

## INTERVIEW LOG SHEET

PIRSA Oral History Program – State Library reference no. for Somerville Collection OH 675/4.

An interview with Arthur Tideman by Bernard O’Neil on 28 October and 4, 20 and 27 November 2003 in regards to the history of the South Australian Department of Agriculture.

Time	Subject	Proper names
<b>Tape 1, Side A</b>		
0:25	Born 3 March 1931; life in the Great Depression; father’s work; mother’s role; car; family life in suburban Adelaide; schooling; tram travel; wartime experiences; education	Waite Institute; Smith Dorrien St, Galway Estate (Netherby); Mr Tideman; Adelaide Electric Supply Company; Osborne; Unley Infant and Primary Schools; Duthy St; Prince Alfred College
6:15	Secondary schooling; interest in agriculture, including family and friends interests	Prince Alfred College; Waite Institute; Fullarton Rd; Oakbank; Mr Tideman; Dick Rundle; Parafield; Mt Barker; Ken de Garis; Naracoorte; Adelaide Hills
9:30	Not an option to attend Urrbrae High School	Urrbrae High School; Mr Tideman
10:45	Life in suburban Adelaide; boyhood activities on farms	Smith Dorrien St; Glen Osmond
13:15	Career options; Adelaide University course, 1949	Prince Alfred College; Waite Institute; Mr Tideman; Adelaide University
15:10	Attending university; altruism in the agricultural science course; university life; church focus; primary class reunions; Adelaide University degree vs Roseworthy College diploma; returned service personnel	Malvern Methodist Church; Unley Primary School
21:15	University newspaper; sport at church and university; Student Christian Movement; attending Roseworthy College by train and car; staying at Roseworthy; focus of subjects studied; awareness of government involvement in agriculture; Agriculture Department cadetship in soil conservation; working in university holidays; field tours	<i>On Dit</i> ; Roseworthy College; Waite Institute; Adelaide University; North Tce; Rex Oram; Rothemstead, England; Koomooloo Station; Turretfield Research Centre; Hallett Cove
31:35	Geology field trip	Sir Douglas Mawson; Fred Pfeiffer; Canberra; Hallett Cove
<b>Tape 1, Side B</b>		
0:05	Geology field trip; public speaking	
1:50	Dissuaded from farming; experience on properties	Koomooloo Station; Turretfield
4:30	Move to soil conservation; cadetship in the Department; work and life on Eyre Peninsula	Reg French; Peter Geytenbeek; Roseworthy; Adelaide; Eyre Peninsula; Ungarra; Lock; Cleve; Cowell; Arno Bay; Jamestown
10:40	Awareness of environmental impact in the 1950s; Soil Conservation Advisory Committee	
12:05	Cadetships in the Department; small agricultural science course; Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme; myxomatosis release program; CSIRO; work options – research, teaching, AMP Scheme, companies	Oram; Jim Davidson; Eddie Waterhouse; Sydney; Goondiwindi; Deniliquin; Canberra; Australian Agricultural Consultant Management; Mr Young; [Newton] Tiver
20:40	Graduation in 1953; holiday; work in the Department’s Soils Branch and in country	Bob Herriot; Tasmania; Frenchmans Cape; Jamestown; Adelaide; Peter Barrow; Geoff Robinson
22:50	Work in regional departmental office; soil survey; weeds; relations with farmers; soil conservation in Upper North; demonstration sites; field days	Jamestown; Booyoolie Station; Herriot; Yongala; Barrow; Quorn; Melrose North; Flinders [Ranges]; Hawker; Willochra Plain
28:55	Provision of services to the public; government vehicles; wartime restrictions	Jamestown
<b>Tape 2, Side A</b>		
0:20	Work in regional office; nature of staff in the Department	Jamestown; Barrow; Robinson
4:25	Involvement in office politics; lunchtime events; sports	Simpson’s Building; Clayton Church, Norwood; Jamestown

7:20	Life and work in Jamestown; departmental houses; the office and staff; office flooded; work by disciplines; gaining information on the area	Barrow; Robinson; Malvern Methodist Church; Mr and Mrs Thomas; Gloucester Rd, Jamestown; Adelaide; Mr Boucaut; Yongala; Herriot
18:15	Learning on the job – contour mapping, weed science; university training and practical work; agricultural economics	Roseworthy College
21:25	Office vs field work; visiting farms; re-vegetation work; <i>Soil Conservation Act, 1937</i> ; soil conservation boards; animal and plant control	Jamestown; Merngenia Station, Dawson. Burra; Broken Hill; Ross Burford and family
27:10	A conciliator under the <i>Native Vegetation Management Act</i> ; Agricultural Bureau system; field days	Native Vegetation Council; Barrow; Robinson; Quorn; CWA; Jamestown; Paskeville; Karoonda
<b>Tape 2, Side B</b>		
0:04	Field days	Jamestown
0:40	Locust plague, 1955; chemical treatment	Jamestown; Port Pirie; Yadlamulka Station; Port Augusta; Hawker; Shell Chemical Co.
4:30	Visiting the head office; Soil Conservation Branch meeting; in-service training in the Department; visits to regional offices from head office; contact with Ministers	Adelaide; Roseworthy College; Australian Administrative Staff College; Mount Eliza; [Sir Allan] Callaghan; Jamestown; Tom Casey; Peterborough; Port Augusta
9:35	Work extended into pastoral and grazing areas; Pastoral Board	Merngenia Station; Arden Vale Valley; Quorn; Mr Kidman; South East
11:15	Visits from senior staff	Herriot; Jamestown; Cleve; Port Lincoln
12:55	Resignation from the Department, 1956; chemical company work	Shell Chemical; Adelaide; Shell Building, North Tce; David Bruce; Mrs Tideman; Clare; Melbourne
19:45	Reaction from Department and colleagues to resignation; return to the Public Service; weed control legislation; cadetship issues	Shell Chemical; Hector Orchid; Lex Walker; Callaghan; Jamestown
24:55	Rejoining the Department, 1958; weed control/science	
<b>Tape 3, Side A</b>		
1:00	Appointed Senior Weeds Officer; <i>Weed Control Act</i> ; weed problems pre- and post-World War II	Callaghan
6:20	Employment of graduates in the Department and Public Service; Weeds Unit doing research, teaching and regulation	
11:10	Graduate vs diplomat staff; working with companies	Shell Chemical; Ciba-Geigy
16:45	Herbicide standards; national standards but State testing; Australia Standing Committee on Agriculture; Agricultural Council	Europe; Technical Committee on Agricultural Chemicals; Australia Standing Committee on Agriculture; Agricultural Council
23:30	Technical Committee on Agricultural Chemicals, 1966–1969; Australian Weed Committee, 1966–1977; unit in the Department for pesticides, herbicides etc.; Skeleton Weed Research Committee; skeleton weed issue; visit to Montpellier; controlling Salvation Jane in SA	Technical Committee on Agricultural Chemicals; Agricultural Council; Australian Weed Committee; [Australian] Skeleton Weed Research Committee; NSW; Victoria; SA; WA; Queensland; CSIRO, Canberra; Montpellier, France; Tony Wapshire; Spain; France; Malcolm Catt; Murray Mallee; Murray Bridge
<b>Tape 3, Side B</b>		
0:05	Control of skeleton weed; Chief Agronomist in charge of the Weeds Research Section; growth of Weeds Science Group; staff on weeds work; extension services grants; temporary officers	Canberra; Australian Skeleton Weed Research Committee; Murraylands; Max O'Neil; Europe; Pacific War; Wheat and Barley Research Councils; Walker

10:45	Appointed Principal Agronomist and Chief Agronomist; overseas training on weed problems; represented Australia at the first International Weeds Science Conference	South Africa; Australian Weeds Committee; Adelaide Hills; Grahamtown University; Montpellier, France; Switzerland; Ciba-Geigy; Warganingen, The Netherlands; United Kingdom; Adelaide; ICI; England; Canada; Oregon State, America; Davis University, California
14:30	New weeds legislation; weed science; weed control courses	<i>Weed Control Act, 1956</i> ; Mr Ninnes; Education Department; Glenunga High School; Clare; Coonalpyn
19:35	Education/instruction campaigns	Agricultural Bureaus
21:10	Regulatory work; adult education system	
23:55	Devising and implementing regulations; proclaimed lists; mixing weeds and crops; implications of weed control; modern focus on native vegetation	Weeds Advisory Committee; <i>Pest Plants Act</i> ; Canada
	<b>Tape 4, Side A</b>	
0:30	Department's overseas activities; appointment as Chief Agronomist; move to employing university graduates	
4:25	Change in SA's agricultural production; research and development work; building up branches and units within the Department	Agronomy Branch; Plant Pathology Unit; Entomology Unit
9:10	Crop estimates program; statistical records	
12:20	Pasture-breeding group; medic cultivars; herbage seed industry; lucerne aphid pest control	Eric Crawford; West Coast; Murray Mallee; Adelaide Hills; South East; Ted Higgs
18:35	Weekly ABC rural session talks	
20:00	<i>Journal of Agriculture (1897–1976)</i>	Agricultural Bureau
23:30	Overseas travel and study; biological control research programs (soursobs, African daisy, skeleton weed); agricultural chemical industry; minimum tillage; extension work; international Weeds Science Conference; Asian interest in SA agriculture; marketing experience; long service leave in England; dryland farming expertise to the Mediterranean area; Department's Overseas Projects Unit	South Africa; France; Switzerland; Holland; United Kingdom; Canada; America; Grahamtown University, South Africa; England; Davis, California; Tom Casey; Indonesia; Korea; Hong Kong; Libya; Barrow; Iraq; Jordan; Ksar Chellala; Algiers; Algeria
	<b>Tape 4, Side B</b>	
0:04	Overseas dryland farming project, 1984–85; competition for project work; Australian vs European techniques; industry co-operation in SA; published a history of overseas projects	Iraq; Erbil; Jordan; Libya; Seed Co-op.; Shearers; Sagric [International]; Bob Hogarth; Duntroon
10:25	Return to Department in Plant Industries	
11:10	Growth of Sagric International; value of the projects; Gulf War; expansion of Sagric International's expertise – Torrens Title system	Jordan; Bob Asser; Ain Kawah Project, Iraq; Libya; Bashir Jodah; Algeria; Iran; Indonesia; The Philippines; Thailand
18:45	Benefits accruing to SA from overseas projects	Libya; Rome; Iraq; Cyprus; Spain; Algeria; Jordan; Libya; France; Italy
22:10	Sharing techniques; origin of wheat and taming sheep; fencing projects	Iraq; Glyn Webber
24:45	Administrative arrangements for the projects	Tourist Bureau
26:40	Support for projects	International Dryland Farming Congress, Adelaide
27:20	Continuing work on weeds in the Department and in TAFE; senior jobs in and for the Department; legislation of agricultural chemicals; Departmental Executive	National Weeds Science Committee; Australian Plant Production Committee; Wheat Industry Research Council; Barley Industry Research Council; Animal and Plant Control Commission; Soil Conservation Advisory Committee; National Coordinating Committee on Aquatic Weeds; Herbage Plant Liaison Committee; Monarto; Peter Trumble; Barrow; Jim McColl

<b>Tape 5, Side A</b>		
0:30	Description of a working day (6.6.1976) at Executive level; secretarial, typing and administrative assistance; liaison with staff; hours of work	'Black Stump', Grenfell St; Marie Caskey;
6:10	Day's activities; locust plague	Standing Committee on Agriculture; Plant Production Committee; New Guinea; New Zealand; Viv Lohmeyer; Plague Locust Commission
9:50	Management training course; first use of a computer	John Radcliffe; Australian Staff Administration College; Mt Eliza, Victoria; Melbourne; Milton Friedman; Walker
16:10	Day's activities; vermin inspectors	Lands Department
17:35	Certification of seeds	
18:40	Staff for overseas work	Andrew Michelmore; Libya
20:00	Tea lady	Caskey
20:50	Preparing radio scripts (mesquite and monitoring SA agriculture; and plant industry topics); early recorded segments; lunchtime radio; in-service training	Flying Doctor; Broken Hill; Caskey; Jon Lamb; Jamestown; John Butterworth; Port Pirie; Barrow; 5CL
<b>Tape 5, Side B</b>		
0:05	In-service induction	Roseworthy College
0:55	Interaction with radio and television media – noogoora burr; Minister's interference	New South Wales; [Brian] Chatterton; McColl; Kevin Boyce
4:50	Role of press secretaries and ministerial advisors	
6:00	Day's activities; open door policy; role of secretary; typists; filing; lectures in a dietician's course	Caskey; Dr Stewart; Flinders University
11:40	Preparing internal budget estimates; regionalisation; end of a 'usual' day; private car; marking government cars	Wakefield St
18:20	Meeting free day; noting telephone calls; office bound	Northfield
20:50	Industry funds; discussions with staff on projects	Wheat Industry Research Council; Barley Industry Research Council; New South Wales; CSIRO; Western Australia; Victoria; Alan Dubé; Waite Institute
27:05	Tea lady; lunchtime in the city; staff get together	
28:35	Measured daily routine; working conditions, wages and benefits; sense of loyalty and career building	
<b>Tape 6, Side A</b>		
0:17	Job security; loyalty; ill-suited employees; welfare role; notion of family; socialising through work; social club; Christmas party; sport	Madge; Walker; Northfield; RSL Club, Angas St
9:30	Canteen in Simpson's Building; new building's facilities; working conditions in Simpson's Building (lighting, heat, herbicide storage, traffic); workshop; Government Garage	Grenfell St; Simpson's Building; PMG; Pirie St; Blackwood Research Centre; Parafield; Turretfield; Government Garage, Moger Lane; Wakefield St; Gawler Pl
18:00	Storing herbicides; plague locust campaign, 1954; improved safe use of chemicals; few accidents in workplace	South East; Hector Orchard
22:10	Smoking in the workplace	O'Neil
22:50	Sick leave; work behaviour and self-discipline; women in the workforce	Jamestown Hotel; Education Department; Mrs Elizabeth
<b>Tape 6, Side B</b>		
0:05	Professional women in the workforce	Roseworthy Agricultural College
1:15	Dress standards at work	South Africa; Roger Wickes; Barry Windle