UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE
OPEN FOUNDATION COURSE
1989

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Signed

Date
8th September 1989

Interviewer
I first met Vincent Anthony Dillon over a beer at the Newcastle Fellasball Club Senior Members Annual Dinner in April 1987. He was a fine man normally so we engaged into our current activities and how we pass our time. Vincent mentioned his interest in his 5th generation family living in Mumago. I told him about my pending project in Oral History for my Open Foundation course. He agreed to be interviewed at a later date. Between making arrangements to tape the interview and actually making the tapes, Vincent had a nasty fall breaking his thigh bone. He was convalescing at home when I heard the interview.

The Dillon Family of Mumago is directly descended from Young Thomas Dillon, who as an adventurous seventeen year old skipper left from County Clare, hoping he wanted to find what the convict colony in New South Wales had to offer him. No doubt he was aware that the colony was harsh and challenging and very much unexplored by Europeans, and completely different to the soft, cool greens and the rolling hills of Ireland. He arrived in New South Wales in 1846.

Little is known of Young Thomas Dillon's activities when he first landed in the
Many other than he gained his way to the goldfields at Benang and later made his way north to the Hunter Valley where he bought some land on the Bellang River near the small settlement of Glen William. Just south of the village of Benang some time later Thomas met a young girl, Myra. They married, settled on the property, and raised a family.

The first born child to Thomas and Mary Bellon was Thomas, and he married a girl also named Myra. They tended the father's property and in due course had a family of young, three sons. Thomas the eldest, one daughter, Nancy, Vincent Anthony, the narrator of the tape, the third child followed by another son, Raymond.

Life for the Bellon family at Glen William was typical of all early settlers families in the country. There were floods, drought, fire, heat and cold, and living was rugged. In the early days the main mode of travel to Glen William was by boat from Newcastle to Raymond Terrace, then by stage to Glen William. The stages were either horse drawn or bullock drawn and the roads were dirt and gravel and generally very poor. It was a two day trip to get supplies from Clarence Town to Benang by Bullock Train, a distance of 11 miles with an overnight stop at Brookfield, a small settlement, the half way point.

There was nothing spectacular in the lives of the early Bellon families. They worked...
The land, entered into nearly farming families, bought more property as their families multiplied and acted as good country citizens should. Uncents father Thomas besides working his own property bought three further dairy farms and when he died he passed them to each of his children. They are still retained and worked. The land lies in the blood of the farm families and their children, but not so for young Uncents Allen.

Perhaps, like his grandfather, Uncents had a spirit of adventure in him to take him away from working the land but not from it altogether. Uncents joined his life in working with his family and friends acting as their agent in dealing with other properties and other matters associated with the land. He married a girl from a property not far from Durango, Lucy Richardson, who has shared the past thirty-five years with him keeping him in his work and raising their family of four, two boys and two girls. The boys now work Uncents farms and Uncents; GrandUncys; family have given him five 3rd generation children as their grandchildren. But to date no grandson on the Allen side. I hope it wont be too long before they have the aces and means to extend the Allen family long in to the future.
Thomas Dillon was born in County Clare in Ireland in the year 1819. At the age of seventeen years he migrated to New South Wales to seek his fortune. His travels took him to the gold fields at Bendigo where he prospected successfully. When he had enough gold he made his way north to the Dungog Region where he purchased land on the eastern banks of the Williams River near a small settlement called Glen William. Thomas named his property "Banfield". Glen William is in the Parish of Bostin in the County of Gloucester, about eighteen kilometres south of Dungog. 1

In May 1837, about the time Thomas Dillon was prospecting at Bendigo, the Government of New South Wales approved the naming of the Village of Dungog, on the Upper William's River. This naming was gazetted in the Government Gazette of 1938. 2

At twenty-nine years of age Thomas Dillon married a young Irish girl named Mary who was seventeen years of age, and they settled down at Banfield. They had three children: Thomas (1863), Mary Ann and Michael. 3

1. V. Dillon. Transcript Tape 1 Side A. P1.
3. V. Dillon. Transcript ...
3a. Ibid
P17.

The eldest son Thomas (1851) and Mary (1854) had four children: Thomas, Mary, Vincent, Anthony and Raymond. Vincent, Anthony Dillon, the narrator of this tape, was born at Banfield in 1915, and he spent the early years of his life with his family there. At eleven years of age, Vincent followed his elder brother to secondary schooling at St. Joseph's Catholic College, Hunters Hill, Sydney where he lived as a boarding pupil. He successfully completed his studies and while at St. Joseph's he learned to play cricket and rugby union. He finished his schooling at St. Joseph's in 1931 and from there he attended the Hawkesbury Agricultural College at Windsor New South Wales. Until he returned to Banfield in 1933.

When Vincent returned to Banfield his father presented him with a dairy farm adjoining Banfield. In fact his father gave each of his children a dairy farm near Banfield. The change from comfortable living at St. Joseph's and the agricultural college to hand-milking a herd of cows, cleaning cow dung and wine from the cow sales.
Competing with myriads of bushflies and tending his farm did not appeal to him although he had been born to the land and grew up on it. He urgently sought a change and after one month he told his father that he had decided against farming in preference to working in an office in Dungog.

Vincent's Granduncle Thomas Carlton Senior was a Stock and Station Agent in Dungog when Vincent made his decision to quit farming. He offered Vincent a position in his firm of Thomas Carlton and Company at ten shillings a week 10. His father Vincent and he accepted the position with his father's blessing. The firm of Thomas Carlton and Company was founded by Vincent's Granduncle in the late 1870s. Records at Westpac Bank, Dungog, indicate that Thomas Carlton Senior had a trading account with the Bank of New South Wales (now renamed Westpac Bank) about 110 years ago in his Company's name. Vincent joined the Company as a Bookkeeping Clerk. His Granduncle died in 1933 and his son Thomas Carlton Junior took over the company and continued trading as Thomas Carlton and Company.

In 1942 the call to service his Country in World War II came to

9. ibid
10. ibid
11. ibid
Vincent Dillon. He enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force as a Clerk General and in due course he was posted to R.A.F. Washington in the United States of America and later to R.A.F. Headquarters London. He served his country well and was promoted to the rank of Corporal. He was demobilised in 1946 when he returned to Australia.

Vincent rejoined his uncle's company in 1947 and later that year he was taken by his uncle as a partner and the name of the firm was changed to Carlton and Dillon. Thomas Barton, Julian's father, retired from the company in 1948 and Vincent took over and the name of the company was changed again, this time to V. A. Dillon & Stock and Station Agent. Since 1953, Vincent Dillon had become a Stock and Station Agent, an Auctioneer, a Licensed Valuer for Commercial properties in the shires of Gloucester, Great Lakes, Dungog and the Hunter Region, a Licensed Real Estate Agent and a Justice of the Peace.

During his early years Vincent played Rugby League with the Clarence Towne club as vice Captain and Captain, he represented Dungog 1 team in Cricket and his sporting activities brought him in contact as a close

12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. V. Dillon Transcript Tape 1 Sept. P69
16. Ibid. P34
friend with Doug Walker, Australian First Cricketer, "Lesmurdie Olympic Equestrian Rider", Ken and Bob Mackay and Mick Scoote, International Polo Players, Bill and Fred Bennettsen, National Boxing Champions and his second cousin Jimmy Carlton, the world famous sprint champion.

Vincent's business activities soon earned him a favourable reputation and recognition by the farming and grazing families who had held properties in the region for a long as, if not longer, than when his Grandfather Thomas Dillon sought Banyfield. These are all notable families and include the Carltons, Richarsons, Dowlings, Mackays, Beedes, Abbotts, Smiths and many others who have earned their own reputations as highly competent, successful and respected families for having among other things contributed greatly to the rural industry and the culture and society in the Nation.

Being a prominent business man it was almost automatic that Vincent Dillon should be appointed to the many local service and business organisations. He has served with distinction with the Bungaree District Hospital Board, the Bungaree Rotary Club, the Bungaree Agricultural and Horticultural Association and the Bungaree Racing Committee. He is

17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. V. Dillon. Transcript Tape 2 Side A. P 460.
20. Ibid.
be a foundation member and Patron of Rotary. He served on the Dungog Hospital Board for twenty-five years until the Board was dissolved and taken over by the Department of Health, Regional Office, Newcastle in 1985. In that year, he was presented with a Certificate of Service by the State of New South Wales Minister for Health, Mr. Huckle, for his distinguished service with the Hospital Board. He is a life member of the Dungog Show Committee and Patron of the Dungog Rodeo Committee.

Vincent Dillon married Lucy Richardson, from Binglesburn near Greenfield, in 1952. Lucy's family were early settlers holding large parcels of land between the Williams River and the Paterson River near Greenfield. They have four children: Peter, Joseph, Patrick, and Lucy, all of whom, except Lucy, are married. At present there are five grand children who comprise the fifth generation of the Dillon family of Dungog.

Peter, who married Judith Jane Humble, has three daughters: Philippa, Felicity, and Susannah (baby girl born 20th Oct 1924) and one son. Patrick, who married Ann Beaton, were taken into the business and became partners with their father. The name of the business changed once more, this time

21 Ibid.  PP 22, 23, 24, 27.
22 Ibid.  PP 9.
23 V. Dillon  APPENDIX The Dillon Family Tree.
to V. A. Dellen and sons. 2nd daughter
Jade St. Ann married John Waddington
and they have a daughter, Alexandra
and a son, Edward, and lease their
mother's past acres property at
Singleton. Lucy Beradette
Dellen is at present single. 26

Vincent and Lucy Dellen reside
in a charming old home on top of
the highest hill overlooking the
valleys and many of the beautiful surrounding
valleys. The home which Vincent bought
for Lucy about forty years ago is about
one hundred and fifty years old. They
have remodelled part of the interior and
have added a modern area to it.
Their beautiful furniture is mainly
redwood from a sawmill given to
them as a wedding present by Lucy's
father. 26

Vincent Dellen retired on the 30th
June 1969 after sixty-seven years in
the business but he remains as a
consulting valuer with the firm. His
sons, Peter and Rodney are very
capable and will continue to represent the Dellen
family and serve the gems industry. 26
1989 OPEN FOUNDATION COURSE
ORAL HISTORY

THE HISTORY OF EARLY SETTLERS IN DUNGOG
THE DILLON FAMILY

INTERVIEWER: Ray Wake
INTERVIEWEE: Vincent Dillon

DATE: 6th July 1989
PLACE: Dungog NSW

TAPE 1, SIDE A  TRANSCRIPT

The name of the interviewee is Ray Wake. The name of the interviewee is Vincent Dillon of Dungog. The project is the University of Newcastle Open Foundation Course, 1987. The date is the 6th July, 1989, and the place is Dungog, New South Wales. The purpose of the interview is to record as much information as possible about the Dillon family in Dungog for historical purposes.

Q: You are a fourth generation family in Dungog. How far can you trace as much as you can about the history of your family in its connection with Dungog?

A: Yes, my grandfather on my father's side came out as a young boy from Ireland at the age of seventeen years. He came from County Sligo in Ireland and when he arrived he went to the diggings in Bendigo. From diggings in Bendigo and then he got enough money to come back and buy own property at Glen William known as "Bayfield", and he paid for the property with his earnings from the diggings in Bendigo.

Q: Unice. Just let us interrupt for a moment. What would he have paid for the property and can you tell me how many acres it might have been?

A: Yes, six hundred odd acres, Yes.
hundreds and forty acres in the original purchase. The price he paid was not just
2. Can you tell me more about your
3. Yes, Grandfather Hutton had two sons
4. Yes, Grandfather Hutton had two sons
5. Our oldest brother was called Thomas
6. My father and his brother accumulated more
7. With the passing of each generation the property
8. Allan in the William Valley...
Two dairy farms, which then gave many father farm lands. In the early days the milk from these farms went to Clarence Town where it was put on a boat and shipped to Harpeth, at the Salt Factory at Raymond Terrace, or Selors Raymond Terrace, and my uncle Nick Dillon used to buy pigs and drive them from Dungog to Clarence Town and Dungog by road to the boat at Clarence Town and they'd be shipped away to market to be marketed.

Q. About how long ago would that have been done?

A. That would have been approximately it would have been round about sixty-five or seventy years ago.

Q. 65 to 70 years ago, not far from the turn of the century.

A. Yeah, that's right.

Q. And, what were conditions like then. What type of roads would he have had to drive over to get down to Clarence Town to stop the pig?

A. All the provisions for Dungog used to come by boat to Clarence Town and then might be Bullock teams and drays pick up and came to a little place called Braidfield, which was approximately seven miles north of Clarence Town, and they'd stay the night and then next day come on to Dungog with the provisions.

Q. In the same bullock teams and drays?

A. Yes.
4. How long would that have taken?

1. In those days it was two days. They'd load up at Clarence Town, come to \textit{Braemarfield}, which was four miles up, and then next day come on up another four miles to \textit{Dungog}.

4. And that, how much distance they would make in two days?

1. Yes that right.

5. Dungog?

1. Yes very close Dungog.

4. We had driven up here once, driven up from a different angle down at \textit{Patterson} and just noticed the hills, little sharp hills, and the road curves and so on. I figure the tracks would have been some what like that.

4. Yes, they were only dirt tracks in those days. Gravelled roads, no tar at all.

9. Yes, and tell me in the anymore about your family. Were they involved in other activities in the development of Dungog?

4. Yes, my father was a commitment man, on the \textit{Aboriginal} movement and he didn't take a great deal of interest in political affairs. He was a quiet living gentleman. He died approximately in '19.

4. Is he the person who came from the gold fields?

1. No. This is my father, I'm speaking about.

4. Oh! your father?
1. What was your grandfather, your father
   My grandfather is buried in the cemetery and so is your grandfather. He was
   named about 1930. My father died in
   the Boi and.

2. Were your involved in calving, stock
   and station and other activities?

   "Yes. I'm a registered farmer for
   agricultural lands in New South Wales
   and I'm also a registered valuer for
   commercial properties in four cities
   including Clarence, Great Lake,
   Dungog and Lorno Hunter.

3. How did the business start in
   the family?

   "The business started when traced back
   from the establishment of the Bank of New South
   Wales in Dungog, which was approximately
   110 years ago. My grandfather, Thomas
   Cavanagh, had an account
   known as T.Cavanagh and Company in
   those years.

4. And that's when the business started!

5. It could have started before that, but
   that's when we traced it back, recently
   from the Bank of New South Wales records.

6. I see. How named it came into the
   by the name of Cavanagh?

   "Well, my father named Cavanagh
   from Blaxland which was
   nearby and it was her uncle, my
   grandmother, who started this business at
   the time.

7. And the name was a Cavanagh?

   "No. He was a Cavanagh."
8. Has the name changed to Weller?

A. Well my grandfather died in approximately 1930, I came to enter the business in 1931, and it went to another T. Carleton, T. Carleton Junior who was my uncle, from T. Carleton Junior went on until the war. After the war, I served in America and England with the Air Force, and I came back and went into the business and it went over to Carleton and Weller in approximately 1949. And then my uncle retired and it became T. Carleton in that year. The two boys went away to do farming school at Wanganui College, and when they came home one went to New Zealand for five or six years as the other boy got his finance on the properties and they both decided to come back into the business and that is how it is now known as T. Carleton and Son, and the two boys being the partners and I was the third partner, and of course now I'm finishing up as of the 30th June this year.

8. How often do you travel to your farm stock sales?

A. One sale in Masterton every Thursday, the sale cattle sale for the firm of Lee and Lee, he has an interest in that firm. On Wednesday we have an arrangement whereby our cattle, a lot of our cattle, go to Singleton and we have a tie-up there with another firm of B. E. Foster Pty Ltd at Singleton. We have a fortnightly produce cattle sale every fortnight in our areas, farms at Cluny. We have our regular beef cattle sale on once a month, in our farms. We also buy the steers in Cluny. They were built by the Red Scheme, a good number of yards, and we yard every month, there, two, three up to five hundred.
A. Yes, of cattle regularly every month.

Q. That's a fair part of deal, isn't it?

A. Yes.

D. Twice. Some of my research, I extracted from the Slungag Historical Bulletin Number 1 of June 1975, that the village of Slungag, on the upper Delman River, was approved in May 1837 and gazetted in the Government Gazette of 1838, and so that wouldn't have been too long before your forebears first came to the Delman River. What date did he come again?

A. My grandfather started the farm approximately 110 years ago, from the records we have got from the Post Office.

Q. Yes, but when did the old settlers from the gold fields come up to?

A. That was my grandfather on the Hillside who started from the gold fields.

Q. And what, when was that?

A. He came out here when he was seventeen and died at seventy one years and buried here in the Slungag Cemetery.

Q. You haven't got the date he opened up the property?

A. No.

Q. That doesn't really, That would be not long after that he came out. That would be in the 1840's wouldn't it?

A. I'd say around the 1840's, 1850's.
Q. Have there been any floods in the Kulinna River in 1857?

A. No. I heard the old hands discuss that flood.

Q. Are there any incidents you'd like to relate about it, that you may know?

A. I've only heard my father speak about it as one of the biggest floods ever seen on the Williams River.

Q. And did it have any effect on your property?

A. Yes. My father told me that they lost cattle in the flood. They were washed away off the property to Glen Hillman. Some of them got back further down the river and others they lost altogether.

Q. That was a great flood, I believe?

A. I understand from my relatives it was.

Q. Were you ever involved in racing. They built a racecourse up here?

A. Yes. Since, I can remember. The racecourse built at Botanical Park on the Moorabbin property. We knew the family the Maclays. The great racing and polo people and the early settlers of this town.

Q. And I believe there has been some notable people involved. Maclays?

A. Maclays. Beales, Talboys are the very old families of this district.

Q. They had some connection with Maclays?
9. No, not much Grandpa. They had some great horses, they had some great horses.

8. And they're still going! You were telling me that one of the boys is overseas now.

7. Yes, he is one of the top players in Australia. He is expected to be No. 1 player in New South Wales.

6. No! Polo player?

5. The No. 1 Polo Player of New South Wales. J. B. Mackay, son of J. W. Mackay.

4. Do you remember anything about the cedar getters and the saw-mills when they originated in this region?

3. Yes, I do. It was a matter of fact many families willed their saw-mills to us when we got married in 1873.

2. We gave us a cedar tree. Do you remember sitting around the most of the furniture and fittings in this house are all cedar and a lot of it is made out of the cedar that he gave us on our wedding day as a wedding present out of the timber that came off his property at 'Singleton' at Glengarry.

1. That's a unique wedding present isn't it?

0. Yes.

-2. Was it all dressed or just a tree?

-1. No, he gave it to us all dressed and ready to be made up, dried out, ready for furniture. So we could afford to get our furniture made out of cedar off their大哥's property.

-3. Wonderful. It's wonderful furniture, And did any of your family become
Did you mean that? Can you recall any of your grand parents or?

1. My father also had a bullock team and even though we had dairy farms, in the depression, I went away to boarding school in 1937, to St. Joseph's college, Dunshaughlin, of course free, money was hard. My father through timber on his own properties and going his own bullock teams, he used to sell sleepers to the Railway Department for five shillings they used to get for a sleeper. The customer would get four shillings my father would get one shilling for carriage privilege.

8. And he supplied the Railway Department for the Mainline through here?

1. Yes, some of them, yes, some of the sleepers were supplied by my father and off his own properties. Yes.

8. I see, but none of your family were involved in timber getting and all that, they mainly stayed on the land and they were dairy and other produce and all that?

1. And timber, yes. He had his own property and he used to fell timber logs to the miller, and as I said, can't he timber to the miller as well. He had his own bullock teams, too.

8. How far would that have been, he'd have to cart them?

1. I'd cart cart them from Glenaskellain and Breakfast's Hollow, Glenaskellain would be twelve miles part of Dungog and Breakfast was about seven miles part of Dungog.
8. What type of country was that?

1. It was some river country and some grazing country. Timber was mostly off the grazing country, you'd think, the timbered country and of course they'd cut the willow logs out, they'd cut the poles out and you'd cut the electric light poles and telephone poles. They were mainly in back timbered country.

9. And how many bullocks would he have had in his team?

1. Well they used to go up, 14 to 16 bullocks in a team.

9. And do you remember them at all?

1. Yes, I do. My father, on his death, we still had the bullock team and used the team soon after his death.

9. I see. Did you ever go out on the teams yourself?

1. I used to go out with the drivers on numerous occasions and keep him, you know, to keep up the sleepers and timber as a young boy before I was away to school.

9. Did you learn anything from them, the bullockies?

1. I learnt the language they use another used to use very strong language and they could use the bullock whip as well which they carried a very big bullock whip to make the bullocks do what they required.

9. That whip would help the language, emphasise the language?
6. That's right, yes.

8. Since, you haven't started any today. I haven't asked you any questions that might panic you or that you will forget. Now, is your storytelling language, or do you imagine it always stays in your memory, doesn't it?

A. Yes, it does. As a young boy.

D. And you had brothers and sisters

A. Yes. I had two brothers and one sister.

D. Did they ever go out on the collecting hunt with you?

A. Yes. My brother often went out at different times. They both went away to boarding school and my sister went away to boarding school. My sister married and lives in Sydney, one brother deceased and one brother lives on the original property.

8. Yeah, well you know that's real good experience. I believe Dungog has quite a good blacksmith's in its time. At one time I understand there were nine in all, blacksmiths operating in Dungog?

A. Yes. In my time I remember these and one was Mr. Coote and Mr. Redman and Mr. Shepherd. They each had their own blacksmith shop. We had to pay our pennies from Stan Holland to Dungog to get them shoes at these blacksmiths that were operating in Dungog. There was also a blacksmith at Clarence Town and from Stan Holland it was a distance of several miles, and of course closer, we'd often go to Clarence Town to get our horses shod.
8. And did you have any connection
with Tom Burns? I believe he was a
very expert man?

9. I knew Tom Burns and his son Jack
well. They were excellent tradesmen
and they're renowned right throughout
the district for their handicraft.

10. They've been here for some time in
their backcountry. And they ever
relate any stories, because people like
that have been known to get an awed
their forge and listen to stories. But
they ever tell you any when you wear kid?

11. Well recently I went to the Races at
Broadmeadows with Mr Ken Mackay
and Mr Broadmeadow. On New Year's Day.
He came back to Mr Mackay's property
at Bellville Creek and he showed me a
table that was made by Mr Burns and
it was a master piece. Mr Mackay
appreciates the handicraftsmanship of this table
that he gave him gave his father and
he just retained it.

12. That great isn't it? Now, were there any
Can you recall any Aboriginal tribes
at here. Have there any Aborigines
living in this region when you were here?

13. Yes, there was one very grand uncle
Stephen Canters, S. D. Canters, who we've
spoken about earlier. Charlie Green
and he lived next to the Canters for many
years and I can remember Charlie quite
well living here in Blimey and I can
remember when he died.

14. Yes, and there were others of the Tingki
tribe. Tingki G1, N. O. N. There
was a Davy and there was Daughter
Billy. Daughter Billy was the last King.
and Grandy was the host of the
Bigg's. Did you ever come in contact with them or any of them?

A. No, but the story soon told here was
a property called Jack Camp and
that was where the blacks had a camp
there and the country is approximately
10 miles east of the Lehigh River and it's
still called Jack Camp and I understand
most of the blacks then were shot and
killed on that place.

B. Were they by the whites also?

A. By the whites. Yeah!

B. What a shame. And tell me in your
career days did you live on these
properties that your dad had. Did you
go hunting in the bush for any of the

A. Yes, when I came home from
Blanding School, St. Joseph's, I did a
course at Blanding Agricultural College
before I came home. And when I came
home my grandpa said, "This is a property
going to be yours one these". It was a
slavery farm approximately a mile from
our homestead and I used to ride a
horse over of a morning and milk the
cows by hand, and in the evening the
same thing and I lasted one month
dairying because I used to come home and
I paid to my father, "I'm going fishing to
my Grandpa's. He's offered me a job
and my keep at ten dollars a week as
his book keeping clerk. And any extra
money you make up you own wind if you
like." I said, "I wasn't working out that
well hanging because I just couldn't stand
the flies and the smell from the dairying
pens.

B. Ha! Ha! You looked the better way that you
I went to St Joseph's college at Hunters Hill?

1. Yes, well yes. That's probably one thing he did wrong by sending me away to boarding school instead of having home to work the properties.

2. You didn't have any cows to milk or sales to clean down here?

3. In those days of course there were no milking machines, very little hygiene. You had to go and pick up the milk cans, put the cans to the cream stand, usually about a quarter of a mile or half a mile away from the main road, and

4. Cows wouldn't be like they are today, they'd be fairly sloppy affairs, wouldn't they?

5. That's right. That was 59 years ago that I came to Dungog. Well I started off as a book-keeper officer, my grandfather, and then when he died I got, he used to have district business licence, you'd have, we had another business at Stroud which is approximately at mid-east of Dungog. We had an office there and we had our own fell yards there. In these days of course there was very little transport. It was always by road and the cattle was sold. It was in later years we played them down because another transport came and the cattle was carted away to Lithgow at Newcastle and of course we didn't get the numbers there. For many years we used to have a sale every fortnight at Stroud and at Dungog on Thursday. Thursday at Stroud and on a Friday at Dungog.
Q. I take it when you were schooling in Sydney that you had to go down by the
prison ship transport here, by rail or?

A. By rail. It was 1927, my first year
to "St George", it was approximately eleven
years old then.

Q. Did you ever have to do the trip down
through Clarence Town and cut through
the ocean on the "Sixty-Sailors" or the
transport there?

A. No, I did. There used to be a boat from
Newcastle to Sydney. I go the boat
were there several times on the boat from
Newcastle.

Q. What wasn't like?

A. Well, you do. You'd pick it up round
about 8 or 9 o'clock at night. 9 o'clock at
night, and you'd go to Sydney. You'd
sleep in your bunk once you hit. Next
morning you'd get off and go to your
destination.

Q. Did you have any experiences on
those trips?

A. Oh, yes, be'd no. It was pretty tough,
the cabins and you didn't get much
sleep on them. It was an experience to
go to try weather to Sydney.

Q. Were you a good sailor?

A. Yes, a good sailor.

That's good.

I've done a trip across to America during
the war and England. I was not ill
on any occasion.
A. And tell me are these true stories you can relate that your Grandparents told you about the region here? I know they used to sit around the fire and tell their Grandchildren stories. Are there any you can relate that you would like to relate? Know as far as the history of Cuming as concerned?

B. Well no, my father used to tell about how his father came out as a Trek settler. How he came out at the age of seventeen and he married Mary. She was also an Irish girl. I understand he was only twenty when he married her and brought her back to the property at Ingham Glenhillian.

C. Fine. And what about the Carleton family. They were associated with you, closely?

D. Yes, many members was a Carleton and they were a very, very big family. The original Carletons. There were fourteen and one daughter. There are names of them all here and the dates they were born where they were born. The first Carleton was J. B. Carleton. He was born on 1810/14.

E. Right one?

D. Yes, in 1821. James was born in 1824. Vincent, who was my Grandfather, who I was called after, was born in 1828. Robert 1930, Daniel 53, Stephen 55, Thomas 55, that was the Grand uncle that started our farm, and Augustine 61, Austin 63 and the last one again Helena Mary was born on the 18th, 1871.

F. And they all resides in this region?
1. They were all born here. Some of them went to Crofton and Casino and every one of them owned their own property handed down by their fathers.

2. A lot of property owned by the Carson and Mellon families?

A. Yes, that's right. Every one of the Carsons had their own property.

Q. How many acres would that tally do you reckon?

A. Well I wouldn't know exactly what they had at Crofton and Casino. Casino there still a lot of Carsons put up there.

Q. Make a stab?

A. Hm, ah, I would say approximately, between the lot of them, possibly 10,000 acres.

Q. Between the lot?

A. Yeah, that is.

Q. Fair bit of it I won't it.

END SIDE A TAPER

CONTINUE SIDE B TAPER PAGE 28
This is containing the interview with Vince Williams. This is side two of the tape.

8. Vince, Alangay is contained in valleys and hills. What type of situation and Alangay develop from. You were mentioning a landlocked town. Can you tell me about that?

A. Yes, up till after the war Alangay was always recognized as a landlocked town because it was held by loyal citizens who had property handed down to them and of course no outsiders could get in, or move in, because the land was handed down to them, they handed it on to their children and so forth, and Alangay took 10 miles north and 10 miles south it was impossible to buy any block of land here until after the war. Then there was a bit of improvement. The first movement was Clarence creek was owned by the late Mr. Bob MacKay. Mr. MacKay put Clarence creek on the market. He thought. He never forget of the opening of the sale I said, "Here you are ladies and gentlemen, here is an opportunity to buy in a land locked district, the first subdivision, the first subdivision," and then we dead when I went up to auction all the neighbors bought it, including Mr. Bob MacKay's brother, who bought the homestead and then wasn't an outsider allowed in. It was bought by all the adjoining neighbors, or his brothers.

9. It was a fairly close knit community?

A. Yes, very close community and they kept outsiders out.
in their own rights?

A. Well, they were a legal bunch of people. The original grantee, his son was doing business with very grand uncle, they did business with very uncle and they've done business with nephew and now with my sons. And all this business the Mackays, Sockes has been handed down, over the years and they've still retained their business.

Q. And tell me, would you have any idea of the area, the amount of acres covered in all those areas. Would there be a hundred thousand acres or?

A. Well, I am sure only be guessing but the Mackays subdivision would be in the vicinity of the original block, subdivision would be, we spoke of it belonging to the Bob Mackay. He later, his Bob Mackay, would contain over two acres and that was split up into approximately 8 or 9 blocks of land, but it was bought by either the adjoining neighbours or by his own brother.

Q. But apart from that, your homestead properties, the travelling properties, the Beech properties, a great range around Dungog, and would they have gone into thousand of acres?

A. Yes. I would say that the Mackay family would have owned here in Dungog, they would have owned at least three acres of land. It beaks, the original settlers in Dungog would claim, they were the original grantees in Dungog, the Beech family and a, a, and they're still here and it's still retained in the families. the full of it.

Q. I noticed in the Dungog Chronicle and
Dungog and William River Settlements, Dungog, Tuesday, June 2, 1870. Here is a photograph here, by the way, this paper is in very good condition. Here is a photograph here of Mrs. J. H. MacKay, the first white child born in Dungog district. Mrs. MacKay was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Spack, of Winagulla, who came to Australia in 1828. His wife was the first white woman born in New South Wales. How many history that you can tell me about them?

4. Winagulla is still retained, a part of Winagulla is still retained by the Spack family. Mr. Charlie Spack, Mr. T. Spack still retains it, and a part of it was sold recently recently sold in the last 1 or 2 years. It was sold for auction when it was, ah, it was, ah, a lot of money, there was approximately 300 acres on the river, and 600 acres on the western side of Dungog, which is first class grazing land. The river country was first class arable, was a beautiful home, one big house with several other small houses. It was bought by a Sydney person. That was one of the more recent subdivision sales that took place.

5. Since you have quite a bit of activity with the various various community organisations such as Rotary, the hospital, the show committee and the Returned Committee. Can you tell me about these organisations, your association with them. Let's talk about Rotary first.

6. Right. Rotary was formed 80 years ago this year, 80 years, and has a foundation member of Rotary, went through most of the office positions and am still a member of the Rotary Club of...
Drung and I’m the only original foundation member left.

Q. Here, and what did, what has Rotary done in this area?

A. Rotary done a lot for the town. Various organisations, the hospital was one of their main projects because at that time the hospital was run by a local board and the board itself if they wanted anything they would write to the Rotary Club and other clubs to get support and financial support.

Q. Yes. And did they do anything around the area. Did they?

A. Yes, they assisted talk on the northern side and the southern side little sitting houses you know, for people, travellers, etc. Then and have places and a free place so that they could have a meal on the side of the road. They helped every organisation in the town as a matter of fact, financially.

Q. What about the, your activities with the Hospital, Vince?

A. I was on the Hospital Board for 25 years. I was a Vice-President for a number of years and I was President for one term, and

Q. I understand that they that in 1985 you were presented with a certificate of service. Can you tell me about that?

A. That’s right. Yeas. The Regional Office from Newcastle and the Minister for Health, Mr. Heacock, at that time came up and presented me with a badge of office for service of 25 years to the Hospital Board.
8. That's good. And what were your activities with the Shorncliffe Committee?

A. Well, I was a Committee man for, oh, many, many years, a life member and served on various sections of the show which were mainly in the sporting events, ring and fat cattle sections.

B. And what was the size of the Shorncliffe Regional here? Since I've been all been there, the Royal Agricultural Show at Sydney and naturally Newcastle Show that is bit smaller. What was the extent of the Show?

A. Well, Dungog there was, eh, because you'd show your exhibits, there was the best get cattle possibly on the coast. Dungog was the renowned as a sporting town which produced some of the greatest horsemen and some of the greatest cricketers of modern times and I was on the RSL Club as a Committee man and we named one of our bars the Dungog Sportsman Club and called after strong men, the great cricketer and we had Kevin Bacon the Olympic jumper, who went overseas and had the best polo team in Australia. New South Wales won the Indian Cup and they won nearly every cup that was possible. To win on New South Wales and it consisted of the Weekes, Allum, and of course, polo was a very oh, ah, you've got to be well off to play to play because you've got to keep down your horses in full feed all the time and you've got to have transport from one place. I can remember the beggars from Gloucester used to play with Dungog polo and they transported their horses by rail truck from Gloucester down to Dungog to play...
Go to on Saturday and Sunday and truck them back by railway trucks to Gloucester and this is how the only transport that began in the early days.

Q. How would you play polo at the show?

A. No. we'd have a polo ground in J K Mackay's property, it's known as Beaches Creek Park land and all, Mackay's supplied the ground. As a matter of fact they had two grounds and they used to have their carnivals and attract large crowds from surrounding districts, Hapton, Newcastle and even Sydney people coming to watch polo here.

Q. Uncle, men the agricultural show, held that have been. What would be the extent of the area the people would come to exhibit in. You've mentioned cattle along the coast here, hence it came from inland and other districts?

A. Well in those days in the early part of course transport was as available as it is today. To-day we have we take our best cattle come from far, near and far, they come from Kingston, they came from as far up the coast as Coffs and right out from Byranga and Barabara. But in the early days of course it was mainly local. Today it has grown in to, we would have one of the best preserved cattle fawns on the coast of New South Wales.

Q. And how many days do you run the show over?

A. Well, up until recently it was
a 3 day show, for many years it was 3 days and then we went back to 2 days, and this year, last year, it was a 3 day show. This year it's cut back to 2 days.

Q. Yes. I see. Fluctuating a bit depending on what's available for exhibit?

A. Yes.

Q. That's good. And I understand you're with the Rodeo Committee?

A. Yes, I was, have for the first.

Q. Just hang on while we interrupt this, well, we've had an interruption and we are going to continue discussing the Stetson family. And once, just before you go back with the Rodeo, do you know your old Daddy is also now on the Board of the hospital?

A. Yes, yes. Yes. Center it's now taken over by a Regional Committee in which Central, Newland, Singleton and Chungo now.

Q. Good. I just noticed it in a paper I was looking at. So I thought it just threw that in. OK, we're just let we go back to the Rodeo. We were going to talk about that.

A. Well, when I first came to Chungo the first Rodeo Committee was taken to, was, but one, Mr. S. W. West of Haveline, Walla Walla, was the first President, and I was just a young lad. Came up into the business with my Grandpa and I was paid to do the clerk. I wasn't the Secretary, Mr. Nixon, who was
Manager of the Commercial Bank
and Tom Dalton, very early, were
the two honorary secretaries to the
first Redco Committee and I was a
paid clerk by the Committee, to do the
books and take the minutes and letters
and so I was there for the first Redco
Committee after the war.

Q. Have you been on the Committee ever
since?

A. Yes, I've been on the Committee. I'm now
a Patron of the Redco Committee.

Q. Is it a big Redco thing?

A. Yes, they run a big Redco, it's been
a very successful Redco. My son
Peter has been President for two years
on one occasion and Peter is the
announcer for the Redco and so we are
pretty well connected with the Redco and

domestic.

Q. And what paid lot of standard is it from,
do you get top riders?

A. We get top riders. They come from
all over New South Wales and Queensland
and they're here for the it's a, they have
anything up to two hundred horses in
the track, they have the track,
jumping horses, and they have the bull
riding and all those sporting events
and they come from near and far for it.

Q. Are there any incidents you can relate
about some of the funny sides of the
activities of the show here, the Redco?

A. Of course the Redco has plenty of
activities here, some of the mule and
games. There young fellows of today.
they're as game as Ned Kelly was. They'll get on any part of a horse or any part of a bullock and you'll see them, why they don't more get killed, I don't know. They have your back on their side and they can take the bumps. They certainly entertain the public.

B. That's fine. The next thing we want to do is to get some game sporting activities. Now you were a young fellow going to school and you played football there. Did you continue on in your football and other activities when you came home to Bungaree?

A. Yes I did. I paid earlier in the piece that I played with Clarence Town. So you recall I had to change over from Linna in which Q.R.S. played Linna, I had to change over when I came back to Bungaree and played for Clarence Town had to change to League and I played for Ivan in four seasons and then I gave it up because, in all our games, honest to God, it used to provide five days a week in those days and it was a job to get off on a Saturday and often we'd have taken on a Saturday. It was pretty hard to get away on the weekend.

B. Are you and the far distance to play Rugby League?

A. Yes. We used to go right down to Kunui, Beechworth, Warragul, Muirhead and we used to go even to Sea Cadets and right over on the coast. There would be probably eight or nine teams in the competition.

B. And your Bungaree team do any good at all?
1. Clarence Town, I was playing with. Clarence Town is a town closer to Glen Williams than Bungag and that's why I played with them. Yes, we did, we beat the competition. I was a captain and I was vice-captain for a number of years of the Clarence Town football team.

2. And what was the boys like. Did they have a bit of fun on the game, on trips?

A. Oh yes we used to. When we'd go south of course there was a little place called Seabridge. It had a hotel and it was halfway between Clarence Town and Kaitland and of course on the way back we'd probably be a little bit late. We'd be travelling in a Pajama Cabby. It would cost 80s probably the day before and of a Tuesday probably take the kids and catch the train in Kaitland to the ferry and they'd have it out and put back in it and that was our way of transport and on the way home of course we'd be passing this pub at Seabridge and the blackies would want to pull up and have a drink and of course it'd be speeding up and the boys across them some of their gear out of their hat out and of course the driver would have to pull up to get their gear on the hat and of course once we got into the pub well he'd have a job to get us out.

B. And would you miss the truck?

A. Numerous. Yes numerous times he'd go without us, of course he'd get tired of waiting for us and we'd have to get a car to take us back to our destination back home.
A: Good. You've also played cricket, and you know you've had some good cricketers up here. Tell us a bit about your sporting activities.

A: Well, I played cricket and squash.

Q: Team for your or your seasons and of course you knew that Squiggie meant this came from Squiggie. He was on a dairy farm at Black Camp.

Q: Black Camp. That's the place you were telling me about earlier in the interview?

A: Yes, that right. He was on a dairy farm for P.J. Farnel Proprietor. They are on Ann Street, Newcastle, they're still farming as P.J. Farnel Proprietor. He's still farming, and they still own the property that Squiggie's father was there farming on.

Q: Are you the owner of that farm?

A: I knew a lot of Squiggie there. He was a local girl, a local family girl. She was a school teacher. I knew her and knew her family and knew Squiggie and his family quite well. We did business with them and he was a delightful fellow. I even went down to the, when he retired, to his breakfast at the morning, spent time there actually and really enjoyed his company.

Q: He was a great Australian representative, wasn't he?

A: He was, yes, and I've, I think I heard earlier we bought so much of Squiggie we called a farm in the name after him, "The Squiggie Waite Pavilion," and we also have the "Squiggie Waite" on
The Ash Club, also known as Canon after him.

2. That fine. Just getting back to the Carson family. Did Jim Carlton have any relations to your Jim Carlton, the Australian champion sprinter?

A. Yes. He was a cousin of my father, second cousin once removed. He was your James Carlton. He was his only son, the one that was the world's champion. He used to come up and spend most of his holidays with us. Nothing pleased him more than to get on a horse and ride around the property. He was a Carson family and went to them and he was the idol among the relations and an idol as you as the public of Sydney was concerned because he spent so much time here with us.

B. And this would have been some years ago. This should have been what year?

A. Yes. He was in his final year at Sydney when I went there in the Class, and he was a very dear person to me. He looked after me having been up at home with my elder brother, who was also at Sydney. He was very much with him for a holiday, and of course I got to know him personally when I went to school as a young boy of eleven years old, I was 14 years old and of course Jim Carlton looked after me and he was the idol of the school at that time.

B. Well in fact a small world, Uncle, because I know Jim Carlton fairly well. It's a matter of fact, my first girlfriend, oh boy back in the early 70's.
Lived next door to Jimmy Barton and when he was racing at the Sydney Cricket Ground, as an Australian champion and world champion, Sunday, I used to go along and watch him and invited to go and talk to him from very good friends place next door, and those days he lived there in Anzac Parade South Kensington just near where the South Sydney Junior Rugby League Club is now.

1. I can recall seeing him play for the South Sydney for that he was a winger a very good winger and very fast winger and if they gave him the ball there was no chance of catching Jimmy.

2. That's right. He later became a priest.

3. That's right, he did.

8. That was as the result of certain activities about his playing, his running.

4. Yes. He joined the priesthood and later left the priesthood and returned.

One of the broadcasters was, one of our great broadcasters as his son and

5. Do you know if he's still alive?

6. Yes. Jim Barton ended up a teacher at Barker College and he died of an asthma attack some years ago.

8. Oh yes! I see the piece of paper here that I have he died on 3rd April 1995 from a severe asthma attack.

1. That's right. That's a shame.
D. Mr. Urce, you've been associated with stock yards and sale of cattle and that sort of thing for many many years. There must have been some people in your association who were quite characters. Can you tell me about some? I believe you know Jack Martin, you know a lot about him?

A. Yes, Jack Martin is a grazier at Manukau, Manukau is half way between Oungen and Whanganui. It was only a few years ago that he sold his property, as a matter of fact three hundred and six acres for $50,000.

D. And were there any?

A. And he has now bought a small property close handy to Oungen with a new home on it so that he doesn't have to drive the long distance. Jack is a great sportsman, a great horse-man. He's a great bowler and a great grazier. You name it and the name would be Jack Martin is part of it.

D. And were there any incidents you'd like to talk about with the boys?

A. Yes. We've had some funny times. Jack Martin with Ken MacKay. Life as you knew was Vice President of the Royal Agricultural Show in Sydney and King Master for many years and Mr. MacKay had the selection of the judges for stock drafting and Jack Martin, he selected him for one year and Jack had a little bit too much to drink and instead of judging the event to be held after the Bull Sale himself, at the Royal Show, and Mr. MacKay had the unfortunate pleasure of picking him.
and Jack took it all in good sport and his MacKay was only testing one the other night he scared him and put him back on and Jack and he are very great mates of similar ages and are great competitors in the show ring.

Q. And what about Nick Kookee's involvement?

A. Nick Kookee of course was one of the top polo players. He used to play back for the polo team here. Nick always rode a very big horse, he was a fearless rider. In the early days when the Alexandria Mogo were the Kings of Polo, Winaugula took them on and won them. It was through the two MacKays and Nick Kookee that it was their horsemanship and horses that proved too good for the Mummies of Mogo.

Q. I see. And tell me, there are some more characters around the town that I hear you tell stories about. What about Bob Alden?

A. Well Bob Alden was an Indian who had a property at Wardi Road close to Dungog and we used to have the fortnightly race at Axondale on a Saturday. Bob would dress down in his horse and bullsey and of course the boys, in the early part of the war in the forties and fifties. I don't go away until 6. Bob Alden would go up, held the bullsey and he'd and the cattle dealers from around Newcastle and Maitland they'd bring the Rum ped and they'd get to the hotel and they'd have Rum and the Stumpy. I've never heard of it before. Some of them would get very sick. And
of course Greg was very hard to get and the two brothers had ways and means of getting it from the calf and so Bob  

bringing it up and having a stay out. One  

instance Bob was working his fence and  

funky. He left it up at the false yard,  

the need to travel up work up to the  

hotel while we had lunch. Another  

character got to have one sock of the  

fenced fence and put the fence like  

other side too. When we came along  

hr. Heman was sitting on the pulley trying  

to get the horse to go but unfortunately  

as you can see he pain's came in between  

don't near there Don Carter and we will  

have to do something about it. So we had  

to unhack the horse, bring it around  

into the yard and get Jody mobile's  

again. If leave here the Jody's Res  

brothers would get up to. Another day  

Bob asked the buyers to bring him  

up a battle of gin for they. Jim of them  

used to travel in the one car because  

there was a short during the week. On  

the way up they drank the battle of gin  

and when they got up there there fixed  

it up with water of cane and closed  

it up again. When they got to the  

fakes Mt taken the Indian came along  

and passed to this Lance Turley who was  

a battle buyer. 'Did you bring the gin up  

Lance.' He said yes, we got it here in  

my pocket.' To he gives it to him and  

old Bob drinks around right up to  

back yard and he has a cup, and I  

course it's another. Back he comes  

back to Lance Turley and he said  

'you drunk poison. I pay you money  

you drink the gin and the got  

water.' And there was there to stay  

about it. But there are the things  

that went on during the early part  

of the year.
A. Frank's dad was a cattle dealer who used to come up with the other fellows and he used to drink a fair bit. Of course Frank did in those days but he still alive living at Lore in Scotland. He doesn't drink at all now. He still laughs and grumbles about the countryside they used to have to travel by from Raymond Terrace down to Millers Forest and the night they got, they had a few drinks and they were a bit silly, they got out and got on a Rand Bank and couldn't shift. They had to play cards until five o'clock in the morning. It was anything up to 6 or 7 hours before they could get off the Rand Bank to get home, then they'd come back the next day up to Sydney, Sydney again, and back into the cattle game again and the same thing would happen again. They'd all be in such a state... They'd talk about the Goodna Abattoir. Frank all he owned about 6 or 7 butcher shops around Goodna and Wyong and the council there had a killing works. The council in their judgement persuaded him to build up an Abattoir. Frank really had to borrow the money from the Westpac Bank and now the Bank of New South Wales as it was in those days and he had to borrow money from the Jews at an extortional rate and he used to keep anything up to 100 a bogat cattle a week and I wouldn't know how many sheep and he had to keep...
This is No. 2 type of an interview with Mr. Allan, the local librarian on the 8th July 1969. We both had

We were talking about Mr. Allan and the last tape finished we got to the place where he was

D: And the tape finished there.

A: Yes. Mr. Barry was a business man, game as heck, and a

D: Well, can you recall any other

A: Yes, well, I'd like to tell you about the biggest clearing out sale been conducted.

D: What is the sale? It was on behalf of Mr. J.J. McCauley a well known sporting

A: Yes, the famous manager, you taught remember. He owned numerous hotels and

D: Well, can you recall any other

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D: What is the sale? It was on behalf of Mr. J.J. McCauley a well known sporting

A: Yes, the famous manager, you taught remember. He owned numerous hotels and

D: Well, can you recall any other
on a bend, he had turkeys, he had geese, he had farming machinery and he had called a public auction sale and being a friend of the farmers he invited me to be the auctioneer for the sale and I started at half past eight in the morning and I
with the sheep that I knew nothing about but the farmer and the agent who was also an agent in the sale, their agent stood alongside of me and gave me the values of the sheep and I struggled through that and then we went on to the Aberdeen Angus stud, the machinery and the cattle on the farm, the turkeys, you name it and he had it and we ended up selling at nine o'clock at night, the furniture in the house and I never forget a Kensington refrigerator made fifty pounds ($50) and I never saw a larger crowd at a sale in my life. We had to rope the people off because the auctioneer was a great advertising man and he believed in advertising and he had it in every paper and over every wireless and T.V. that was on in those days and it was the biggest sale that I ever had.

And I'll never forget, at nine o'clock he said to me, "Ounce, I think we'll get moving, there's going to be some trouble about the delivery of the." He said the local agents got to give delivery, he said they're out there having trouble getting the names off the panel he said, I think we'll leave and get away out of the place and let them, the local agents, take his place. I told him from an early morning, till late at night and never paused a break and didn't even knock off for lunch and it was the largest auction sale, farm cattle, sheep and farm machinery that been conducted in over 57 years in the business.
It's great to have good memories like that.Doctor McCann. I see there's a paper here, on him. "Let's. Doctor who loves Bush foods."

A: That's right, that is him, and a great friend of mine.

B: And also, he lives with living legend Vic Patrick. I used to go and watch Old Patrick fight.

A: And he was the managerial of Jimmy Banthorpe, our world champion. He told him. I assume, he used to tell the story, Bill Kenney, whose brother has got a Jewellery shop in Dungog, the Banthornes some great fights, and I can tell a funny story about the Kenney family. They were here when the war went on, the first Richensester bear, and the peacetime bear coming, things like that, adventurous and of course those fellows were great sports. They got apparently big money in those days and they were used to spend a bit. I knew a local priest who used to have them clout up at the Wangar dam once, and he said, "He'd go up there of a Sunday to say Mass and the, he said, they were the two bolters." He once came to Dungog and Clarence Town, they bits and pieces, he said. He never forget Bill Kenney. Came back one Sunday, and he said the old priest was there, oh, you gave well, he said one Wednesday you used to give well when you were working at the farm. He said, you were the two bolters," and all theJocky ones around Dungog and Clarence Town were "yes" and "no".

A: It's a funny thing, when I arrived in Dungog this morning, I stopped to ask a Chappie a question, and as
saw hats and still are top hats. Every shopJunee and Murrumburrah have Ken Mackay.

It's wonderful to see an Australian sporting identity like the Kennedy still living around in any form where he is respected. I used to be all of those fellows tight and I often wondered what happened to them. But it's lovely to hear about them again. Being over here

Well he's still in business here and conducts a very nice business. He's got a nice home and he's a nice fellow and it. Never had a smoke, never had a drink in his life.

Tell a lot of my friends when I talk to about those old days, just how he is going. That's fine information. How about some more of your ancestors and your memorabilia like that

Well, since the war we've had I think nearly every big subdivision that's taken place in Bungaree which has been a very good man from the standpoint of the farmers who have established us and the fellows we've had. The whole family subdivision. We've had the Richardson subdivision. We've had the, by the way, anyone is a Richardson who come from Bingley near Liverpool. As we have, she has got her father's original property which was an original grant to the Richardson family, and I might add at this juncture, having sent your kids away to boarding school without their keep, financial help of any sort they wouldn't have had the schooling they got, and I owe her
A very great debt of gratitude to her, she bought a lot of property, we conducted our places pretty successfully and as I'm now taking it as a great pleasure to be able to hand over some of our property to our boys.

Q. That's a wonderful thing. I met your boys today and they're fine fellows, Bruce. And tell me this house you're living in, or should I call it a home, it's big enough to be called a home, Bruce. Is an old place?

A. Yes. It was built by a man named Atherstone but owned by the Atherstone family. We bought it nearly 20 years ago off Donald MacKay. B.K. MacKay, who was at one time clerk of the town. It was built. Understanding around about the 1860's. One of the original houses, older houses in Sturgeon and it built just on the outskirts of Sturgeon. It's in the Rural Rate. The great feature of our home is in the division between the Rural and City. We have 12 acres with the house and, and we're very fortunate for it to be in the Rural Rate but we still have firewood, water, power and a rural rating system.

Q. Have you had to do much to the house in the time that you've owned it — expanding?

A. Yes. We, when we came here I bought it without any wood having a look at it. She had the position of the house but it was run down. There was probably 5 or 6 fireplaces in it and there were only two left. With beautiful mirrors the fireplaces have been pulled out and cupboards
Out inside there, what made it
decided to the home a lot. It was
neglected and we got builders in. We
converted them into decent ah. decent
fire places. We've got two open fire
places in it. We have extended another
flat into it with ah. tried to our level
best to, with an architect, to match the
old joint which we have done a decent
job and there only my wife and Self
living in it

Q. It commands a wonderful view
doesn't it. You're right on top of the
hill?

A. Yes. I think we might be the highest
point in Brumag which is a very hilly
area. The town perpends into an egg
shape place and we're right on top of
the hill.

Q. Well, you deserve it after all the
time your family has been living here.
Are there others of these older families
representatives still living here?

A. Yes. The Muckle family, as I said,
they're the original white people
that came here. The MacKays, the
Barrons, the Carletons and they've
still, they've still got in fact all
around here

Q. That's wonderful. And now is there
anything else you can bring to mind
that you can tell me, any stories from
your family's background? We've been
on the lighter side of things. Now
we might keep that going because they're
things that if you don't tell me we're not
going to know about it. The book is
not going to know about it.
I. Is Good Geography Important?

II. If so, Geography, Then World War II.

For the

H. Close, 24th Army, China, Kowloon.
That there was an R.A.S car out there hearing for us and MacKay was staying at the old Australian Hotel that was nearly directly opposite, and eventually Robert came out and he said, "Well, isn't it bloody great one o'clock on the morning and we've got to bloody walk about seven miles?" "Yes, and get going," said MacKay. He walked to the gate and along we came. "Would you like a lift?" in the dug. Limousine. We pushed in and MacKay said, "Now you've got to shout when we get to town." Of course the pub where we were staying was open all night, he took him in, and he played the until about 6 o'clock with us and he walked across to the Baseball Ground. He had to be out the next morning at the the ground at 6 o'clock, and he'd be there and carry on his duties as Ring Master, and there was doubt in the whole world and he's a great man. Then MacKay, we're still great mates. I was only telling you he's had some big operations recently, but he's still training. As a matter of fact we had a truck of Whalers to Bingley Dale yesterday.

Q. They had them tough in those days, didn't they?
A. Yes, they did.
B. On Good Penn and Good Grass.
C. Yeah, another one. He'd go to the races at Cowes on the Saturday and next Monday and Jack Martin and his treat, they had their horses out. I remember that.
always used to go down and play together and play together. Jackie
and his mate, they had two girls in at the bar and they had their beer
outside me, under the fig tree there, you know, we were in remember of the KRC.

And I said to Jackie: "We're going
to have a bit of fun with this fellow.
"They're trying to play the ball too, so
Patrick said, "Alright, let's go in and talk to the girls at the bar." So became
one of the girls, Jackie Martin, would go
in and talk to the girls and he'd
have to come back out and see the
wife, and at any rate by the time
we talked to the girls and said to them,
"What about coming to dinner tonight?"

He had the two girls well under control.

So yes, the two girls came, the two
nice girls from House, they came. We
did just go up the Chapel to the
Hotel for some tea, when he comes Martin
and his mate. "Yes you Bastard, you
took our girl." (Laughter) But
he didn't and I see only and it, as a joke.

But another day I was walking
in the Sydney news tram as it was,
the Federation, or the Federation Hotel
as it was known as, and a lady
standing there, recognised me.

A man's friend, wife, who was an
Federation at Federation Hotel, and
Mrs Dempsey said to me, "Are you
going out to the Snow, Uncle?" And I
said, "Yes." "Oh," she said, "We'll have
a Cab." I said, "Righto," I go out
to the Snow tram, too, wasn't about
1 o'clock in the evening. I paid for
the Cab naturally, being the man already
paid. I paid to the "Here Jackie
Martin coming. I want to have a little
joke" so I gather by the arm, I said
and going past and Jackie said,
"caught you at last, you Bastard"
he said, "I've been trying, waiting
years to catch you," he said. (Laughter)

Q. "Hitting some other woman?"
A. Yes, I might add that was before
I was married.

Q. "Well, yes, please young ladies?"
A. Yes!

Q. A country dance. Did you mean
the dig, the dig, trimmed hats in
those days?

A. Yes. But we were playboys. Our
life as auctioneers has been pretty hard
and I must say nearly a night I
should have been home and I wasn't
because we used to never drink before
a auction but after five we'd have a
few drinks. And another incident
I used to do Mr. Buffum work who was
one of the largest cattle dealers in New
York & Texas. When I was in Texas, I lived
in Maitland and I used to buy a new
chew every year to drive him, this
in peace after the war. That he'd give
me all his business west of Maryland.
He would be in St. Louis, St. Louis,
Hoover right to the border, and he'd go
up here on a Tuesday, we'd do
sales on a Wednesday, Thursday and
probably come back Friday. And
it would be nothing for me to start at
twelve o'clock at night to get to those
sales at Hoover the next day, and he
really helped me to progress after the
war. I can assure you he was a
very great friend. He was a friend
ship that my sister set up with his
dughter, he only had the one daughter
plus two years but she, Buffum's daughter,
And my sister went to school together.
And we used to visit one another and when I came back from the war, really
got the help he needed. I came back in 1956
from England and I can assure you
without his help I wouldn't be where I am
today.

Q. That time before, did you ever play
golf at Warrandale Golf Club and a state
named Brian Buffey? Yes, I must ask
have been?

A. Brian Buffey was a brother.

Q. Oh, he was a brother, not a son?

A. No, he was a brother, a sister, and
as a matter of fact, this Barry Buffey
died and Brian Buffey, and he's still
alive today, and his estate Buffey
would buy cattle in Queensland, probably
sell them and buy them back again.
by the time they got to Warrandale, three
or four times and that how he got
he used to buy most of his cattle through
Wallaby, who would finance him
probably in Queensland. This should
probably bring them along probably 100
wet or by road and he'd sell them, they
came further down a couple of times
he bought the cattle back again and the
went on and they'd take him out to
Scane and he owned half the grazing
of the cattle for sale at Scane for sale.
That he didn't own. He'd buy in and
then used to be another deal at Scane
named Bill Black and who Buffey
would know he had a train already booked
to go to Victoria. So, and Buffey would
say to one, "Once, we'll take our profit
at Scane. He can have it at Victoria" he
and he gave all the cattle, their
sum up the reserve price. What
What he thought they were if they didn't preach the peace prize he wouldn't know to knock them down to Ballarat and Wilson, that's how, and he'd take them back home probably or he'd go on to another market, bring them out to Maitland, sell them there the and Saffire was a very very able, smart and capable man.

Q: Vice, what was the purpose and can you explain how he would profit in bringing them down, selling them, and taking them further along and buying them back again?

A: Well, the reason would be, first of all, probably the weather conditions would have a lot, and the food would have a lot, he'd move them on from Queensland down on to the border, probably at Maitree, he'd feed a lot, do some, people were chasing cattle, right, he'd sell them there. Then probably a buyer owned some country at Maitland and he'd take them over and bring them on, probably to, well suggest, very scarce and Saffire would buy them back again at town. They'd probably gone off, ten and they wanted to get rid of them there because of the food situation, he'd buy them back and move them further on or he might truck them at town and send them out to Victoria, rail truck them to Victoria. But he was a mighty man.

Q: And each time he would do that he would make a profit?

A: Oh yes and probably with the justice scales they were getting their profit commission all the time.
and of course they wanted to turn them over to offer as they could on the trip so that they could get commission on every sale that took place.

Q. Is this where feeding and dealing first got its name?

A. I guess partly it was part of it.

Q. And how much around the cattle be selling for, a head, in those days?

A. Well it varies. Of course today cattle in the lowest almost 200 ever been known in any year. They're of course bringing enormous prices. It's nothing fun a bullock just bullocks today bringing up to 2500 and 2000. Usually bringing 1500 or 200 and was mean of those days. While a bullock in those days, if you got 7 1/2, 3 1/2 for them and fatten them probably for 7 1/2.

Yes I can remember some very big subdivisions. I've been connected with over 20 years since the war. One was the Sardine, Jim Cameron, and "Uncle Bob." They were all subdivision pastures, and the Cameron family had been here for many, many generations. We never thought that they'd ever subdivide. Today times not a Cameron left here, and they've all sold out. All those days, and gone to new pastures. Jim, Jack, and Dan Cameron still alive now at their over the range with a property and numerous others. Subdivision pales have taken place more or less in recent times. Property have gone up in value, especially among properties. A property today would be bringing a
A thousand dollars, a grazing property bringing a thousand dollars per acre probably. In those early days after the war you'd be lucky if you got $15, $20 to $25 an acre for it. I'll give you an idea of the values that land in our Kingsook district has gone to.

A. Alright Uncle. Well we've gone quite a way now. We have an offer of $25 per. That's quite a premium. Is there anything else you'd like to pursue? Wind up for the day, or do you think we could continue for a quarter of an hour more?

A. Oh, hell. I've cut this into the paper about a character writing in the Kingsook Chronicle. My wife had acquired a property. Her father's property of some 2500 acres at Bingley Park, halfway between Kingsook and Cresford, on the Western Fells and the idea was to be only a rack route across there. You could get a four-wheel drive across.

This character wrote an article in the local rag about how we were going to get a road there and he named some of the characters that would help to form it. And he said Uncle Willard assumed it work with a road section to help build this road across to his uncle's property, or past his uncle's property to Cresford. Today there's a brand new road through there, fenced, and it's a very scenic drive. It was put in by, I didn't cost the state any money at all. It was a developmental road, the Government supplied all the money.
and today it's a very very pretty drive, it's 14 miles drive from
Brisbane to Gympie. All farm land
It you're ever going through I think
the trip is worth while.

I'm going back through that area today,
I came up from Paterson and it's
to back down through the Freestone
Road. It's a long time since I've
been there and I forget what it's
like. Vance. I think we'll stop
here now, on the farm, and
after the break if you think of
anything else we ought put it on
tape, we'll have a lister to what
gone on. Thank you very
much, Vance Nellen.

Thank you very much. It's a pleasure
to tell you some of the anecdotes
of the past.

I would now like to introduce
Miss Lucy Nellen, wife of Vance. Mr
Nellen has a couple of connections,
after listening to the tape, which she
may record.

Miss Nellen. I would just like to
connect these two matters. My
father's property was not a grant.
It was selected around 1870
40 acre lots for which they paid
$10 per acre. The other thing
the house in which we are now
living was not built by a man
called Balton. It was built, or
believe, by a Doctor Mc Kel trop and
named after Balton Hill which is
a tall one looking feature in
Edinburgh.

Well now that's fine. That just
keeps the record straight. Because generally this tape is for historical purposes and in historical purposes we need to be correct.

Mrs. Bellen. Yes. That's correct.

The little anecdotes on this side are all tributes to the Bellen family and their friends and people who they knew. So this is a very, a very good day, and I'd like to thank you both of you for allowing me to come here and I hope to see you again in the future. Thank you very much.

Appendix THE BELLON FAMILY TREE.
THE DILLO FAMILY TREE

THOMAS DILLON (1892-1946)

MARY DILLON (1864-1967)

MARY ANN DILLON

VICTORIA DILLON (1854-1946)

THOMAS DILLON (1854-1946)

MAYA DILLON (1884-1967)

MARY DILLON (1892-1946)

LUCKY DILLON (SON)

HERBERT DILLON (SNAVANN)

MICHAEL DILLON

TERRY DILLON (SNAVLING)

JAMES DILLON (SON)

PETER DILLON (SNAVLING)

ELIZABETH MACKAY GIBBON

JOHN THOMAS DILLON (RANALD)

HERBERT DILLON (SNAVLING)

MARY DILLON (1892-1946)

THOMAS DILLON (1892-1946)

MARY DILLON (1864-1967)

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