Harry, we might start there actually, can you describe for me the house you grew up in, what house were you born in and spent your early childhood?

01:52 Where I was born is gone, I was born in 96 Gloucester Street in The Rocks, 1915. That's all been knocked over, where they put the Cahill Expressway from the Bridge across the Quay, that goes over where the house that I lived in, that's all knocked down. I have got a photo of it somewhere of the block.

So how long were you in Gloucester Street?

02:31 Me grandmother lived there, I would have been there probably about twelve or eighteen months because me brother was born eighteen months after and he was born down in Merriman Street at Millers Point.

So the family moved to Merriman Street then?

02:49 Well, me mother and father and myself, and me brother was born there, and then I had another sister, and then another sister, born round in Dalgety Terrace.

Why did the family move from Merriman Street to Dalgety Terrace?

More room for the family, the place was too small.

So tell me about Dalgety Terrace then, what was the house like?

03:17 Well originally, when they were built they were three bedroom places and you had the balcony outside. The middle room, when I was growing up, that was your dining room and the back room originally was a bedroom. Then in the front was the middle bedroom and the bedroom in the front with a balcony, a big room.

That was quite a lot of bedrooms for those days.

Yes. It is designated as a two bedroom place now, the flats.

So who did you share a bedroom with - did you share with your brother?

04:15 My brother and I, we shared the balcony, we had a bed on the balcony. Me mother

had the middle room, me two sisters had the middle room.

Was that a little bit better than the average person had?

04:33 Well the first place we rented in 42 Merriman Street - all there was was the front room, the bedroom upstairs, you went up little winding stairs up into the bedroom upstairs, the kitchen was at the back of the front room. You went down from the kitchen down into the yard at the back and down in the yard was the bathroom, you had a galvanised bath, and there was the laundry with galvanised twin tubs and the copper for washing, then the toilet. Then when you went out the back, it is still there, there is a block of land at the back. From there we moved up to 36 and there was the front room, two bedrooms, there was the bathroom, then your laundry and your toilet and a big yard.

Was the bathroom outside?

05:39 Well, when you came out of the kitchen it had the roof over it and you just went into the bathroom, covered sort of thing.

So how did your family apply to move, how did they get to move into Dalgety Terrace, was that owned by the Maritime?

Well in those days it was the Sydney Harbour Trust.

Did they put in an application to move?

06:17 I don't know how me mother went about it, I wouldn't have a clue, she probably just went down and seen them.

So who else lived in the street, can you remember in Dalgety, who lived there?

06:32 I remember them all. In the first place number 1 Dalgety Terrace was Mortcliffe Eye Hospital, I don't remember the cottage but in the book on Millers Point there is a sketch of the cottage. Near Mortcliffe Eye Hospital was Victoria Cottage, I have been told and I am not sure who lived there, Chinese people or something, and that was number 3. The first place in the Terrace now is number 7 and I have often wondered where number 5 was.

07:38 There is a bit of land alongside number 7 and years ago the Water Board was doing work down the bottom of Rhodens Lane and they uncovered the foundation stones of number 5, sandstone, so we found that out where number 5 was. Number 7, people by the name of O'Neill lived there and we used to run messages for Miss O'Neill there. Next door there was people named Keyes. Next door to them, number 11, was people named Stitts, they were a big family. Number 13 people named Spornsberg lived.

Were they foreign, were they migrants?

08:56 No, no, no, well they were there when I was a kid, so no. One of the Spornsberg later on, one of the family, he played with Canterbury-Bankstown football. Number 13 is made into two flats now and the other places - they have been cut up into flats for single fellows down the bottom, but they were all family homes.

So number 1 was an eye hospital?

09:37 Mortcliffe Eye Hospital. In the early 1920s it was shifted from there down to Woolloomooloo and became the Sydney Eye Hospital. My heart specialist, he was on the board at Sydney Hospital and I was telling him and he didn't know and he made enquiries and found out that was so.

So there were about thirteen houses in Dalgety Terrace?

It went up to thirty-seven houses, downstairs flats and upstairs flats.

Did you kids play together on the street?

10:39 We did when we were youngsters, mostly in the Terrace. The Terrace is elevated, Dalgety Road goes down steep.

What did you play?

Oh I don't know, it is so long ago. Chase the tin, I don't know. There wasn't much to play anyway in those days out in the road, in the streets.

What did most of the men do for work?

11:29 They were either waterside workers, coal lumpers and storemen and packers.

Can you tell me a little bit about your mother and father, what was their background and what did they do?

11:44 Me father was a waterside worker, he was a coal lumper, and he was a trolley and drayman, the horse and cart, carrying wherever they went, I don't know because I was only a kid.

Tell me about your mother, just the routine in the house, did she do the washing on a Monday?

12:17 She did it every day, the washing, there was no set day.

Was that a big operation, to do the washing?

Well there were four kids.

You had to boil up water in the copper?

12:36 Yes it was all done in the copper, the copper is still there. I think they have pretty near all gone out of the places but where I lived the copper is still there. The people next door, the copper is still there. They tried to get the coppers taken out so they had room to

put a washing machine but no, they've got to stop there, they are heritage and they are still there.

What about going to school, what school did you go to?

All the family all went up to Fort Street School, up in The Rocks.

How long did you stay at school?

13:29 Until I went to work, when I was fourteen.

Do you remember any of the other kids you were particularly friendly with at school, did you have any good mates or were there gangs?

13:47 You only knocked around with the locals whatever they were doing, whatever you did. I had no one in particular, not until we grew up, not as school kids we didn't have any particular friends.

You went to Sunday School, didn't you?

Oh, not for very long, I went up here to Trinity Church.

You didn't like it?

14:19 No, I didn't go there long anyway to Sunday School - had other things to do.

What did you get up to on a Sunday?

I forget now as a kid, just run around the area to various places. Up onto the Flagstaff, down along the wharves or something.

Were your mother and father big on religion or not?

No.

Religion was quite a thing in those days wasn't it, whether you were Catholics or Protestants.

15:00 I suppose there was a bit around here.

Didn't seem to matter in your experience?

No, no, no you all mixed in together. There was nothing like that went on between the families round here, no.

What else went on in the street, in the terrace, among those families you mentioned? Did people get on well?

15:29 They all did. They helped each other. If anyone was sick they got helped. The doors were always open, people could go in and out of each other's place, blah, blah, blah, never any problems. No house breaking, none of that went on, everyone was trusted because we all grew up as kids together.

When there were big events to celebrate, like somebody getting married, or a christening or Christmas - what did people do to celebrate those kind of things? Did you go for picnics? Did you

some people over?

16:21 You went on your picnics on Sunday. Most people from round here went to Clifton Gardens.

Did you go?

16:34 We used to go every Sunday to Clifton Gardens until we grew up a bit. We used to go there or out to Nielsen Park.

Was there a ferry directly over to Clifton Gardens?

Yes. Used to go the zoo and then to Clifton Gardens.

That would be a nice day out.

16:58 Well yes, it was a good day out. Everybody knew everybody so the people from the Point used to go there, people from The Rocks would go there, people from Pyrmont used to go there, people from Ultimo used to go there, people from Woolloomooloo. When you were there on a Sunday everybody knew everybody.

Did you play sport on the big green there? There is a big field there, now I don't know if it was there then.

17:31 Oh it is different now to what it was, it is beautiful now to what it was. They had a big tall building that used to run north and south and one end was Sargents and the other part of the building some of the unions used to have their annual picnics there. They used to utilise that room for sit-down dinners. They had races, they had a running track there. Back in the corner used to be a dance hall, Dixieland they called it and on the picnic days they had a dance there.

What sports did you like? I know you liked sailing.

18:32 Oh I loved sailing, that was me best sport. I like that and I like football, I like golf.

When did you take up golf?

Round about 1950.

Tell me about where you used to go sailing, you used to go to Lavender Bay, didn't you?

19:04 Well I started of at old Langford, he had the boatshed and he used to hire them out, sixteen footers. There used to be three crews go from round here on a Saturday. We'd get the punt over from Dawes Point to Blues Point and there was the boatshed and that is where we started sailing, we hired them and had them for the weekend, Saturday and Sunday. Saturday afternoon when we finished we used to tie them up here at the wharves, Sunday we used to sail down near Clifton Gardens, or Chowder Bay, and then go across to

Nielsen Park to have a swim.

What age would you be then?

20:07 Fifteen. When I was sixteen I got in.

Who taught you to sail?

20:16 We just learnt by going out, no one to teach us, we just learnt. As you crewed you learnt each different posi where you were, whatever part of the boat you worked in. Then we go into racing skiffs and the skiff I was with Orlando Taylor, he had a boatshed in Lavender Bay and we used to sail from there. Used to race for the Port Jackson Club with the Bechell family, they are still in the sailing game, the offsprings. They started round here in Kent Street.

In the early days did you ever have any accidents where you ran into another boat or anything?

No, none of that, no.

I take it you could swim.

I could swim all right.

Did you used to go swimming down at the Met?

21:17 I did a few times but I was in and out, in and out, I never stayed in it very long. But most of the fellows that were game they used to. The P&O branch boats used to come in there at number 9 and they'd put a rope ladder down and a lot of the young blokes, they'd go up the ladder, onto the boat and dive off the boat into the water.

That would be a good way to cool off on a hot day.

At high tide it was not so bad down there.

Just moving onto around the time you are leaving school, that would have been the time that the Depression hit - do you remember that, what was it like?

22:13 That is when I got me job, during the Depression, I started work in 1929 and I went to the Council as a messenger boy and I was there for forty-seven years.

So you were pretty lucky.

22:30 Yes. As a matter of fact the family was lucky, I worked, me brother, when he left school, he went to Sydney High School, he got a job up in York Street and he was there all his life. Me elder sister, she was in the rag trade, never out of work. Me youngest sister, she worked W. D and H. R Wills at Raleigh Park, out at Kensington. She had a few different jobs but she was never out of work. We were lucky.

What about the other families in the street - how did they fare in the Depression?

23:28 I think everyone done all right, I think so, I'm not sure.

So you didn't actually notice that people were getting into strife financially?

No.

You said you left school at fourteen so did you do a couple of years at high school?

23:50 No, I didn't, I was only in primary school.

So you were at Fort Street up until the age of fourteen.

Yes.

How did the job come up with the Council, how did you get it?

24:05 I don't know how it happened. Me mother must have found out from somewhere, somehow, and she took me up there. When we were going in the front of it we struck a fellow who worked there and he lived in Kent Street, Frank Kaye, anyway he took us around to see a fellow in the old Electricity Department, Mickey Couch, he was the clerk to the Secretary Mr Austin. Anyway, he must have done something and the next thing I got a letter to go up and go before the Council doctor and be examined and at fourteen and three months I started in the Council.

Where was the Council based then?

25:08 Town Hall. Different to what it is now, they used to run the electricity and all, they had the Electricity Department and that is where I worked, in the Accounts Branch, as a messenger Boy in the Electricity Department. That has all been knocked over and gone.

So as a messenger boy did you have a bike, did you ride around with things?

25:44 Only on a Friday. Used to have take special bills to some of the theatres every Friday, they got their electricity account and you used to have to take them round to them.

Otherwise you are in the office all day.

You moved from being a messenger boy - can you take me through some of the other work you did over that long time you were there, forty-seven years?

26:28 You were messenger boy and you stayed there until you were nineteen. Then if they had another place that they could put you they retained you, if they didn't you were put off, but anyhow, I was lucky. I got round to City Engineers' Department and part of their department was the Cleansing Branch and I finished up, I was out as a street sweeper.

Were there other fellows from round here working in the Council?

27:17 Oh there were quite a few worked in the Council on various different jobs.

So what was the street sweeping, did you enjoy that? Was it better to be outside than being a

messenger boy?

27:37 I suppose it was a job anyway. It was the days of the horse and carts, sweeping up the dung and what have you, and the gutters. I went into the garage as a youth, learnt to drive and at twenty-one I was driving trucks. Then I got into the Stores. Then I got into the Treasury as a rent collector.

When was that, the rent collecting, what era?

28:52 Oh, I would have been in my fifties.

So that would have been in the 1960s then.

Could have been, yes. Used to empty the parking meters, that was in the Treasury Department then.

So you were lucky, you had a job for life once you got in. Was that why your mother wanted you to go and work there, do you think?

No, no, no, it was a job, I suppose.

How come you didn't go working down on the waterfront?

29:45 I was domiciled in the Council and the waterfront - you got a job or you didn't have a job. You used to have to front up to get a job, and you might only get a job for a day, a day and a half, two days.

Tell me about your father's work, that was pretty hard work as a coal lumper.

It was very hard work.

How long was he at that?

Oh a few years.

30:19 END OF TAPE MP-SM SIDE A

30:24 START OF TAPE MP-SM I SIDE B

Then after a while you said it was a bit of long story about how your mother took up the job as an office cleaner.

30:49 There was a family break-up and mum finished with the four kids. She office cleaned for many, many years, Farmers and Graziers, over in Circular Quay in Albert Street.

So all the time you were over at Dalgety, or most of the time, it was just your mum and the four of you?

Yes.

Did you ever see your dad again?

31:25 I used to see him. He died when he was sixty-nine. I used to see him occasionally when he was working on the wharves, yes.

That must have been tough for you and your mum.

31:53 Oh yes it was, because there wasn't much money around in those days.

Was there a fair bit of that, family break-ups?

I don't know, I don't think so, I don't know.

Among the people you knew?

32:20 No, no. Most of them were all happy families. My father was in the area anyway.

So when your mum had to go out to work who looked after you?

We looked after ourselves.

Did the neighbours help?

Oh yes.

So what sort of hours would your mother be working?

33:02 I suppose about three hours in the morning, a couple of hours in the afternoon.

You told me about what you did on the weekend for a bit of fun, you went sailing and you enjoyed that, did your mum get to do anything for recreation?

33:30 No, she had home duties. She had enough looking after us.

They used to play Housie though, didn't they?

33:45 Oh yes but that was only between the women. One afternoon, I think, a week they used to congregate at one of the houses and play Housie. They all used to take something, a packet of flour or a packet of sugar, that is all they'd play for just to fill in time.

That would have been a bit of fun.

I don't know because I was never there to see them.

What about Luna Park - that would have been opening in 1932 when you were about seventeen, do you remember that?

Yes.

Did you go to the Park after it opened straight away?

34:34 I suppose we did, I don't know. I never went to it very much, Luna Park.

Was it too expensive?

Well, from memory I don't think it cost you anything to go in, you just had to pay for the thing that you wanted to do.

What about the Bridge, do you remember seeing that being built?

34:59 I did, every bit of it. I was a paperboy around here when they started on the Bridge. *It must have been amazing seeing it going up.*

It was, yes. The day it was opened I missed it. I had to go out to sports ground for trials, for football. Made up for it in the night. All you did was walk over the Bridge, come back, walk over the Bridge, come back, that went on for nights, over and over. Of course in those days you could walk on both sides of the Bridge, the footways were on both sides, but the one now on the western side that has been closed for years and the only ones that you can use it is those on pushbikes.

Were there a lot of men from around the area that worked on the construction?

No.

Where did they get the workers?

36:10 From all over the place. I don't really know, I suppose they came from everywhere, all districts.

Now just tell me when the war broke out you enlisted, did you?

Yes.

Where did you serve?

I never got out of Australia, I was in Australia all the time. I was in five years and nine months.

So what were you doing?

I was on equipment and explosives.

Maintaining the equipment that sort of thing?

37:01 Just like stores, just like stores, it was stores.

What are your memories of the war, you would have seen the troop ships, maybe, departing?

I wasn't here, I wasn't in the area when that all went on. I was on various stations and I never seen anything of the troop ships or anything like that.

So what do you remember about the war? Did things change because a lot of the men would have gone and the women had to take over some of the work?

No, I don't know.

Tell me, as you moved up through Sydney City Council were you still living in Dalgety Terrace and at what point did that change?

38:25 Well I lived in Dalgety Terrace for seventy years in the same flat. Nearly all of that

time I was in the Council I went to work from there. Part of the time when I lived in Merriman Street I went to work from there as well.

When you lived in Dalgety Terrace what happened? At some point did your brother and sisters move out or were they all there?

39:13 No, no, they never moved out until they got married.

When did they get married and move out?

I don't know. Me brother got married before he went away overseas to England with the Air Force, that would have been the early 1940s.

Your sisters after the war, maybe?

39:56 Me eldest sister was married before the war, she got married and lived in Balmain, down in Adolphus Street. Me other sister she got married after the war, she got a place in High Street and lived in High Street.

So it was just you and your mother?

40:33 At the finish yes. She died just on sixty so then I was there on my own then.

Did you ever think of getting married?

No, wasn't interested. I had friends to take out, but no.

What were you more interested in, was it your sport?

41:20 Sport, I suppose. In those days you could do a lot of dancing, there were dances, balls, company balls that you went to.

With the house in Dalgety Terrace, if you were there for nearly seventy years on and off...

42:05 There is the photo over there.

(Getting photo)

42:30 That is part of Millers Point. That is the view of the house and since they have built this new building in front of it. We could see from the Terrace, you could see Royal North Shore Hospital and look south and see Centrepont. You had a hundred and eighty degree view of North Sydney, the whole of the Bridge and back into the city, all the new tall buildings in the city.

Which house was yours?

The third with the verandah covered in, 19A.

It is 19A today is it?

Yes it is 19A, that is the number of it.

How did that change physically, it must have needed maintenance, how did it change over the time

you were there?

43:31 Never changed. It and the place next door are about the only two in the Terrace that haven't been renovated, all the others have been renovated. 19A and 21A are the same as when they were built.

So you must have looked after them pretty well.

43:56 Well you had to, well I did anyway. The people next door, they used to paint and paint and paint the place right through and do their own repairs. What you couldn't do in those days, when the Sydney Harbour Trust had them they had depots down the wharf and you could go down and see them. If you had a problem with your plumbing or electricity you could go down and see them, and they'd come up straight away and do what ever they had to do to fix it.

So they were good landlords.

They were wonderful, providing you paid your rent.

Do you remember how much the rent was? Did it go up during your time there?

44:44 I think when I lived in 42 Merriman Street I think the rent was about twelve shillings. At that time there was no electricity, had gas light. When they put the electricity on they put the rent up one and six.

What would you have been earning at that time?

45:20 Well I was lucky, when I was a messenger boy I think the basic wage was about three pound eighteen. When I was a messenger boy I started in the Council for two pound and sixpence a week. Then they brought in the hospital fund and that was sixpence a week, from memory, I think it was sixpence a week, me wage went back to one pound nineteen and six, I paid a shilling, I forget now whether it was a fortnight or a week. That was sixpence a week Hospital Saturday fund.

Just to get things clear why did you move back to Merriman Street?

I forget.

Was it just you and your mother at that point?

46:51 Yes. I think we lived in Merriman Street twice, me brother was born there in 1916, me sister was born there in 1918. My youngest sister was born in 23A Dalgety Terrace in 1920, the day Poppel won the Melbourne Cup.

Did you follow the racing?

47:38 Just a bit, sixpence and shillings and that sort of thing, but I soon woke up and gave

it away, you can't win, so the only time I have a punt now is Melbourne Cup Day here in the sweep, probably have a bet.

Was Melbourne Cup Day a big day down the Point when you were growing up?

48:04 Well it was, everyone had sweeps going. But then when they brought the betting shop in around here it livened it up a lot more too.

I am just interested in the Dalgety Terrace thing. After your mother died there wasn't any problem about you staying on in the house, even though it was a big house?

No, no.

Did you have a lifetime lease?

48:40 From what I remember when you first went in, I don't know, you didn't sign anything for a lease as far as I know. Well it would have been me mother. Later on we had to sign leases but the fact that we were a family and we had lived there for so long they wouldn't throw you out, particularly when you paid your rent.

So in the end you said you were there for about seventy years, so you were there until about 1985, until about twenty years ago.

49:26 I have been here about eight months, I came from round there to here.

So you were living over in Dalgety until about eight months ago and you were looking after and cooking for yourself?

Yes.

Good stuff. Whose idea was it in the end for you to come here?

49:59 Well I had problems, the district nurse was coming for a couple of years, I had ulcers on me legs and she used to come every two or three days and treat them. She knew all about this place and she could see how I was going and she suggested that I come round here. Anyway she came and seen them and as soon as there was a vacancy I was in. Best move I ever made, t his would be the best place in Sydney. Marvellous, good staff, marvellous people. Everyone of the staff is terrific, all help each other. Great.

Are the other residents here all local people?

51:08 No. No. One fellow he worked on the wharves but he originally came from up north in Queensland and he lived down the bottom of Lower Fort Street in a flat. There was another one over here and he got into here and he has been here ever since. They are all from outside of this place. There is one or two used to come here, a local, for two or three weeks stop over, respite, a few would come here for respite. That is how I first came in, for respite.

So you mentioned living in Dalgety for seventy years but you have lived in the area for nearly ninety years.

I have lived here all me life.

That is ninety years. If you walk around now how do you feel about the place the way it is now? How is it, compared to how it used to be?

52:35 It is exactly the same as it used to be, only a few little changes, but the main change is the people. All the houses are the same, a few places where some of the old places have been knocked over and they have built flats in a couple of spots. All the places in Millers Point - they are all the same as they were in the 1800s. The places I lived in, in Merriman Street, there is photos in the books on Millers Point, they were there in 1880.

What do you think the future of the place will be then? You know the Patricks container ships - that is going to end next year.

53:31 Well and good, get all the container ships to Botany Bay or Newcastle or Wollongong, or where you like, all we want, as far as I am concerned, is the tourist ships. Not that they are much help because they are only in a few hours and they are gone but of course when they are here there is buses going to take the passengers to various places sightseeing somewhere, I suppose, so I suppose they do spend a little bit of money. Since all this with Walsh Bay it is marvellous - all the fools who want to leave it alone - it is the best thing that has ever happened to place. Walsh Bay, Darling Harbour, when they got rid of all the finger wharves. Now it is going to be better still. I am all for it, just go ahead.

For the development?

Yes.

What about people who worry that there will be no work in the area and that the kind of heart of the place will go because there is no work?

55:00 That has not been no work around here for years, just the wharves closed up. Walsh Bay hasn't operated with ships for years and years. Darling Harbour, they got the container ships, that is all, and most of those, the fellows that work down there on the wharves they are all blow-ins from outside. I don't think there is too many locals work on the wharves these days.

You said the people here have changed.

55:37 The old ones have gone. After the war finished those that grew up during the war, they all got married and shifted away. Then as this places became empty Department of Housing started to put in a lot, I will say it anyway, of deadbeats. They have made a lot of the places up into flats.

Why did people move away after the war - could they not get housing here?

56:13 Probably because they couldn't get housing, but I suppose they wanted to get in some place of their own. They all moved down into the south-west, a lot of them.

Around Camden?

Not that far out.

Was it space they were after, do you think?

I don't know. I suppose a lot of them wanted a place of their own.

Your sister got a place in High Street was that easy enough for her to get?

57:07 It could have been in those days. Most of the people that got the places were locals when they grew up, they seemed to have priority, I suppose you could say if a place became vacant. That is how they got in, being locals born and bred here, that all helped I suppose.

But then when the Department of Housing took over everything changed.

How do you feel about the houses that have been renovated, is it a good thing do you think or a bad thing?

58:00 It's a good thing for the tenants to what they were, oh yes. I mean they have been renovated and they altered some of them. The bathrooms, they altered them around, new baths. I don't think all of them have got baths, I think they have got the shower recesses these days. They all got new gas stoves. Oh, they really done them up. All new carpets through, painted.

So why didn't you renovate your place, was it a money thing?

58:48 I wasn't interested, I was happy as I was there. I was on my own there, I did everything I wanted to do. I didn't want them pulling the place about. Anyway, they are not going to renovate them, they are going to stay as they are because of the heritage.

So how do you feel when you see tourists coming in to look at Millers Point and you realise that the house you lived in is now considered a valuable heritage item? Does it surprise you?

59:25 I don't there is many of the tourists get down, there are some, I suppose get round and see them. The only way I think they'd ever find out anything is if they had a tour guide with them and showed them what was going on like they do round this area. Round The Rocks and around this area, they bring them round and they tell them what was this and what was that, whether they are telling them the truth I don't know.

Are you proud that you have been such a part of the history of this area?

Yes that's for sure. Not too many around here now my age and still got their marbles.

60:35 END OF TAPE MP-SMI SIDE B

00:04 START OF TAPE MP-SH2 SIDE A

00:05 Tape identification

So Harry if we could start maybe with a description of the shops that you remember around the Point.

00:20 When I was kid the first one was on the corner of Bettington Street and Merriman Street, a woman named Mrs Wells had it and she had fruit, vegetables and soft drinks. Every Sunday mum would do all the cooking and do all the cake-making on the Sunday afternoon and on Sunday morning we had to go up there and get two bottles of soft drink, one had to be Marchant's Old Style Ginger Beer and the other one could be whatever we wanted. That was where Mrs Wells had her shop.

01:20 Next door there was a couple, Miss Collins and her brother, what was his name, they had a little place, you could go in there and get a mug of lemonade for a penny. George Collins and his sister.

02:05 Down on the corner of Dalgety Terrace and Bettington Street was a grocer's shop. I think in my early days, from what I can remember I think two sisters named Thompson ran it, but I wouldn't bet on it. The people after them were two English people, Mr and Mrs Harris. Mr Harris had one arm. They were the days when they had used to have to measure the butter out, had the box of butter, wooden paddles, scoop it out and weigh it out on the scales, a half a pound or a pound of butter, whatever you wanted. They had the big bags of sugar that they had to weigh out, if you wanted a pound of sugar or two pound of sugar in brown paper bags they did that. Biscuits - all the biscuits were in big tins of Arnotts, all different types, and he used to have to weigh them out into brown paper bags on the scales. All the other stuff that they had, the groceries, were on shelving. There was one part of the shelving that had tobacco, cigarettes, that sort of thing, that on Sunday they had to put a cover over it, they couldn't sell cigarettes or tobacco on Sundays, it all had to be covered up. Then Mr and Mrs Gray took over from them, they were English people, they

were in there.

04:15 The next shop up was Duggan's, the butcher's shop in Argyle Street, there was Joe and Herb, the two of them. In those days they had their walk-in refrigerator and you went in and if you wanted a pound or pound and a half, don't matter what it was, they went in and they brought it out of the chill room and put it on the block and they'd cut off what you wanted, fresh. Chops, neck chops or whatever it might have been, they'd bring the side out, chop them off. It was all fresh, nothing packaged. Whatever you wanted, steak and kidney, it was all fresh you got it. They also had a butcher's shop up on The Rocks.

Next door to Duggan's was a hairdresser, Rube Lewis, he and his wife and their daughter Thelma. He had the barber's shop.

05:44 Next door to them was a shop you could go in and sit down and have a drink of whatever. We used to have to go there every Saturday at lunch time to get pies for lunch before we went out to the pictures in the afternoon and they were beautiful pies, you had to get on the queue. Went on for years and years. People named Sharp had it. Anyhow, it went on for years and years and we found out later on Mr Sharp worked for Sargents, down at East Sydney in Burton Street and that is where the pies came from because Sargents pie were a marvellous pie and they were exactly the same. Then when they left locals took it over, Kitty Everett, I think it was Kitty Everett and her husband.

06:54 The next shop up was another barber's shop, Frank O'Keefe, and you come around the corner into Argyle Place and there was an entrance into Oswald's Bond and next door to Oswald's Bond was the Lord Nelson Hotel.

07:21 Then across the road, there is a block of flats there now but before the flats there was three shops and a cottage. The first shop was a barber shop, Mr White, and he was crippled from there down and used to get along on crutches. He had two barbers and it was only sixpence a haircut and threepence a shave in those days. One of the barbers was Ted Harlett, he took over from Mr White, and the other barber was Bert, I don't know his other name. Anyway, that was on the corner. Next door to that was a shop, Mr London and wife and daughter had it and it was 'bootee', boot repairs. Next door to that was a shop you could get vegies and fruit, soft drinks, ice-cream, people named Furlong had it, Mr and Mrs Furlong. They had a family - I think there were four in the family. Next door to them was a cottage, people named Williams lived in it, that's gone. They knocked that over and the shops and now there is a block of flats on it. The Furlongs, the father was Andy, the

daughters were Lily and Marjorie and Freddy, that was the family.

09:44 You went across the road and there was the post office, Mr and Mrs Curry and Mr Curry was the postman. They had two sons, Perc and Bobby. The last time I saw them was up at Grafton, worked for the Holden agents up at Grafton. Bobby married a local girl from Kent Street, Beryl Hayes.

They were the main shops?

10:34 They were the shops then. Halfway up the block, they use it as a house now but when I was a kid it was a grocer's shop. English people had it named..... I can't think of their name. Then there was a shop further up at the bottom of Argyle Steps in Kent Street, it has always been a shop and it is still a shop, you get sandwiches and what have you.

11:19 Then when you come down to this end of Kent Street, again on the corner, years ago was a pawn shop, people named Asher had it. Next door was a sundae shop, you could go in there and get ice-cream and soft drinks, people named Lenditch. Mark Lenditch was the father and he had two sons and a daughter, Jackie, Rudi and Marie was the daughter. They were Slavs. Next door to that was a grocer's shop, Donovans, they had a son Gerald and he played cricket with the local cricket team. Next door to that was a chemist shop, Flannery's. Next door to that on the corner of the lane was a fish and chips shop, alongside the Captain Cook Hotel.

13:05 Further down in Argyle Street, on the corner of High Street and Argyle Street was a mixed shop, McCrooner's. As a paperboy you used to go in there after the run and you'd get a penny cake, pink icing on the top, and a glass of milk, a penny each. Next door to that was the paper shop, we called him 'Dad' Farley. He had a horse and trap, the same as Duggan's the butcher's, they had a horse and trap, and they used to stable them around in Dipp Street, that was a street right up at the end of Merriman Street. There were a few newsagents after he left, Rowden Sweet, Aussie Watts, another fellow, I can't think of his name. Next door to that was a shop that sold ribbons and buttons and whatever but I don't even know who had it. On the corner was a ham and beef shop, the Hoare family, Mr and Mrs Hoare - Normie, Laurie and the girl was Gwennie.

15:08 That's about all the shops in the area. Down the bottom of course was the Palisade Hotel, but you only want the shops. The Palisade Hotel, as far as I can remember the Armstrong family had it for many, many years, but I think before them was people named Mortsen, before the Armstrongs, pretty sure. Anyway that is about all the shops.

That is fantastic Harry, that is such an incredible reconstruction, I can see it in my mind's eye as

you talk. That was obviously when you were a young fellow?

16:12 Oh this is when I was a youngster, there have been a lot of changes since then but I'm telling you when I was a kid and what I remember and what shops they were.

You said you used to do messages for your neighbour, Mrs O'Neill, what sort of stuff would you get her?

Oh whatever she wanted, went to the grocer's shop, the butcher's, or whatever, and we always scored a slice of fruit cake.

I am interested in the pubs as well - you mentioned a few of them, you have said the Palisade, do you know who had the Lord Nelson?

16:53 The Lord Nelson, when I was a kid was owned by Terence O'Brien, he had it when I was a kid. The door on the corner and halfway down in Argyle Place there is an entrance, they had the half-swing doors as you went in. Then after him people named McMillan had it, they were English people, Mr and Mrs McMillan and they had two daughters, Hilda was one, can't think of the youngest one's name.

The Captain Cook, as you know with pubs licensees change a lot, the first one I remember in there was a fellow named Upjohn.

The Hero?

18:35 I nearly had his name. No, I didn't frequent that pub that often, even when I was a paperboy. See in those days when you were a paperboy most of the pubs had a counter lunch and wherever they had it I always had a sample of something, cost nothing. The wharfies, I won't say all of them but some of them, if they were working back at five o'clock to six o'clock they'd go up to the pub and have a couple of pints of beer and have a counter lunch and go back to work at six o'clock. They nearly all had counter lunch, some were better than others.

When you got older did you go to the pubs yourself?

Oh, when I became drinking age, oh yes.

So which pubs did you like to go to?

20:13 I drank mostly at the Lord Nelson and the Palisade, mostly at the Palisade.

The pub seems to have been a very important place in the Point, a place where a lot of the social stuff happened.

20:38 No I don't think so. The only social parts was the one or two that might have had a golf club going, but other than that nothing. In those days the pubs were only open from six to six, there was no night life in the pubs in those days, pubs closed up at six o'clock and

that was it. If you wanted a drink after you had to take bottled beer. I am trying to think what you could buy your bottled beer for. KB Lager I think was ten shillings a dozen, that was the best at that time, the beer under that was nine shillings a dozen.

Were there many fights in the pubs?

22:13 Oh yes, particularly Saturday nights at the Palisade. If there were any English boats in down at Dalgety's they'd come up and they'd got on to it because they couldn't handle our beer, it was too strong. It would finish up there'd always be a stoush on outside, out in the road every Saturday night when they were in.

Did you ever get knocked about in a fight?

I was never in them, no way. This is when I was a young bloke, that is way back in the early years, none of that goes on now.

What about the SP bookies - did they operate?

23:04 There were a few, yes. That couple that I told you about, George and Miss Collins, they did a bit of SP betting. There were a few SP betters about, yes.

You mentioned a family who were Slavs, the Lenditch family - were they accepted into the community?

23:43 Oh yes, crikey yes, they were part and parcel of the area. I knew the boys and the girls. It was not so long ago the girl, Marie, I bumped into her in Berry [??] Street. As soon as she seen me she gave me a hug and a cuddle and what have you, it had been that long since I had seen her. They were all part and parcel.

In the 1950s there was a lot of discrimination, they were called wogs and stuff.

24:29 I don't know, I don't think there was anything like that around.

What about the pawn shop, did your mum or you ever have to use the pawn shop?

No, no.

It sounds like you did pretty well, the family did really quite well, because you all got to school, you had a nice Saturday, you had your pies.

25:00 Me brother and that, they all had their own things to do on weekends. Me brother, he was a King's Scout with St Phillip's Church. My sister she played Vigoro as a sport.

What is Vigoro?

Something like cricket but the bat was like a paddle, girls played it. They had all their things to do.

You mentioned Lorna McCarthy to somebody, she was a famous cricketer?

25:47 Yes, she played for Australia. Her and her family lived down there, I've got a photo of her somewhere, down in Argyle Place. She played for Australia in England, she managed the Australian team in England when they played at Lords. As far as I know she is still alive, she lives up Bexley or North Bexley, somewhere there. I will have to get over and see her. Iris, her sister, is over in a nursing place like this over at Milsons Point, Milson's something it is, a beautiful place, only it is big.

We have done the pubs and the shops - what about the boarding houses, do you remember them?

27:00 Well most of the boarding houses were the big places in Kent Street and these big places down here in Lower Fort Street, those down here further and then down at Milton Terrace, that is the last block, they were all boarding houses. This block just down here, they were boarding houses.

Was it mostly single men that lived there?

I think so, yes.

With all those single men working and maybe getting on the beer then, you said there was no crime, was it safe to walk around if you were a woman at night?

27:50 Yes of course it was. With the six o'clock closing there was nobody about, the only time you'd see people at that time they'd all be making their way to town to go to a show or something. Not too many people roamed around here during the night in those days.

Did you know Shirley Ball?

I knew who she was but I didn't know her myself.

So what about when you were living in Dalgety Terrace and when the traffic started to grow - how did that affect things? Did you get pollution from that?

28:52 You got the same as everybody else, didn't matter much. Way back in those days when I was a kid it was all horse and carts, there were no motor vehicles. I remember way back when they used to bring the wool from down Darling Harbour up to Dalgety's with horse and carts. Then motor vehicles came in, Malloys, McEwens, the Railway had big Leyland trucks. They used to bring it up to Dalgety's in Merriman Street. Then later on they started to do something with the roads, seal them, because just down past the Lord Nelson where you can see the road finishes across to the lane it was all wood blocks and once you got past there you were on dirt.

I didn't tell you where I said about the ham and beef shop on the corner of the lane, on the other corner of the lane that used to be a billiard room.

30:19 END OF TAPE MP-SM2 SIDE A

30:20 START OF TAPE MP-SH2 SIDE B

When did the people play billiards?

30:27 During the day and at night time. I was only a kid when that was there, we used to watch them through the window. When I said they had the shop down here at the bottom in Argyle Place and they pulled them down, they shifted. Where the billiard room was they cut that up into two places and they made one of them into a grocer's shop, I forget what the other one was, John Holly had the grocer's shop. Anyway, when they finished the doctor was in there and he has just got out of it.

Talking of doctors, in your family were there any health scares you had, health issues, illness?

31:21 Oh yes. Me mother was the worse I suppose, she was a diabetic in the worst form. It was the offshoot from that I suppose she died from.

Did she have insulin injections?

31:43 She had them three times a day, couldn't control it. She used to go into Sydney Hospital and when she was in there we never used to take her anything to eat or anything like that and they couldn't control it in the hospital. That photo over there, that is outside of St Stephen's Church in Macquarie Street opposite Sydney Hospital and that is the day she found out she was diabetic, had that photo taken.

She looks very healthy and strong there.

She was a big woman. Marvellous pianist, pity I didn't follow on.

Did you have a piano at home?

32:35 Well it was a pianola. My nephew has got that now, I gave it to him.

Did people come in and sing around the piano?

Only ourselves. I don't know with me sisters and that, they might have brought somebody there I don't know, but it was mostly ourselves.

Your mother grew up in the area herself.

She was born in the area.

What was her maiden name?

33:03 Eden. The buildings where she lived, they have gone now. There was no Darling Harbour, no wharves, nothing when she lived in Hart Street. I have got them written down, the old streets. There are photos of other things there. That is Mortcliffe Eye Hospital and that is the cottage, Victoria Cottage, I don't ever remember that but I was in it when I was in kindergarten, I got knocked over by a horse and cart and I finished up down in there. That was number 1 Dalgety Terrace.

Did many kids get injured by the horses?

34:35 No. I run under it. There was Clyde Street, Hart Street, Wentworth Street, Unwin Street and Munn Street and I am not sure now whether my mother was born in Clyde Street or Hart Street. That is a photo and that is where those streets are, that is them down there. There was no wharves and there was no Darling Harbour in those days.

Your father was from the area too?

35:13 He was born up on The Rocks. My grandmother lived in 126 Cumberland Street, there is a photo of it somewhere, opposite where the Council gymnasium is. She was shifted from there in the early 1900s round to the west where I was born, 96 Gloucester Street. When they shifted them out they knocked all the places over, this is probably when the plague was on, with the rats, and they knocked all the places over and it is still a block of land, it has been there the best part of a hundred years as a block of land. Have you ever struck Wayne Johnson with the Harbour Foreshores, he is the Archaeologist with Sydney Foreshores, they've been doing all the archaeological work up there, digging it out and they have uncovered where all the old places were and they are going to utilise it at some time.

I have seen where they have exposed the floor plan. Did you hear people talking about the plague?

No, no, not that I can remember. I've only seen photos of it, heaps of rats.

Were there any rats in your time around the place?

37:06 Oh yes, rats and mice, lot of water rats but down on the waterfront they were. You don't see them around here now, well I haven't seen one for a long, long time.

They used to have to fumigate the boats, didn't they, when they came in to stop the cockroaches and things.

37:34 Yes. When the P&O branch boats came in at number 9 wharf they used to be done quite a bit. I don't know who ran it, Customs, or Health Department, their depot was over

in what they now call Berrys Bay. There is Berrys Bay, an offshoot of that, I saw a photo one time of that inlet, Torpedo Bay. Right on the corner you can still see where Commonwealth Oil Refineries used to have their fuel tanks. They have been all shifted, apparently they were going to do some building there but nothings has happened with it. In along from there was where they used to keep this crowd that did all the fumigating, that is where they were domiciled. Mr Riddington, that I knew, he worked on them, he lived just two doors up from Balls Head, he worked on it. Opposite where they were in Torpedo Bay was where they used to do the overhauling and repairing of the torpedoes there, that is why I reckon it was called Torpedo Bay, and to test them there was a testing place down in Pittwater, they used to take them down there to test them.

39:30 They used to seal the hatches off, they used to do them, I think one hatch at time. They used to seal them and I think they used cyanide to kill the rats.

What about the influenza epidemic - did you hear about that?

No, no, that was round about 1920, I think.

Did affect people in your community?

I don't know it could have, I don't know, I'm not sure.

What did you do when you were a youngster in the house? It is a very cold day today and we've got the heater on, what did you have for heating?

40:23 You had the fuel stove.

So you used wood?

Well you started off you had wood and you put coal, you'd use coal in them and coke. In the winter they were going nearly all day and all night. In those days you didn't have aluminium pots and stainless steel pots in those days it was all cast-iron, cast-iron kettles, cast-iron pots, did all your cooking in cast-iron pots. The cast-iron kettle was always on the stove, boiling.

Did that give you the hot water for your bath as well?

41:05 No, you used to warm the water for your bath in the copper and you'd carry it in to the bucket and put it in the bathroom.

Was there a night soil man that came?

We had the toilets, like we have got now, exactly the same.

Flushing?

41:35 Yes that's right. I don't remember him ever being around here, the night soil man,

always had flushing toilets.

The dunny, was it part of this enclosed area? It wasn't out the back of the yard was it?

41:57 In the houses in Merriman Street the dunny was out in the yard, you had your bathroom and then you had your wash house and alongside the wash house was your toilet.

In Dalgety?

It was in the yard but it was part and parcel of the house.

Covered over.

Yes.

I am thinking again about your mother and being a diabetic, and with the four kids, did you kids help out with the chores to help her?

The only thing we would do is messages, that is about all.

Who did all the cleaning?

42:46 She did it. It was hard cleaning in those days, there was no carpets, all what they called oilcloth or linoleum.

So she'd scrub that every so often?

They would be scrubbed, I don't know how often, then they'd be polished with the linoleum wax and all the rest of it. There was no carpets and carpet cleaners and vacuum cleaners in those days, we didn't have them anyway.

Do you remember when you got the electricity?

That was when we would have been in Merriman Street.

Was it exciting?

43:35 Oh it was. In those days when the electricity first came on here you had AC current and DC current. We were one of the first to get a wireless set, that would have been 1929 or 1930. To connect it up with the electricity system you had a wet battery so you could have a wireless, otherwise the direct current would blow your fuses, blow everything up. That was all changed and it went to AC current then, it was just normal as they are now.

Did you have special programs you listened to on the wireless?

I forget, I'm not sure now, it is so long ago.

Maybe your mother did, maybe she had a special one.

44:51 I don't know. Probably never home, probably out running around somewhere all the time. I can remember mostly listening to the cricket when the cricket was on.

Did other neighbours come up to listen as well?

No. When the cricket was on the storemen used to come over from Dalgety's Wool Store and sit on the footpath and we used to open the window, they used to come over in their lunch break.

The house would have been too small to have a lot of people in. You know the way they talk about Millers Point, The Rocks and Dawes Point, and we were talking about this at the beginning, to the outsider it all seems a bit the same but was there a sense of the Point being different from Dawes Point and The Rocks?

45:56 Well there is. In the first place I always maintain The Rocks is only a nickname, The Rocks is City. The Rocks never had a post office - the nearest post office for The Rocks was only at Millers Point and there was a post office, George Street North Post Office, down where the Four Seasons Hotel is. There were shops all along there. There was never a Rocks post office. It has always been The Rocks because it has all been built on sandstone, the whole area right across, it is all solid sandstone.

I have seen a bit where they have cut it away and exposed it.

47:01 Kent Street, the back of the houses is just one sheer block. Where the bus depot is, if you look there, it is all one sheer block of sandstone. All right through The Rocks is all sandstone.

So The Rocks is City and Millers Point is?

47:26 Millers Point is Millers Point. The old Millers Pointers go crook when they say it is The Rocks, it is not The Rocks, it is Millers Point. The only part of The Rocks left on this side as far as I am concerned is the Flagstaff Hill up there with the weather bureau on, that is on this side. Everything on the other side, the eastern side of the Bradfield Highway, that is all The Rocks. There is not much of it left, not of the old Rocks anyway, there is only the block of flats in Gloucester Street that stops at the Australia Hotel and there is the block of flats further down, the Sirius, and then the houses down in Atherton Street, that is right up the other end of Playfair Street, just before you get to George Street. I was in that shop the other day at Susannah Place, went in and see them. I remember I used to go in and see a woman that was there, she still goes there, Anna, I gave her a lot of stuff out of the place.

I know Anna Kosou.

49:12 I knew Anna a long while ago. I still get some stuff through the mail from them.

Do you think they have the shop right, does the shop remind you of the way shops used to be?

49:24 That shop is similar although they've got a lot more stuff in it. I only found out the other day Mr Youngein, he had the shop, we always knew him as Youngein. He had a son

Jimmy, he changed his name to Young, he became Secretary of the Waterside Workers Union. I was up there the other day and had a look and they had a plaque outside about Mr Youngein and they gave his original name and it is very long and he changed his name at the war time or something to Youngein. I thought he was German.

He is Swedish.

50:26 He was portly, big fat tummy, bald head, he looked like a big old German, we always thought he was German. Found out that was his name, a name that long, Swedish. That is what I was saying to the woman up there the other day when I went to school at Fort Street, when my grandmother lived in 96 Gloucester Street I used to go after school, run down to see her, get a slice of bread and if she didn't have any jam I used to have to run round to Mr Youngein's shop, get a small tin of raspberry jam, go back and finish up with a slice of bread and raspberry jam and then bang off home. Down Cambridge Street to the Cut, up Argyle Cut, or run across the top of The Rocks, down to the Point on the way home.

Was there a bit of rivalry between you people at the Point and the people in The Rocks?

51:34 No, not in my day. They go back in those books on the Push and all this sort of thing, there is a book downstairs about the Push and all that.

The razor gangs.

Well the razor gang was around in my time but I was only a kid, I wasn't interested in those things in those days.

It must have been a big difference when the Argyle Cut went in.

52:04 Don't remember that. There is something there that I am going to ask Wayne Johnson when I see him. In a photo there they've got three bridges over Argyle Cut, I can remember two, I can't remember the third ever and no one can tell me. There was the one over Princes Street, they dropped that down for the Bridge. There is the one that is on Gloucester Street, well it is in Cumberland Street and Gloucester Street runs into it, goes down past the Glenmore Hotel and then Gloucester Street starts again and comes in at George Street at the side of the Mercantile Hotel.

52:59 Where the other bridge is from Cambridge Street, I have got no idea how it could possibly be from Cambridge Street. There is photos I've seen of Cambridge Street before Playfairs had their big place in Harrington Street. Cambridge Street and Argyle Cut, before that was ever built there, and there was no bridge there then. I haven't got a clue and I

would like to find out.

Well I'll let you know if we do find out. I know you said before somebody asked you about industrial action on the waterfront and you didn't seem to recall a lot of that, do you remember many disputes or big strikes on the waterfront?

53:59 There were strikes but I was only a young bloke and I wasn't interested and I had a job. It never interfered with all my family in any way.

So you did just what you did at the Council.

54:23 The only thing I can remember is the demonstrations they used to put up outside in Hickson Road where the container terminal is now. Only since the containers have gone in there they have had demonstrations there, or down the bottom of Dalgety Road at what they now call number 3 Darling Harbour, which used to be number 11 Wharf Walsh Bay, I don't know why they ever changed it.

Well Harry we are getting to the end of the tape now, I just wanted to ask you what you would like to see happen for the future of Millers Point and the residence. What would be your ideal situation if you were around to look at it in twenty or thirty years time?

55:16 I'd like to see it progress, as much as they can. Make it easier for people. It will never be any good while they are putting the people in these places that they are putting into them, they do nothing for the place. It has come to stage now it is full of pensioners, either aged pensioners, or the disabled, or something, that is why they are cutting them all up into these small flats and there is one person per flat. All of these places, they were all homes, all family homes, now they are all flats.

Would you like to see the families coming back?

Yes, that is for sure.

Children and that growing up here again?

56:21 If there were children they'd be going through what we went through, there is nowhere to play, there is nothing to do in the place. Not like out in the suburbs where they've got parklands and football fields and all this, where they can go and play, there is nothing and never has been. We used to have to play football up in the park here in Argyle Place, the side parks, or up at the Flagstaff. We used to have to play cricket in the streets, down there in Pottinger Street or down in Hickson Road where one Sunday morning we got pinched for playing cricket on a Sunday morning.

By the police, why because it was Sunday?

57:13 Because it was Sunday. Anyway, there was quite a few of us, we had to go to the

Children's Court up in Albion Street, we got a lecture.

Was that because of a religious thing?

57:29 No, I don't know what the excuse was. For those over eighteen, there was a couple, they had to go to Central Court and they got fined two pound and that was a lot of money in those days. In this book one of the fellow interviewed, Frankie Dowle, he told us that it was Constable Boswell that came along but I can't remember, I am pretty sure it wasn't Boswell. In those days there were very few motor vehicles about, particularly on Sunday morning, and if there was any vehicles coming along we used to stop and let them get out of the road. Occasionally every Sunday morning if you played there, there was always two policemen in plain clothes, some pillager squads used to come round there, and there was always one grabbed the bat and you had to bowl to him to give him a bat. This particular day the car pulled up and out came this policeman, 'Don't run, I know all of you.' We all stopped and we finished up in court.

Did you get off because you were under eighteen?

We all got a lecture.

You said you tried out at football, Harry, where did you have to go to play football, the real sort of football, if there were no grounds here?

58:57 When I first played there was no Sunday sport - the only Sunday sport was you could play golf, you could play tennis, you could swim, there was no cricket, there was no football. Saturday Moore Park in summer was full of cricketers, Sunday nothing. In the winter full of football, in the afternoon there was nothing. We had a local team here, a couple of local teams, and way back in 1930 the secretary of here and another secretary of one of the clubs in Redfern they used to organise Sunday football at Redfern Oval, silver coin admission, and they used to have challenge games there. That is where the Sunday football kicked off and then in 1931 they formed a competition and from then on they used to play football. Then later on the grade sides come in and they got in on it because when they were playing it was all Saturday afternoon.

Well Harry I'm going to stop you there, is there anything else you'd like to add that I haven't asked you?

I don't think so.

I just want to say thank you very much, you are a remarkable man with a great memory.

60:56 END OF TAPE MP-SM2 SIDE B AND END OF INTERVIEW WITH HARRY LAPHAM.

